

Dart Valley u3a AGM 2025 – Draft Minutes.

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Dart Valley u3a held at 10:15am on Thursday 12th June 2025 at The Flavel, Dartmouth

1. **Present.** All committee members: Julia Churchley (Chair), Peter Avis, Gwendolyn Alker, Bill Riddell, Suzie Dodsworth, Iain McCall, Paul Noonan, Lizzie Helyer, Wiz Tehel, Tim Freeman, Chris Milsom and 93 other members.
2. **Apologies for absence:** received from Robert Brooke and others
3. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2024.** The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Thursday 13th June 2024 were approved by those present.
4. **Report from the Chair.** In her Annual report:

Julia introduced herself as Chair for the past year, with Bill Riddell as the vice Chair. She said the most likely points of contact for members were Suzie Dodsworth (membership secretary) and Wiz Tehel (newsletter editor and groups coordinator). They are generally available at the entrance desk at the monthly meetings but all members of the committee wear lanyards, so please see this as an invitation to talk to anyone on the committee at any meeting.

This has been an outstanding year of monthly talks arranged by Iain McCall, our speaker secretary. We were privileged to welcome Jung Chang in the Autumn and over the year we have had many informative and entertaining speakers on all manner of subjects from hilarious recollections of one working on Blue Peter, to another working in the icy blue waters of Antarctica; talks on space pioneers like Galileo, to talks on the latest spectacular images from NASA. These speakers have been enjoyed by all of us and combined with the excellent venue here at the Flavel, have encouraged many people to join us.

Volunteers are still needed to assist with coffee at meetings – contact Gwendolyn if you can help occasionally. Incidentally, it is an excellent way to get to know people, and no washing up!

Our groups are at the heart of the u3a, so a great thank you to our conveners who give up their time preparing talks, arranging trips and activities. Groups continually evolve and we always have room for more – they don't have to be all year – pop up or Winter groups are fine too.

If you have the knowledge to share in a group but are worried about a venue or IT, or emailing, talk to Wiz. Most groups run independently but he can help set up a group and suggest solutions to any problems. Members have suggested we have a Tea Dance group, Photography and Singing for Pleasure. But they need people to run them. If you have any ideas or can help, get in touch.

Membership is now over 500. The Committee's aims for the year ahead are:- to be as welcoming as possible and to encourage more participation in activities. An Open Day is planned for October. Please continue to spread the word. It is not always easy to come here alone the first time, so do bring someone **with** you to a talk they might enjoy.

Finances are in good order, thank you to Rose Williams for auditing our accounts for us. While costs have risen sharply, annual membership will stay at £10 this year. We have reasonable reserves, but we are keen to balance the books annually. Hence we are holding a small fundraiser on 7th August using the tea hut in Royal Avenue Gardens. Contact me or Gwendolyn if you can help or contribute a cake. There is a sheet at the front today and more info to follow.

It has been a pleasure to work with all of my committee who quietly and diligently get on with all their various jobs. This year was an extra project delivering our new website. It is much easier to navigate with plenty of information and lots of photos. It gives potential new members a really good idea of what u3a is and what it can offer. I do encourage you to use it.

So I am especially grateful to Wiz Tehel, Peter Avis and Tim Freeman who worked many months on this. They have done a fantastic job, all part of raising our profile and giving as many people as possible the opportunity to join us.

I am very enthusiastic about our u3a – for many of us, including myself, it has opened the doors to have the best time with new interests and new friends here in Dartmouth. Thank you to everyone who helps us, from the Flavel staff including Mick doing the tech up at the top there, to members manning the door or making the coffee. Thank you everyone.

5. **Committee Membership.** All committee members are willing to stay in post for the coming year. (Proposed: Jennifer Wright, Seconded: Barbara Levies)
6. **Election of Principal Officers:** Principal officer roles proposed as: Chair: Julia Churchley, Vice Chair: Bill Riddell, Secretary: Christine Milsom, Treasurer: Lizzie Helyer were accepted unopposed by the meeting.
7. **Accounts of 2024/5** The Accounts were presented and accepted (Proposed: Tim Freeman, Seconded: Pat White)
8. **Annual Subscription** This proposed to stay the same as last year at £10 was accepted unopposed by the meeting.
9. **AOB** There was no other business : The AGM closed at 10:29 am