

Ivybridge u3a learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



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The Victoria Fern Garden at Canonteign Falls

Registered Charity Number 1178944

CONTACT DETAILS

Email	Ivybridge.u3a@gmail.com
Chairman	07977 905458
Membership Secretary	07780 150750



LOOK OUT FOR US ON FACEBOOK



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. President.	Cliff Bennett
Chairman	Vanessa Day
Treasurer	Christine Smith
Business Secretary	Averil Heaton
Membership & Beacon Manager	Ritsaert von Oven
Website Manager & E-mail Monitor	Paul Jones
Speaker Co-ordinator & Dep. Chair	Graham Meaden
Group Co-ordinator	John Bowditch
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Newsletter Editor	Guy Yea

CHAIRPERSON NEWS

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter. I'm sure you are as pleased as I am to see the sunshine and spring flowers after what seems to have been a long winter.

Rhoda has been busy organising trips for the coming year. Please contact her for all the details.

Two of our groups, the Guitar Group and the Folk Club, are participating in The Party in the Park being held in Victoria Park on Saturday, the 24th of May, So please go along and support them.

Finally, just a small reminder that your £18 subscription for 2025 is due.

Best wishes.

Vanessa Day

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

19th May Otters coming to a river near you
Stephen Powles

16th June "Taking the piss out of London". The strange story of why urine was transported to Yorkshire
Alan Hart-Davis

21st July Sermons in stone, the bardic carved boulders of the Rev'd Bray on Dartmoor
Simon Dell

18th August The Waste Sector Landscape in the UK
Zoe Harris

CURRENT GROUPS

ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

Led by Peter Brooks
Contact 01752 880891

ART FOR FUN

Led by Carolyn Whalley
Contact 07795 198477

BOOK GROUPS

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor
Contact 01752 417315

Crime, Murder, Mystery

Led by Val Carmichael
Contact 01752 658164

BRIDGE

Led by Roger Davey
Contact 01752 894703

CANASTA

Led by John Davis
Contact 07484 786058

CHAIR YOGA 1

Led by Sylvia Rutley & Glo Horton
Contact Sylvia 07796 151141
Glo 07947 061625

CHAIR YOGA 2

Led by Debbie Harris-Bowditch
Contact 07862 7499618

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Led by Ian McClure
Contact 01548 830578

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Led by Michael Bailey
Contact 01752 892777

DARTMOOR DISCOVERY WALKING.

Led by John Reynolds
Contact 07857 048801

DARTMOOR HISTORY WALKING

Led by Stephen Woodcock
Contact 01752 691305 or
07739122374

DAY TRIPS

Led by Rhoda Lloyd
Contact 07443 390043

DRAMA FOR FUN

Led by Ann Laity
Contact 01752 691648

ETYMOLOGY

Group 1 Led by 'B' Naylor
Contact 01752 417315

Group 2 Led by Jean Sherrell
Contact 01752 691750

FOLK CLUB

Led by Jan Niezgoda
Contact 01752 896214

FRENCH IMPROVERS

Led by Jill Sampson
Contact 01752 691033

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Led by Brian Sabel
Contact 01364 649206

GEOLOGY

Led by Victor Abbott
Contact 07757 262919

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Led by Gudrun Kitidis
Contact 01752 658735

GUITAR GROUP

Led by Guy Yea
Contact 01752 895590

GROUPS cont.

HISTORY OF MODERN BRITAIN

Led by Michael & Maggy
Swinson

Contact 01752 698041

LITTER PICKING

Led by Victor Abbot
Contact 07757 262919

LOCAL HISTORY

Group 1 Led by Barbara Yea
Contact 01752 895590

Group 2 Led by Derek Phillips
Contact 01752 896784

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Led by Mike Swinson
Contact 01752 698041

NATURAL HISTORY

Led by Celia Ralph & Trudi Bell.
Contact Celia 01752 892555 or
Trudi 01752 896937

NEEDLECRAFT (CRAFT)

Led by Keith Mason & Kate Danby
Contact Keith 07779289462 or
Kate 01752 839105

PLAY READING

Led by Michael Fraser
Contact 01752 830430

POETRY APPRECIATION

Led by Ann Oakins
Contact 01548 830550

QUIZ

Led by Bill McKimm
Contact 07935292055

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Led by Victor Abbott
Contact 07757 262919

SCRABBLE FOR FUN

Led by Rosemary Cole
Contact 01752 898643

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

Led by Rhoda Lloyd
Contact 07443 390043

SPOON CARVING

Led by Adam Hart-Davis
Contact 07901 554143

THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY & PSYCHOLOGY (TPP)

Led by Averil Heaton
Contact 01752 897109

UKELELE

Led by Joy Horwell
Contact 01752 893402

WINE APPRECIATION

Group 1

Led by Ritsaert von Oven
Contact 07780 150750

Group 2

Led by Richard Matthews
Contact 07967 130599



Folk Club

Over the last two months we have had some great acts come along to entertain us at the Ivybridge u3a Folk Club.

In January members of the Plymouth Great Sea Choir came along to sing us a few songs from their winter repertoire.

The full choir is about 50 members and 15 of them came along to entertain us. They did a excellent job with their fine acapella singing.

In February local folk duo, Silvington, came to entertain us with their self-penned songs of Devon and Cornwall, which was another very enjoyable evening. It was good to see a wider range of members of our u3a at these evenings.

We hold our folk club on the third Wednesday of the month at Bittaford Village Hall from 7pm to 9pm. If you would like to come along and join us you would be made very welcome. If you would like to sing us a song or recite a piece of poetry etc. we would be delighted or if you just want to come and listen or join the singing that's fine as well.

When we next have guest performers at the club we will notify all members via the u3a Beacon system, so look out for our emails and come along for a good evening of entertainment. We look forward to seeing you.



GROUP NEWS

Dartmoor Discovery Walking Group.

We are a small but friendly group.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month and our focus is on all things of interest on Dartmoor.

This can include old mining works, operating china clay works, apple crushers, old tramways, and existing leats but also bronze age hut circles, stone rows, standing stones, cysts, barrows etc.

Our guide, Paul Rendell, is extremely knowledgeable about every aspect of Dartmoor, both ancient and modern.

The walk usually lasts about 3 hours, including stops for coffee and lunch.

If you are interested in joining, please contact John Reynolds on johnwfreynolds@gmail.com or phone 07857 048801.



GROUP NEWS



Natural History Group

Wembury Marine Centre (run by the Devon Wildlife Trust) has been open for the first time this winter. Wembury Bay has long been recognised for its amazing rocky shore line and for being a top rock-pooling spot.

The Natural History group arranged a special "Virtual Rock Pool Safari " with Assistant Manager, Jake, which we all found most interesting.

We were shown cushion star fish, blennies, velvet swimming crabs and many more, all without getting are feet wet!.

Devon Wild Life Trust works hard to protect these special places.

GROUP NEWS



Quiz Group

The Quiz Group continues successfully at its new venue, Bittaford Village Hall, where we meet every 4th Monday 2pm-4pm.

The group consistently has 20 to 28 U3A members attending. They pay £2 to include the hire of the hall, heating, tea/coffee & biscuits plus prize money.

Last year the Ivybridge U3A Quiz Team consisting of Mary Craddock, Sue Bullock, Martin Fearn and John Davis won the Inter U3A Quiz Competition beating 14 other teams.

To celebrate each year we have a Christmas Meal plus a Christmas themed quiz. Prizes are given and it is always well attended.

Local History Group 1

During our winter break in January and February we, along with Local History Group 2, were entertained by two speakers at Bittaford Hall, on the subjects of “The Land Girls “ and “Conscientious objectors in WW1 and WW2”.

Our first outing of the year was to Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. We were shown around by Colin, a retired RAF officer, who attended the college and now helps lead tours of the building.

It began in 1863 with training hulks, HMS Britannia and HMS Hindostan, on the River Dart, and transitioned to the present land-based college in 1905. The college, designed by Aston Webb, has played a crucial role in shaping the officer corps of the Royal Navy, particularly during both World Wars, and continues to train naval officers today.



GROUP NEWS



Crime & Mystery Book Group

Our Group has now been going for three years. The Group consists of ten members, nine ladies and one 'brave' man.

When we started, we 'brain-stormed' a list of authors and have added more as we have gone along. The list of authors is numbered, and we choose our book for the next meeting by randomly selecting a number. We have learnt from experience that it is advisable to choose the first book in any series (so that we know the backstories of the protagonists). A quick search on Amazon provides the details and then we all obtain a copy (electronic, hard copy, second hand or new) to read by our next meeting, for discussion and analysis.

Our aim is to revisit our authors for their consecutive books over time.

GROUP NEWS

Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday in the month, at a group member's house. After tea and biscuits, kindly provided by the host, we begin our meeting. It does sometimes take a while to get started, as we have all got news or gossip or just recommendations of other books and tv programmes!

When we get down to reviewing the book, it is interesting to hear other people's opinions, and how they can vary from one person loving it to one or more disliking the book. We have questions about the characters, the setting, the plot and the author's style of writing.

In recent months we have introduced a literary quiz, taking it in turns to compile. Some of us certainly have better memories than others! Trying to remember the answer that you know you know, but being unable to bring it to mind is frustrating, but it usually does get retrieved, albeit ten minutes later!!! We do not take it too seriously and we certainly have fun. It's a great group!

Val Carmichael
Group Leader

Drama for Fun

Drama for Fun started in January 2024 and we now have an enthusiastic group of twelve regular members. Even though we only meet once a month, a couple of people were not able to continue because our meeting clashed with another U3A activity. How wonderful that there is so much for U3A members to do!

During the course of the last year, we have acted out numerous short plays, improvised sketches and participated in drama games.

A puppet specialist came to deliver a workshop about puppeteering in which we made our own very simple puppets and learned how to bring them to life. Some of the grandparents among us have been delighted to practise these skills on their own grandchildren.

GROUP NEWS

One of our members led us in a voice workshop and others have helped us with voice warm-up exercises.

A BBC Producer came to talk to us about radio plays with their soundscapes and sound effects. This has inspired us to create our own radio drama and we were fortunate to be given a story text and permission to adapt it as needed. Our current script still needs a little tweaking but we will soon - we think - be ready to record.

We prepared sketches, readings and a short 3-hander play for a public performance as part of a larger event but, unfortunately, this had to be cancelled. Luckily, we have managed to use some of the pieces elsewhere and this has boosted our confidence.

We were invited to entertain at the U3A Christmas Party and the feedback was very positive. It seems we will be asked back in December 2025!

Last week, some of our members 'appeared' at the local Methodist Church's friendship group. We had a receptive and responsive audience and hope to be invited back.

We are looking forward, in our next session, to a short presentation on filming.

We are a friendly, welcoming group which is still open to new members. Whether you've performed expertly before or whether you are new to the stage, please do get in touch.

We are "Drama for Fun" - with the accent very firmly on the "FUN".

Ann Laity.

Group Leader

alaity9@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

Future Day Trips

The weather is hopefully improving and I have been putting my mind to trips for this year. Please note, if you book and pay to go on a trip and subsequently cancel, that fixed costs cannot be refunded but possibly entry fees may be refunded if they haven't been paid in advance.

Devon County Show. On 15th May. 16 seater mini-bus (unless there is more take-up) leaving Ivybridge at 9am returning at 5pm. Cost £35 per person.

River Dart Cruise. On Monday 28th July. A cruise from Totnes to Dartmouth, 3 hours in Dartmouth followed by the return cruise to Totnes. £35 per person *To be confirmed.*

Contact Rhoda Lloyd if you wish to take part 07443390043 or rhodamllolyd@gmail.com.

OTHER GROUP NEWS

The **Cryptic Crossword Group** has moved from the Westward Inn to Adam Hart-Davies's house. Please contact Ian McClure for any further information (01548 830578).

The **Drama for Fun Group** now meets in the Methodist Church Ivybridge.

The **General Discussion Group** now meets at St Austins Priory.

Book Group 2 has sadly had to close due to the leader moving away from the area. If anyone would like to step forward to run this group please contact John Bowditch.

The **Creative Writing Group** has also closed.

The Ivybridge u3a relies on volunteers to run the various groups which reflect and stimulate our members' interests. If you can help run a group or have an idea for a new one, please speak to John Bowditch or any committee member as help is available.

GROUP DIARY

DAY	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Mon am	Ukulele		Ukulele	Cryptic Crosswords
Mon pm	U3A Committee meeting	Current Affairs	General Monthly Meeting 2.00-4.00pm	
Tue am	Etymology 2		Book Group 1 History of Modern Britain	Local History 1 Local History 2
Tue pm	Bridge	Bridge Crime Book Club Wine Appreciation Group 1 6.00-8.00pm	Bridge Play Reading	Bridge Drama for Fun
Wed am			Etymology 1	French Improvers Dartmoor History Walking
Wed pm	Canasta	Science & Tech Needlecraft	Canasta Folk 7.00-9.00pm	Wine Appreciation Group 2
Thurs am	Music Appreciation	German Conversation Ancient Civilisation	Theology Philosophy Psychology Art for Fun	Dartmoor Discovery Walking
Thurs pm	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure	Singing for Pleasure Poetry
Fri am	Spoon Carving Guitar Group	Natural History Scrabble Litter Picking	Spoon Carving Geology Guitar Group	Chair Yoga 1&2 General Discussion
Fri pm	Chair Yoga 1&2	Chair Yoga 1&2	Chair yoga 1&2	Quiz