



Committee Notices

Thank you to members who've helped, contacted me and provided lifts since my hip replacement at the end of September - it's much appreciated. I'm doing well on one crutch and look forward to being able to drive again in a few weeks' time.

Annual Remembrance Service

Thank you to Frank Hill for agreeing to lay the wreath on our behalf at the above service at the War Memorial on The Green on Sunday 9 November, from 10.30am. All members are welcome to attend the parade and outdoor service.

Quiz

Many thanks to Marion, Graham and Tom Ridsdill for organising such an enjoyable quiz this week and to everyone who helped behind the scenes, set up the room and cleared it all afterwards.

Best wishes
Paulette Burkill

Events

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, or the Events and Trips subcommittee, 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, should also 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.

Chatsworth House Christmas 2025

1st December 2025

We've arranged a visit to Chatsworth House (decorated for Christmas), Gardens and Christmas Market for Monday 1 December. The coach will depart Arden Hall at 9 am and depart Chatsworth at 4 pm.

The cost will be £65.00 (which includes coach fare and House entrance), preferably payable in full by BACS (bank details are on your membership card). Please

see Diana Price and the sign-up sheet at the general meeting, and don't forget to supply your registration number if intending to park at Arden Hall that day.





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.

Quiz Night



Thank you for everyone who supported the quiz night on 23 October, we are pleased to say that we raised £294.84 for club funds. Congratulations to the Astronuts Team who came first. The questions were based loosely around our u3a. More photos on our website.

Groups Information

Astronuts,

Monday: 27 October, 10:00 am

Fees £2.50

Methodist Church Cat Lane

Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill



Yompers

Thursday 30 October.

Please meet at 9.30am for car sharing in the second car park behind Arden Hall. This month, we are walking around Catherine-de-Barnes, starting at The Boat pub, 222, Hampton Lane, B91 2TJ. If you're joining at the pub, please use the rear car park (you don't need to sign in to park there).

The walk is approximately 4 miles along the canal and lanes; there are no stiles to negotiate. You can bring your own lunch and drinks, but on this walk we'll include a refreshment stop at Berry's Cafe at Newland Bishops Farm. The cafe is a charity giving work opportunities to young disabled Solihull people (and one of the Lord Mayor's charities), so it would be lovely if Yompers could support them by purchasing food and/or drinks. If you have any questions, please contact Bob.

November: The walk will take place on Thursday 27th; walk details to be confirmed.
December: Date and walk details are yet to be confirmed.

Facilitator: Bob Dadd 07711608591

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 3 November, 2:00pm
Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art and Craft Circle

Tuesday 4 November, 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

Curry Night

Tuesday 4 November, 7:00 pm
Jeera, Chester Road

Following requests, we now have a November date, at a local welcoming curry house, with plenty of available parking.

Cost - £17.00 for poppadom, starter, main course, rice or naan and coffee. (*The cost has increased from what is advertised on the web.*)

Bring your own alcohol but please buy soft drinks.

There will be a signing sheet at next Wednesday's meeting but reply to this and I will add your name.

Facilitator: Barbara Durrant

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

Wednesday, 5 November, 10:00 am
Everyone welcome

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill



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 at the general meeting.

La Fille Mal Gardée – Wednesday 5 November

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

The Nutcracker – Wednesday 10 December 2025

Woolf Works - Monday 9 February 2026

(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 2026

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group

Thursdays 6 and 20 November

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

For more info' email: castleu3a7@gmail.com

BSL Workshops

Thank you to those who signed up for the BSL workshops. We will be running the following sessions. The cost will be £2.50 per session.

They will run from 10.30 – 11.30 at Castle Bromwich Methodist Church, School Lane on the following dates:

- Wednesday 5th November
- Monday 10th November
- Monday 24th November
- Wednesday 3rd December

The workshops will all cover: -

- Basic signs – greetings, basic useful words
- The alphabet – the manual alphabet is very useful for using initial letters for place names, people's names etc and as the basis of lots of signs.
- Numbers
- Good protocol when communicating with those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

These workshops will be a great introduction to BSL and are open to any of our members, could you let us know if you plan to come. Some members may want to use this as a starting point before joining the Thursday group.

Look forward to seeing you at the workshops - Frank and Sue

Please also note a new Deaf Club has been set up by Frank and Katrina – the poster is at the end of this newsletter. Members are welcome to attend.

Facilitators: Frank and Katrina castleu3a7@gmail.com



Poetry Group

Friday, 7 November, 2:00pm on, usual venue.

We are a small group with an interest in poetry, which we find in advance of our meetings. They are based on an agreed theme, and we read the pieces aloud to the group. The theme this time is 'Entertainment'.

It is an excellent way of learning about poets and their works. The meeting usually lasts a couple of hours; refreshments are provided at the halfway point.

New members are more than welcome.

Contact Dave or Helen on 0121 770 1538.

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott

Art Appreciation

Tuesday 11 November at 1:15 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays 12 November, 10:00 am

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

Water Orton Lane

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 13 November

Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis

Thursday 13 November 2:00 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price

u3a Strummers

Fridays, 14 and 28 November

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

Digital Photography

Monday 17 November

1:00 till 3:30 pm

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



Papercrafts and Knit and Natter Group

Monday 17 November

Methodist Church, Cat Lane

At the November meeting we will be making two types of Christmas cards

Join us for a different craft each month or just come and knit and natter. Please see our group page on the website for last month's makes.

Please note there will be no meeting in December.

Facilitator: Kath Buckley

Scrabble

Tuesday 18 November, 2:00 pm till 3:30 pm

Castle Bromwich Library, Hurst Lane (next to the Infants School)

No charge. Tea and biscuits provided for a donation to the library.

All levels of play welcome

Facilitator Margaret Riordan 07563774353



Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19 November, 10:00 am

Arden Hall

All members are welcome to attend.

General Meeting

Wednesday 26 November

1:30 pm

Arden Hall

GM Speakers

29 October	Roger Butler	Canals and Waterways in the Midlands
26 November	Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill	History of Castle Bromwich
10 December	Balsall Common u3a Swing Band	Musical Entertainment

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

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.



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

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.

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.

Lunartics

This is a website-based group, and you will find lots of information on our u3a website page. The latest information has been uploaded for November to our website, it is about Comet Lemmon (C/2025 A6), which was in our sky this October.

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

This month's quizzes 11 and 12 are available on the website along with the previous quizzes.

Thank you to Roger Hateley for providing the quizzes.



u3a Members welcome at these other Community Groups

Bus routes nearby:
 94, 95, 96, 71

Free carpark
on site

Find all
details online
bct1.org.uk/fayre

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

CRAFT FAYRE

Cards

Handmade crafts

Bags

Bric-a-brac

Jewellery

Tea and Coffee

Homemade cakes

...and lots more!

Saturday 15th Nov

12:30-3:30

baptist church
timberley lane
B34 7EH

Organised by

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



Three Trees
Community Centre

Deaf Club

Please join us at the Three Trees Community Centre

for Tea, Coffee and a Chat

Open to hearing and non-hearing

12 November 2025

3:30 to 5:30 pm

Deaf Club is free at present, just turn up

For more information, please contact

Frank Hill at billogen@blueyonder.co.uk



Hedingham Grove,
Chelmsley Wood
Birmingham. B37 7TP

The following buses go near to the
Community Centre:

96, 97A, X12, X13, 72.

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



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

