



Committee Notices

We're not the first!

Apparently we're not the first Castle Bromwich u3a branch. According to the *Castle Bromwich Gazette* in April 1993, a u3a branch was formed that year, meeting monthly on the second Friday morning of the month at Castle Bromwich Library. The branch was officially launched at the Library in June 1993, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull and Norman Richards, then National Vice Chairman of u3a.

The Group Co-ordinator (and Chairperson by 1995) was Mrs Jean Keeling and the Secretary was Mrs Peggy Bamford. Interest groups included a walking group, painting (three times a month), a weekly Scrabble group and crafts.

By 1995 they were trying to encourage more men to join but unfortunately I don't have any later copies of the *Gazette* and wonder when the branch folded or whether any of our members know the people named above?

I've asked the u3a National Office if they still have any information and will keep you posted!

Reserved seating

If you have trouble hearing the speakers at Arden Hall, because of their system and ours, we will reserve the first two rows of seats at General Meetings for you.

Photo consent

Although only five members signed the recent form asking not to be photographed, there are apparently a lot more. As Frank won't know everyone's names, please let him know at the meeting and if you think you might have been photographed by mistake, he'll delete it.

Best wishes Paulette Burkill

If you would like to see more photos of the visit of Councillor Annette Mackenzie, Mayor of Solihull last month please visit our cbu3a Facebook page [\(6\) Castle Bromwich u3a | Facebook](#). You will need a Facebook account to access this. If you like help to set this up please talk to Marion, details at the end of the newsletter.

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 October 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

Events

Quiz Night

Thursday 23 October

7:00 pm doors open

7:30 start

Tickets £6

Maximum 6 to a team

Including a

Ploughman's Supper

(please advise if you need a vegan or veggie option)

Bring your own alcohol

Aylesford Hall
116 Bradley Road
Shard End
B34 7RU

Tickets available from Marion 07701010152



Christmas Lunch at the Grimscote Manor

Thursday 11 December 12:30 – 4:30 pm

After another successful lunch last year, we are returning to the Grimscote. The cost this year is £33.50.

The menu/booking form is attached to this email, but there will be paper copies available at the next General Meeting. Payment can be made via bank transfer, details on the menu/booking form but cash or cheque is acceptable. Closing date for payment for this event is 26 November (General Meeting)

If you would like to sit with friends, please inform Ros Williams or Josie Palmer so that they can accommodate your wishes.



Chatsworth House Christmas 2025

1st December 2025

Details to be confirmed

Groups Information

Both the Scrabble and the Art Appreciation Groups have restarted full details below

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

Wednesday, 1 October, 10:00 am

Everyone welcome

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group

Thursdays 2 and 16 October

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

For more info' email: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Facilitators: Frank and Katrina

Poetry Group

Friday, 3 October, 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.

The theme this time is - there isn't one! This is a wild card meeting so you are encouraged to bring along a few of your favourite poems.

We look forward to seeing you.

Please send your apologies if you are not able to attend.

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

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 6 October, 2:00pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art and Craft Circle

Tuesday 7 October, 1:00 pm, Aylesford Hall

Relaxed afternoon crafting, so bring your paints, sewing project or any craft activity you are currently working on.

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson



Digital Photography

Thursdays 9 October

1:00 till 3:30 pm

The project for October is 'Camera Movement', this is to deliberately move the camera while taking the photograph. Our meetings start at 1.00 till around 3.30 pm and is at a member's house. For more info' about us and what we get up to – email Frank Hill: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Facilitator: Frank Hill

Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 9 October

Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis

Thursday 9 October 2:00 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price

u3a Strummers

Fridays, 10 and 24 October

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

Art Appreciation

Tuesday 14 October at 1:15 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays 15 October, 10:00 am

Gardener's Rest Tearoom, Orchard Nursery, Water Orton Road

Water Orton Lane

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Papercrafts and Knit and Natter Group

Monday 20 October

Methodist Church, Cat Lane

At the September meeting we made Halloween cards

Barbara will be leading the group in making the bottle aprons.

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

Facilitator: Kath Buckley





Scrabble

Tuesday 21 October, 2:00 pm till 3:30 pm
Castle Bromwich Library, Hurst Lane (next to the Infants School)
Starting on Oct 21st (always on the third Tuesday of the month)
No charge. Tea and biscuits provided for a donation to the library.
All levels of play welcome
Facilitator Margaret Riordan 07563774353

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 22 October, 10:00 am
Arden Hall
All members are welcome to attend

Astronuts,

Monday: 27 October, 10:00 am
Fees £2.50
Methodist Church Cat Lane
Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill

General Meeting

Wednesday 29 October
1:30 pm
Arden Hall

GM Speakers

24 September	Mary Bodfish	The Baby in the Locket
29 October	Roger Butler	Canals and waterways in the Midlands

The full list of speakers 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



Yompers

Thursday 30 September

Please meet at 9.30am for car sharing in the second car park behind Arden Hall.

The walk is approximately 4 miles long and starts from the car park at Shustoke Reservoir, off B4114, Reservoir Lane, B46 2BE. Car parking costs £1.50 (cash). Unfortunately, there are no toilets at the start of the walk.

We will be walking by reservoirs, small woods, lanes and fields with a lunch break at Shustoke Church grounds. It's a reasonably flat walk, with just a couple of gradual hills. All being well, there shouldn't be cattle in any fields, but the route can be adjusted if necessary.

You will need to bring your own lunch and drinks (there are benches en route for breaks). There is also an option for refreshments and facilities at the Plough pub at the end of the walk.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob.



Thursday 30 October
Details to be confirmed

Facilitator: Bob Dadd 07711608591

Curry Club

Information about a possible early November curry night will follow soon.

Facilitator: Barbara Durrant

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.



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

Cinema/Ballet Group

Royal Ballet cinema screenings 2025/26

The following ballets are showing at Cineworld Solihull and The Royal, Sutton Coldfield. Signing-on sheets will be available nearer the dates:

La Fille Mal Gardée – Wednesday 5 November

Cinderella – Tuesday 25 November (Frederick Ashton's ballet, with music by Prokofiev)

The Nutcracker – Wednesday 10 December

2026

Woolf Works - Monday 9 February

(Wayne McGregor's ballet, with music by Max Richter, inspired by three of Virginia Woolf's novels: *Mrs Dalloway*, *Orlando* and *The Waves*)

Giselle - Tuesday 3 March

Quizzes

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

Thank you to Roger Hateley for providing the quizzes.

Information books available to loan

Age Concern

- Living with dementia
- At home with dementia
- When someone dies

Alzheimer's Society

- The dementia guide – living well after your diagnosis
- Caring for a person with dementia – a practical guide
- The activities handbook



u3a Members welcome at these other Community Groups

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

Young at Heart Dancing

1.30 - 3.30 pm £4.00

At The Remembrance Club.

U3A members are always made welcome.

Organised by: Bob Brueton 07766923361



Heart of England Singers

Do you love singing? Are you looking for a welcoming community of music enthusiasts? Whether you're a seasoned performer or just love to sing in the shower, our choir is the perfect place to share your voice and passion for music!

Why Join Us?

Inclusive Atmosphere: All voices are welcome! No auditions required.

Fun Rehearsals: Weekly gatherings filled with joy, laughter, and music.

Exciting Performances: Showcase your talents at local events and concerts.

Grow Your Skills: Learn from experienced choir directors and develop your vocal ability.

Make Friends: Connect with a supportive community of music lovers.



Details:

Rehearsals: Every Monday at 7.30pm until 9.30pm.

Location: The Baptist Free Church, Land Lane, Marston Green, Birmingham B37 7DE

Who Can Join: Everyone! All ages and skill levels are welcome.

How to Join:

Simply show up at one of our rehearsals or contact us at 07853 841619 or

hoessecretary@gmail.com

You can also visit our website at <https://heartofenglandsingers.org.uk> for more information.

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