

Committee Notices

Message from Chairman

Welcome to a new u3a year and many thanks to Dave for his time as Chairman and Vice Chairman. I hope to carry on his good work and am sure the Committee's experience will be a great help to me. I'm afraid I shan't be perching on the stage like Dave – even if I could get up there, I couldn't get down again!

Thank you also to Josie for becoming Vice Chairman and welcome back to Diana, who's not here today but will be helping Bob to arrange our trips.

My Dad always said 'Never volunteer' but children rarely listen to their parents, and I've always found that you get more out of any organisation by getting involved. Having been a member since the start, I didn't want to see this branch close for lack of a Chairman. Membership has led to new friends and interests, and groups like this are very important in helping to combat potential isolation and keep our brain cells active.

Your committee for 2025-2026 is:

Chairperson	Paulette Burkill
Vice Chairperson	Josie Palmer
Secretary	Sue Mitchell
Treasurer	Pat Lucas
Membership Secretary	Kath Buckley
Interest Groups Co-ordinator	Elaine Johnson
Speaker & Publicity Secretary	Helen Abbott
Webmaster/Newsletter Secretary	Marion Ridsdill
Events Co-ordinator	Bob Brueton
Assistant Events Co-ordinator	Diana Price
Technical Advisor	Frank Hill
Michael Buckley	Committee Member

I met someone recently who lives locally and was widowed three years ago. She was taking the bus to Solihull 'for something to do', so I told her about u3a. I know it's not for everyone, but if you're a visitor trying us out for the first time today – and welcome to you if you are – who not give it a try – the subscription works out at only £2 a meeting and that includes speaker and refreshments – where else can you get such good value?

Welcome also to any new members today and I hope you'll be encouraged to find out about the varied interest groups we've got.

Paulette Burkill
Chairman

CBu3a has a new Facebook Page, please follow this link to join and post news
[\(7\) Castle Bromwich u3a | Facebook](#)

Membership Fees

Thank you to everyone who has paid already but those who have not this is a reminder to please pay your **£25 subscription** as soon as possible preferably by bank transfer to sort code 30 84 33, account number 23918560 remembering to add your name to the payment so we know who it is from or alternatively by cheque payable to Castle Bromwich U3A which should be passed to the Treasurer. Your membership card will be issued once your subs are paid.

Events

Two day trips booked as follows

Tuesday June 3rd

Moreton in Marsh for Market continuing to Bourton on the Water, a lovely Cotswold village

Leaving Arden Hall 9:00 am Departing Bourton 4:30 pm giving plenty of time to look around and be back about 5:30pm

Cost £12, payable in full to Bob Brueton or Diana Price



Friday July 18th

Bilston for giant market, continuing to Wolverhampton for the superb Art Gallery or City shops

Leaving Arden Hall 9:00 am
Leaving Wolverhampton 4:30 pm giving plenty of time to enjoy day and be back about 5:30 pm

Cost £12, payable in full to Bob Brueton or Diana Price



‘Bring a Friend for free’

Members are encouraged to bring a friend for free to the General Meeting on 25th June. If you have a friend or relative who is thinking about joining us please bring them along so that they can meet the group and get a feel for what goes on at our general meetings and so they can find out about our interest groups.

Groups Information

Art Appreciation

Cancelled until further notice

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Papercrafts and Knit and Natter Group

Monday 28 April and 19 May

Methodist Church, Cat Lane

Join us for a different craft each month or just come and knit and natter.

Photos are available on the new group page of the first successful meeting in March

follow this link: [Paper Crafts, Knit and Natter Group - Castle Bromwich](#)

Facilitator: Kath Buckley

Curry Night

Monday 28 April

Curry Club on Hurst Lane

Facilitator: Barbara Durrant

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 30 April, 10:00 am (Please note this change of date) and then May's meeting will take place on 21 May

Arden Hall

All members are welcome to attend.

Poetry Group

Friday, 2 May, 2:00pm on, usual venue.

We are a small group with an interest in poetry which we find in advance of our meetings based on an agreed theme and we read pieces aloud to the group. The meeting usually lasts a couple of hours, refreshments are provided at the halfway point.

Please contact Dave & Helen Abbott on 0121 770 1538 if you are interested in joining us.

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott

Art and Craft Circle

Tuesday 6 May, 1:00 pm

Bring your paints, sewing project or any craft activity you are working on.

Aylesford Hall

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

Wednesday, 7 May, 10:30 am

Ashley Book Farm

Everyone welcome

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group

Thursday 1 and 15 May 10:00 till 12:00 noon.

There is a small charge (£2.00) to help with the room hire.

For more info' email: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Facilitators: Frank and Katrina

Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 8 May

Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis

Thursday 8 May 2:00 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price



u3a Strummers

Fridays, 9 and 23 May

10:15 for 10:30 start till 11:30

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £3

You will need your own instrument and music stand.

Facilitator: Graham Ridsdill

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 12 May, 2:00pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays 14 May, 10:00 am

Gardner's Rest Tearoom, Orchard Nursery

Water Orton Lane

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson



Gardner's Rest Tearoom

Digital Photography

Tuesday 20 May

1:00 till 3:30 pm

Subject: Macro

We are currently meeting at a member's house, so numbers are limited at present, but if anyone is wishing to show their photos can contact me either at the General Meeting or via our CBU3a email: castleu3a7@gmail.com.

Facilitator: Frank Hill

Ballet at the Cinema

Thursday 22 May

The Royal Cinema, Sutton Coldfield

The final production this season is *Ballet to Broadway - Wheeldon Works* on Thursday evening 22 May (also on Sunday afternoon 25 May), featuring the range of The Royal Ballet's Artistic Associate since 2012, Christopher Wheeldon OBE.



There'll be a signing sheet at the general meeting on 30 April. The following ballets will be featured:

Fool's Paradise

Luminescent and shimmering, *Fool's Paradise* marked the first of Wheeldon's many collaborations with composer Joby Talbot, created in 2007 for Wheeldon's own company, Morphoses, and first performed in 2012 by The Royal Ballet.

The Two of Us

The wistful songs of Joni Mitchell set the scene for the UK premiere of *The Two of Us*, a duet of deep intimacy and yearning, created in 2020 for the Fall for Dance Festival in New York.

Us (Duet)

Us is a tender duet danced by two men, created in 2017 for BalletBoyz and set to Keaton Henson's music.

An American in Paris (Ballet)

The Royal Ballet celebrates Wheeldon's extraordinary success in musical theatre by performing the ballet scene from his Tony Award-winning musical *An American in Paris*. Set to Gershwin's jazzy melodies, the musical is inspired by the 1951 film of the same name starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron, which went on to win four Tony awards. The full musical depicts a blossoming romance between the American GI Jerry Mulligan and a French ballerina, Lise Dassin. The ballet excerpt was Wheeldon's take on one of the most memorable scenes from the film – an extended sequence in which the two central characters dance through Paris.

Facilitator: Paulette Burkill

Astronuts

Monday: 26 May, 10 am
Methodist Church, Cat Lane

Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill

Yompers

29 May
Walk details to be confirmed.

Facilitator: Bob Dadd 07711608591

General Meetings

Wednesdays 30 April and 28 May
1:30 pm
Arden Hall

GM Speakers

30 April – Linda Atherton from Central Fast Response - she will be providing us with information, instruction, and training on basic first aid. Some 'hands on' practical training will form part of the session. The session will be geared to the abilities and average age of our group and hopefully will provide you with some confidence should you need to administer first aid.

28 May – Ray Pearce - From Stalybridge to Castle Bromwich via Kuala Lumpur

The full list is published on the General Meeting page of the website.

Can we remind members that the hire of the Spencer Hall is until 4:00 pm. So as not to incur additional hire costs can we ask that members leave Arden Hall before 4:00 pm please.

Refreshment Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the tea rota, please speak to Sue Wilcox or Kath Buckley if you are able to help. There are guidelines/tips for the tea rota which is on the committee webpage [refreshmenttips.pdf \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk/refreshmenttips.pdf)

GM Book Swap

Do you have any books/magazines you would like to swop?
If so, bring them to the General Meeting.

Facilitator: June Dadd



If group facilitators (or members) wish to present information to CBU3A about their group or activity in the presentation then contact Frank Hill via our email: castleu3a7@gmail.com or at the General Meeting

Jotters Corner

Jotters Corner now has its own page on the new website: Head over to the site to find the latest stories. If you have any short stories to share, please email them to Marion. Latest article below:

Ray Pearce – Wenlock Town

Lunartics

This is a website-based group, and you will find lots of information on our u3a website page. Details on the CB website

Facilitator: Frank Hill

Railway and Railway Model Club

Thursdays 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Model Club Cadbury Drive, Castle Vale, B35 7JE.

£3 to cover room rent and refreshments.

Come and have a look. You can choose which one(s) you would like to help with.

We go out to exhibitions and hold our own exhibition at Arden Hall in October as well as we have lots of other activities, outings etc. Come and have a look. Ladies welcome especially with craft and art skills to work on scenic (you might also want to play trains).

Group Facilitator Bob Brueton

Quizzes

On the website the monthly quiz now has its own page. Find the previous quizzes plus the current months on the page.

This month quiz numbers 07 and 08.

Thank you to Roger Hateley for providing the quizzes.

Workshops and Members Organizing Interest Trips

If members are organizing CBU3a workshops or their interest group trips then can the organizer inform the Interest Group Co-ordinator, Elaine Johnson, of the project. This ensures that the event is noted and also in the unlikely event of an accident we can help process any insurance support that may be required. If trips are of a more extensive nature, then the Trips and Events Coordinator, Bob Brueton, is also to be informed. Please note that a risk assessment could be required to be completed to ensure that the event is undertaken safely for members and/or visitors.

Elaine Johnson

U3a Members welcome at these other Community Groups

Young at Heart Dancing

1.30 - 3.30 pm £3.00

At The Remembrance Club.

U3A members are always made welcome.

Organised by: Bob Brueton



Generations Choir

More choir members needed male and female. No auditions just enthusiasm and wanting to meet like-minded people and have lots of fun! Choir meets for rehearsals.

Thursdays 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm at the Sanctuary Community Centre, Tangmere Drive, Castle Vale B35 7PX. Sing Gary Barlow's song plus Sea Shanties, plus more new songs. Several performances being planned. We also sing popular songs and from musicals. If you can talk you can sing!

U3A Members very welcome.

Organiser: Bob Brueton 07766923361

Castle Bromwich Ladies Club Trips

Eastbourne staying at the Imperial hotel half board 29th May-2nd June

Coach from Arden Hall returning to Arden Hall

£309 per person

I can ask for single rooms but can't promise one

Llandudno Day Trip on the 18th August, £21 from Arden Hall

Please forward any information, photographs to share or group updates to Marion Ridsdill at mridsdill@hotmail.co.uk or use the group email castleu3a7@gmail.com