Committee Notices

Open Afternoon - 30 September
Thank you to everyone whose hard work helped make this a successful event, especially Frank Hill for organising the room plan. It was attended by 77 members plus at least 21 members of the public, and we gained five new members. The displays showed the range of activities covered by our interest groups and those involving food were especially well supported - our Christmas lunch at Grimscote Manor on 16 December is now fully booked, but please see Ros Williams at the October General Meeting about menu choices/payment (BACS only please).
The BSL group signed two songs, Poetry Group members recited poems about Gardens and the Strummers did an informal singalong from their table.

Geoff Durrant
A Memories book will be available at the General Meeting for anyone who wants to note their memories of Geoff.

Annual Remembrance Service
Thank you to Frank Hill for agreeing to lay the wreath on our behalf at the War Memorial on The Green on Sunday 8 November. The Parade March starts at 10.30am and the outdoor Service starts at 10.40am.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the event, but road closures will be in place from 10.00am and there's very limited parking for less able people at Hickory's, who will also have a pop-up stall from 8.30am, serving cookies and hot beverages, with all donations going to the Royal British Legion.

Quiz
Many thanks to Marion and Tom Ridsdill for organising our quiz last weekend and to everyone who helped behind the scenes, set up the room and cleared it all afterwards. We have raised £207 for our funds. Congratulations to the winning team 5 girls and a guy!





Best wishes
Paulette Burkill
Chair

Volunteer Wanted

Help Look After Our New u3a Facebook Page

Do you enjoy using Facebook and keeping people connected?

We're looking for a friendly volunteer to help manage our new u3a Facebook page, sharing news, activities, events and updates with our members and the wider community.

What would be involved?

- Posting news, photos and information about our groups and activities.
- Sharing upcoming events and reminders.
- Helping keeps our page active, friendly and welcoming.
- Celebrating all the great things happening in our u3a!

No expert knowledge is needed — just a reasonable knowledge of Facebook, a little time to spare and a willingness to help

Full support and guidance will be provided by our Webmaster and committee, so you won't be on your own!

This is a great opportunity to support our u3a, help members stay informed and encourage more people to discover what we have to offer.

Interested? We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Marion Ridsdill or another committee member for more information.

Events

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.

Workshops and Members Organizing Interest Trips

If members are organising CBu3a workshops or their interest group trips, then can the organiser 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 November 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.



Bath 27 November

Coach leaves Arden Hall at 8 am

Just a reminder that payment for this trip is now due. Please could you make your payment by bank transfer (BACS) or cash at our October meeting.

If you're no longer able to join us, please let me know as soon as possible, as we have a waiting list and would love to offer your seat to someone else.

There is no car parking at Arden Hall

Many thanks! Looking forward to a lovely trip together



Christmas Lunch at the Grimscote Manor
Wednesday 16 December 12:30 – 4:30 pm

Please find attached the menu and details for Grimscote manor Christmas party.

Payment (£36.50 each) to u3a bank, transfer, if possible, to reduce bank charges. Please put "Grimscote meal" when paying by bank transfer so that Pat knows what it's for.

Ros Williams will have copies of the menu, please complete and hand back to her ASAP.

Please let us know regarding seating arrangements, we'll endeavour to complete your requirements.

Castle Bromwich u3a
November 2026



Come and Join Us This January!

Why not join us for a couple of hours of fun, friendship and a friendly game of Beetle?

Enjoy a lovely hot drink, a biscuit or two, and a good old chat in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

It's a chance to get together, have a laugh and brighten up a winter's day. Everyone is welcome — we'd love to see you there!

Signing sheet will be at the General Meeting

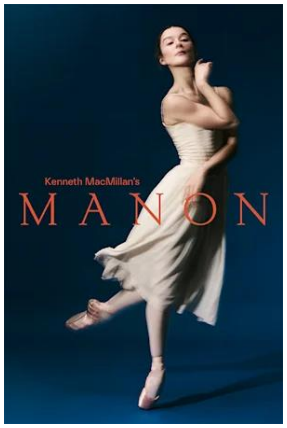
Future trips and events for your diary for 2027

January	Beetle Drive 19th see poster above
February	Skittle - Date to be confirmed
March	Drumming Workshop 5th £10 limited places signing sheet out in the new year
April	National Arboretum – 13 April £13 for coach fare, Signing sheet out in the new year
May	Coronation Street Experience: Still awaiting details
September	Blist Hill Museum – Tues 21 Sept - £16 coach fare, National Trust members free entry, group booking entrance price £17.85. More details regarding disability access to follow
December	Chester Christmas Market – Date to be confirmed, when market dates confirmed

We need ideas for places you would like to visit, please let one of the Events and Trips committee know if you have any ideas

Non u3a members November attend trips and events but they will not be covered by the u3a insurance. For further details: Events - Castle Bromwich

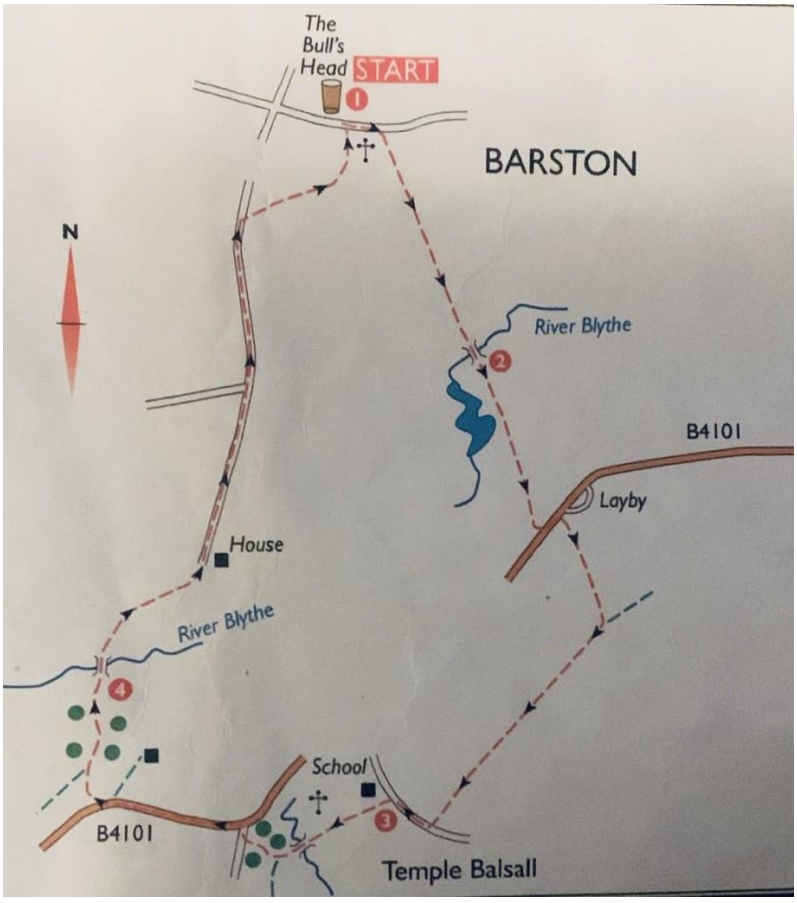
Groups Information



Cinema Ballet Group
Royal Sutton Coldfield
The new season starts on Tuesday 27 October, with *Manon*, a passionate tale of love, ambition, and moral complexity in 18th-century France, choreographed by Sir Kenneth Macmillan with music by Jules Massenet.
Facilitator: Paulette Burkill

The Yompers'

Thursday 29 October Thursday 29 October



We'll meet in the Arden Hall car park at 9.30am as usual, for car sharing to the walk starting point. The walk starts from the free car park at Temple Balsall, B93 0AL. If you're making your own way there, the car park is off Fen End Road West. Go past the primary school and the vicarage on your right, then turn down the small lane.

The walk is approximately 4 miles and includes 2 stiles.
We'll stop for lunch on the benches in Barston churchyard, so please bring your own lunch and drinks.
Everyone is welcome!

26 November Details to be confirmed
Facilitator: Bob Dadd

Astronuts,
2 November, 10 am
Methodist Church, Cat Lane
Facilitators: Dawn Passant and Frank Hill

Castle Bromwich Local History Group
Monday 2 November, 2 pm
Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50
Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art and Craft Circle
Tuesday 3 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

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library
Wednesday, 4 November, 10 am
10:00 am, Everyone welcome.
No charge
Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

BSL Group (British Sign Language) Group
Thursdays 5 and 19 November, 10 am
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

Digital Photography
Monday 9 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. 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 November, 1:15 pm
Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £2.50
Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Coffee Mornings
Wednesdays 11 November, 10:00 am
Gardener's Rest Tearoom, Orchard Nursery, Birmingham Road, Water Orton
Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Thursday Reading Group
Thursday 12 November
Facilitators: Jean Edwards

Table Tennis
Thursday 12 November 2:00 pm
All levels welcome
Timberley Lane Baptist Church
Facilitator: Diana Price

Poetry Group
The poetry group will meet at 2.00pm on Friday, 13 November (**Please note the change of date)**, usual venue. The theme is 'Bonfire Night'.
We are a small group of members who love poetry. We do not write poetry but we search out poems based on agreed themes and read them aloud at our meetings. New members are very welcome. If you are interested in giving us a try, please contact Dave or Helen. Refreshments are provided at the halfway point of the meetings!
We have also agreed the dates/themes for the 4 December meeting - Christmas Traditions'. There will be no meeting in January
Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott, 0121 770 1538

u3a Strummers
Friday, 13 and 27 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

Papercrafts
Monday, 16 November, 1 pm
Methodist Church, Cat Lane
Join us for a different craft each month.
Last months we made wreath cards





Facilitator: Kath Buckley

Committee Meeting
Wednesday 18 November meeting,
10:00 am, Arden Hall
All members are welcome to attend.

Board Games
Tuesday 24 November
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

General Meeting
Wednesday 28 October and 25 November
Arden Hall 1:30 to 4:00 pm

Speaker: Alan from Blood Bikes, talking about Blood bikes and saving lives
Please see the General Meeting page on our website for details of other speakers.

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 rota
28 October: Carole Farrar and Sue May
Volunteers are still needed 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
25 October: Angela Roberts
We need volunteers to help with this 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

Mens Group
For more information please speak to Bob Austin who will be at the general meeting on the 28 October

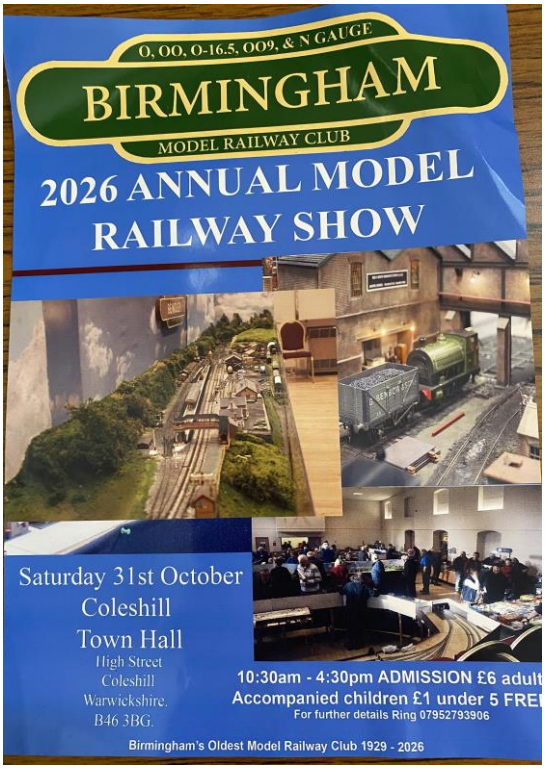
Sunday Lunch Club
Thursday 10 Dec, 1pm - 4pm
Lunch Club Festive meal £25.00
West Midlands Golf Club

- Three course meal with entertainment
- Please pay to secure space as Josie has to pay in full when booking.
- Ros has copies of menu, please complete and give back to her with payment ASAP.

Facilitator: Josie Palmer

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 November 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

Note: The Model Railway exhibition this year has moved from Arden Hall to Coleshill Town Hall Saturday, 31 October, 10:00-16:00



Quizzes
The most recent quizzes are available on the website along with 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 at the General Meeting

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