

Committee Notices

Ray Pearce

Many of you will be aware already that Ray, who was one of our founder members (no. 13), died in hospital on 30 May, aged 91. He'd really struggled with his health over the past couple of years and had lost his usual spark and enjoyment of life.

His funeral will be at 11am on Tuesday, 7 July at Woodlands Cemetery, and afterwards at Water Orton Cricket Club, Coleshill Road, B46 1QX, where he spent many happy summer weekends. Family flowers only but donations to the British Heart Foundation, and he wanted people to wear bright colours.

We've started a *Memories of Ray* book where u3a members can write their memories of him, with the aim of passing it on to his family in due course.



[Jotters Corner Ray Pearce - Castle Bromwich](#)

In Jotters Corner on our website there are 35 essays by him, including some photos in happier times in those listed below, plus one of him at Poetry Group on his 90th birthday. The essays cover all sorts of subjects - his life from childhood, through National Service and career at Lloyds Bank to his love of art, cricket, poetry, trains, travel and many other things:

Letter: when he was on National Service

Picardy: standing to attention

Two go to Scotland: With two friends

As he reminds us in one of his essays (Motorways), we can also hear him being interviewed on *Secret Life of the Motorway - Part 2*, on BBC iPlayer.

In the past few years, he was 'adopted' by the Army Intelligence Corps, with whom he did his National Service in Kuala Lumpur, and he subsequently gave talks at the National Memorial Arboretum and regimental events, which brought him a lot of pleasure.

His Christmas cards were always from a charity supporting children who lived rough on railway stations in India.

There was no-one else quite like Ray and he'll be sadly missed by all his many friends.

At the General Meeting there will be the opportunity for those who are unable to attend his funeral on the 7th July to make a donation to the British Heart Foundation.

Party in the Park - Saturday 27 June, open to the public 12-5pm

We're having a u3a stall again at the Parish Council's annual event in Arden Hall Park, 12-5pm. Please see the signing list at the General Meeting if you'd be willing to help, even if only for an hour, giving out leaflets or talking to members of the public about our u3a.

We also need help with the funfair-style games that Arden Hall has asked all stallholders to bring. We're having a beanbag throw, guess the cost of a food hamper and guess the number of Lego and Duplo pieces in a jar - but do come and support the event anyway.

Photo consent

A reminder to make yourself known to Frank Hill if you don't want to be included in any photographs taken at General Meetings/other events.

Paulette Burkill
Chairman

Events

Shrewsbury Town and Boat Trip

7th July 2026

Wonder around Shrewsbury's Medieval streets or go the Shrewsbury Market Hall. We will meet at 12:15 to board the 12:30 boat at Sabrina, Victoria House Victoria Quay, Shrewsbury SY1 1HH

£30 includes coach fare and ticket for the boat trip on the River Severn.

If you are parking in Arden Hall carpark, please give your car reg to Diana Price, at June's general meeting.



LOST LANDSCAPES – MEDIEVAL CASTLE BROMWICH

Historical talk: Friday 24 July, 11:30-12:30 £5.00
Historical walk: Wednesday 12 August, 11:00-12:30 or 14:00-15:30 £6.00
Wednesday 16 September, 11:00-12:30 or 14:00-15:30 £6.00

Archaeologist Dr Mike Hodder, Honorary Lecturer at the University of Birmingham, will take you through the medieval past in a talk designed to reveal the hidden landscapes of pre-Tudor Castle Bromwich, its fascinating history and how this past interacts with our present.

Why is it called Castle Bromwich? The walks will include a gentle meander pointing out a view of the motte and bailey castle which gives Castle Bromwich its name, the church of St Mary and St Margaret, road system and other glimpses of the Middle Ages.

Mike has recently completed a detailed report on the excavations at the castle site - his particular interest in old 'Pimple Hill' as it's known locally, stems from the fact that when he was still at school he took part in the original excavation of the site in the 1970s. He will explain its setting in medieval Castle Bromwich and compare it with other castles and manor houses in the West Midlands and beyond.

Tickets must be booked in advance (Paulette will book them) and then meet in the Courtyard Café at Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens thirty minutes before the start of each event - walk tickets include Gardens admission on the day for non-members. Twelve tickets have been booked so far for the talk and more will be booked when we have more names - see signing sheet at the General Meeting. No tickets have been booked for the walks yet.

We are aware and apologise that trips might clash with interest groups, we will alternate days to avoid this. If you are attending an event and it clashes with one of your group meetings, please let the group facilitator know.

Future trips and events for your diary for 2026

September	Bakewell Market – 14 September £18 Coach fare
October	Quiz Night – Details to be finalised
	Coronation Street Experience – This is now a weekend event due to filming – further details and price to be confirmed
November	Bath Christmas Market – 27 November - £22
December	Christmas Lunch 16 December, Grimscote Manor

If you have any ideas or places you would like to visit please let one of the Events and Trips committee know

Non u3a members July attend trips and events but they will not be covered by the u3a insurance. For further details: [Events - Castle Bromwich](#)

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 July 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.

Groups Information

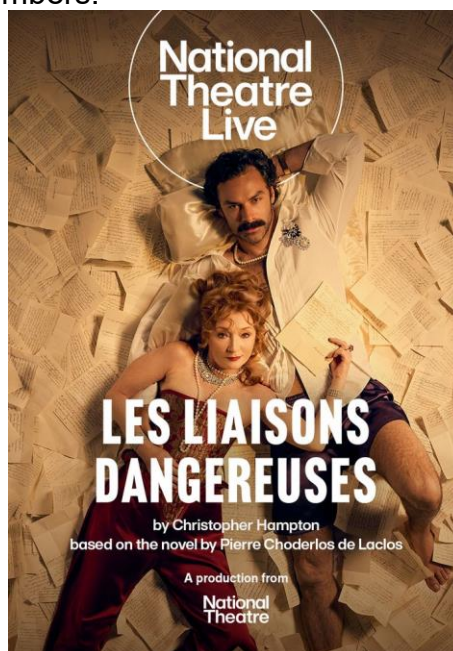
Cinema Group

National Theatre Live - Les Liaisons Dangereuses

25 or 28 June see below:

Lesley Manville (*Phantom Thread/Mrs Harris goes to Paris*) and Aidan Turner (*Poldark/Rivals*) star in a stage version of the French novel originally published in 1782, which is showing at the Royal Cinema in Sutton on Thursday 25 July at 7pm or Sunday 28 July at 3pm.

It tells the story of the Marquise Isabelle de Merteuil and the Vicomte Sébastien de Valmont, two amoral lovers-turned-rivals who amuse themselves by ruining others and who ultimately destroy each other, and has been seen as depicting the corruption and depravity of the French nobility shortly before the French Revolution. There'll be a signing sheet at the general meeting, and I'll book tickets in advance when I have an idea of numbers.



Paulette Burkill, Facilitator

Yompers

Thurs 25 June

Meet at Arden Hall car park at 9:30

Walk will start from Shustoke Reservoir (B46 2BE) approximately 4 miles, 1 stile two slight inclines. Through fields some with horses 🐎, no sheep 🐑 in fields when rekki was done. Quiet roads through wooded area to trout lake and then back to Reservoir. The car parking fee is £1.50

Thurs 30 July: Walk details to be confirmed

Facilitator: Bob Dadd

Sunday Lunch

28 June, 1 pm

The Lake at Barston,

Carvery, 2 courses £23.45

Vegetarian/Vegan options

If you would like to attend, please see Josie or Ros at the meeting on Wednesday.

Facilitator: Josie Palmer

Astronuts,

Monday: 29 June, 10:00 am

July date to be confirmed

Fees £3

Methodist Church Cat Lane

Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill

Board Games

Tuesday 30 June and 28 July

2:00 pm till 3:30 pm

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

Join us for Scrabble or Rumikub

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

All levels of play welcome.

Facilitator Margaret Riordan 07563774353

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

Wednesday, 1 July

10:00 am, Everyone welcome.

No charge

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group

Thursdays 2 and 16 July,

There is a small charge (£3) to help with the room hire.

For more info' email: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Aylesford Hall, Shard End

Facilitators: Frank and Katrina Hill

Poetry Group

Friday, 3 July, 2:00 pm

On this occasion we'll be doing things a little differently!

Please choose a poet (any poet), do a little research about your poet (birth & death year, profession, location etc) and read out the information you've found, together with a few poems by your selected poet.

We both look forward to seeing you all.

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott, 0121 770 1538

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 6 July, 2:00pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art and Craft Circle

This meeting has been cancelled due to other events on that day.

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 9 July

Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis

Thursday 9 July 2:00 pm

All levels welcome

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price

u3a Strummers

Fridays, 10 and 24 July

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 13 July

1:00 till 3:30 pm

Our meetings start at 1.00 till around 3.30 pm and is at a member's house. We are free, except for sharing the refreshments. For more info' about us and what we get up to – email Frank Hill: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Facilitator: Frank Hill

Art Appreciation

Tuesday 14 July

At 1:15 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

wCoffee Mornings

Wednesdays 15 July, 10:00 am

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

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Papercrafts

Monday, 20 July

Join us for a different craft each month.

Facilitator: Kath Buckley

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 22 July meeting,

10:00 am, Arden Hall

All members are welcome to attend.

General Meeting

Wednesday 29 July

1:30 pm

Spencer Hall, Arden Hall

GM Speakers

24 June	Janice Brough	Laughing your cares away – Yoga laughter
29 July	Helen Barlow	The Dogs Trust
30 August	Jo Galby	Maid in England
30 September	u3a Week	Open Day: Members will be able to see what happens in other groups and chat to members of those groups. (A bit of a mingle) and bring along a non-member friend. (or two)

Please see the General Meeting page on our website for more details.

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

Refreshment rota – July meeting: Angela Roberts and Sue Wilcox

Volunteers are still needed for November and December please - signing list at the General Meeting.

Thank you to Josie and Ros, who are willing to look after refreshment stocks and to Mike Buckley who brings the flasks and buys the paper cups.

Welcome desk

July meeting: Carolyn Wallbank

We need volunteers to help with this from August onwards for the rest of the year please - signing list at the General Meeting.

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

Lunartics

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

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

Quizzes 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

Generations Choir

The Generations Choir are singing at
Party in the Park, 27 June from 1:15 to 2:15

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

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

Please continue to 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