

Dart Valley u3a AGM 2026 – Draft Minutes.

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Dart Valley u3a held at 10:15am on Thursday 11th June 2026 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 134 other members.
2. **Apologies for absence:** received from Liz Davies, Pam Braakenburg, Penny Lowe, David and Lee Thorneywork and others
3. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2025.** The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Thursday 12th June 2025 were approved by those present.
4. **Report from the Chair.** In her Annual report Julia identified the success of two key elements of Dart Valley u3a; the monthly talks and the groups. She said it was another outstanding year of talks arranged by speaker secretary Iain McCall (to audience applause). The range this year had been exceptional with history, entertainment and science all explored. She enjoyed the surprises –some of the most technical talks – such as Richard Haycock on Artificial intelligence, and Aroop Mozunder on medical aspects of flying in the RAF were not just enlightening, but amongst the most moving and thought-provoking. Julia thanked the speakers, the staff and the volunteers at the Flavel, those manning the door, making the coffee, all of those who help make these mornings so enjoyable.

She said the u3a's Group culture was as equally valuable as the talks, and she thanked the conveners who gave their time preparing talks, arranging trips and activities. Thanks were given to both those conveners who had run groups with huge commitment for many years and to those who led groups for the first time. She said she was always happy to talk to anyone to discuss new group possibilities or ideas and said that this coming Monday she will be getting together with conveners to share ideas.

She referred back to her report last year in which she said the membership was around 500 and the committee aimed to encourage more participation. She was happy to report this year that membership had risen to around 570. New groups formed this year included yoga, a new book group and virtual film club are all going well. Julia said she would like to think we had fulfilled our aims and that we are flourishing and particularly thanked Tim Freeman for leading our publicity with great success.

Looking to where we could expand, she said she knew how much many of us enjoy getting together for a spot of lunch and a drink or two. With four pub lunch groups all at capacity she said we really need to get someone to lead another! It just needs one or two people to agree a day to meet and others to join them, friends and fine times will be had. A second group at capacity was the sports morning with Yvonne Cotton. Yvonne runs numerous sports sessions, and pickleball had become a real hit with Yvonne arranging no less than four groups a week but she would love it if someone could offer to lead another pickleball group – she is happy to make all the arrangements with the leisure centre but cannot be physically present. Julia asked members to think about whether they could help.

Julia next reported that finances were in good order, annual membership will stay at £10. She thanked Rose Williams for independently examining our accounts for us, not just this year, but for many years in the past and she is now stepping down from that role. She then reported on several changes on committee thanking Suzie Dodworth who has had many roles, including membership secretary, newsletter editor, and groups coordinator as well as running her iPad courses for many years. Suzie is stepping down as membership secretary but will stay on committee. She also said that Gwendolyn Alker was leaving the committee; many members will know her for running the cryptic crossword group and is currently running the coffee rota and is also the u3a Devon representative. She thanked Gwendolyn for her many years of service.

Julia then thanked our treasurer Lizzie Helyer, who is standing down after a very long stint. She pointed out that you would have to look back to when Gordon Brown was Chancellor of the Exchequer to the date when Lizzie took on the job. She said the country has got through another nine chancellors since then but Lizzie has been steadfast over two decades as our treasurer. She said she had worked with Lizzie over this last year to at last get our banking online, making both the work easier, and, making it faster to process membership renewals. She thanked Lizzie who has worked hard with our treasurer elect Paul Noonan to ensure we have an easy transition and said although she won't be putting her feet up, working for many local groups she hoped she will now have more time for her singing , sea swimming and her allotment.

Julia finished by saying it has been a pleasure to work with all her committee. In addition to the front of house roles like Bill Riddell as Vice Chair, she thanks all the team working behind the scenes, people like Peter Avis making sure we fulfil our official obligations; Christine for the minuting meetings, Wiz Tehel for maintaining the website, producing the newsletters; renewing memberships, and making sure we do everything as well as we can. Thank you everyone.

5. **Accounts of 2025/6** The Accounts as published on the website were accepted by show of hands.
6. **Committee Membership.** Re-election of Committee Members. The following current committee members agreed to stand for re-election: Julia Churchley, Bill Riddell, Tim Freeman, Paul Noonan, Peter Avis, Suzie Dodsworth, Christine Milsom, Vince Tehel, and Iain McCall. (Proposed: Diane Ridell, Seconded: Richard Rawlins and approved by the meeting)
7. All committee members are willing to stay in post for the coming year. (Proposed: Jennifer Wright, Seconded: Barbara Levies)
8. Election of any new Committee Members: no new members have come forward but Julia asked any who were interested to contact her or a Committee member.
9. **Election of Principal Officers:** Principal officer roles proposed as: Chair: Julia Churchley, Vice Chair: Bill Riddell, Secretary: Christine Milsom, Treasurer: Paul Noonan (Proposed Helen Deakin, Seconded Jennifer Wright). were accepted unopposed by the meeting.
10. **Annual Subscription** This proposed to stay the same as last year at £10 was accepted unopposed by the meeting.
11. **AOB** There was no other business : The AGM closed at 10:32 am