

Committee Notices

Ray's Funeral

As expected, it was standing room only on 7 July and a good celebration of a long life, well lived. At the beginning, *500 Miles* by The Proclaimers (a favourite group of his) was played and when we left it was Chris Barber's Jazz Band's *Whistling Rufus*, as Rufus was his nickname when he had red hair as a young man. The coffin was draped with an Army Intelligence Corps flag, his beret and a medal in a box. Long-time neighbour Chris Beebee sang a tribute to 'Raymondo' at Water Orton Cricket Club afterwards.

Some of us weren't aware he'd had two books of his own poetry published and the service included a very appropriate one he'd written:

The End of another Innings

The Pavilion clock shows half past six
On this September day.
The last ball's bowled, the stumps are drawn,
The batsman's on his way.
For summer flies too swift a flight
Soon autumn will be here
And green fields just a memory
Of sunlit days and clear.

A memory that won't grow cold
When winter chills the land,
But warms at thoughts of partnerships
And oh! one catch so grand.
Impossible they thought it then,
The fielder gave a shout
And held the ball for all to see,
Another batsman out.

Then when the final innings ends,
What will the Umpire say?
Too many chances missed I'm sure,
You're out - go on your way.
No batting in Elysian Fields,
That's for the chosen few,
So, bags are packed, the score book's closed,
I bid you all adieu.

Water Orton Cricket Club's Facebook page showed the esteem in which Ray was held, including some lovely photos, and both teams had a minute's silence for him before their match on 13 June.

Our *Memories of Ray* book will be available at the next General Meeting.

Party in the Park

Thank you to everyone who helped on a hot and sunny 27 June (such a contrast to last year when we were setting up in heavy rain), organising gazebo, publicity material and refreshments for us. We didn't get a lot of interest in u3a but it was an enjoyable day. Someone in Smiths Wood won the hamper but Josie Palmer guessed the nearest number of Lego and Duplo pieces in the two jars, so won all the sweets?

CB Parish Council Grant

A thank you to the CB Parish council who have given us a grant for £73. This payment covered the Blood Bike donations and the Remembrance Day wreath.

General Meeting - June

Janice Brough took us right out of our comfort zone on what was then the hottest day of the year to date, with her talk and examples of Laughter Yoga. We all had to wear a Hawaiian lei - she'd saved a feather boa for me but it was too hot so John Witten wore it instead! She was such a jolly person, with a really infectious laugh, but many of us struggled to release our inner child and not feel self-conscious. Nevertheless, if you're feeling low, at least try to have a little smile at yourself in the mirror and turn it into a giggle. Very good, very good, very good, yay!

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

LOST LANDSCAPES – MEDIEVAL CASTLE BROMWICH

Historical talk:	Friday 24 August, 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, it's 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.

Bakewell Market



14 September 2026

Coach fare £18

Leave Arden Hall at 08:30 and return from Bakewell at 16:30

There will be a signing sheet at the July meeting.

If you require further information please speak to Bob Brueton

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

Future trips and events for your diary for 2026

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

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 August 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**Astronuts,**

Monday 27 July, 10 am

Methodist Church, Cat Lane

Monday: 10 August time and venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 12 August dark sky trip (subject to weather conditions)

To view partial solar eclipse before moving to Edgehill to view Persieds meteor shower, Milky Way and many other stars

Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill

Board Games

Tuesday 28 July

The August meeting has been cancelled

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

Curry Club

28 July, 7 pm

The Pavilion Restaurant

Blackgreaves Lane,

Lea Marston B76 0DA

The meal is poppadom, starter, main course, rice or naan.

The cost is only £15.00 per person! *(The usual extra £2 for King Prawns or main Signature dishes.)*

Menu on the curry club website page

Parking - there is so much space as they are out in the country.

There is no service charge, so I shall collect £16.50 pp (extra)

If you want to know more, please contact Barbara on

barbaraanddurrant@gmail.com

Facilitator Barbara Durrant



Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 3 August, 2:00pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art and Craft Circle

Tuesday 4 August, 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

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group

Thursdays 6 and 20 August,

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, 7 August, 2:00 pm

The theme this time will be 'Memories'.

We both look forward to seeing you all.

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott, 0121 770 1538

Digital Photography

Monday 10 August

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 fee 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 10 August

At 1:15 pm

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays 12 August, 10:00 am

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

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 13 August

Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis

Thursday 13 August 2:00 pm

All levels welcome

Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price

u3a Strummers

Fridays, 14 and 28 August

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

Papercrafts

Monday, 17 August

Join us for a different craft each month.

Facilitator: Kath Buckley

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19 August meeting,

10:00 am, Arden Hall

All members are welcome to attend.

General Meeting

Wednesday 26 August

1:30 pm

Spencer Hall, Arden Hall

GM Speakers

We have a change of speaker on 29 July as The Dogs Trust are unable to make it. Paulette will give a talk called *Pigs take Precedence*, which is about New Street in the city centre as it was in 1817, as remembered by a Birmingham lady sixty years later, when she was in her seventies.

26 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 on 29 July: June and Bob Dadd

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 on 29 July: Gillian Fitzpatrick and 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

Cinema Group

25 or 28 August

National Theatre Live - Les Liaisons Dangereuses

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 August at 7pm or Sunday 28 August 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 27 August: Walk details to be confirmed

Facilitator: Bob Dadd

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

August meeting has been cancelled

Wednesday, 2 September

10:00 am, Everyone welcome.

No charge

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

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

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