

Introduction

I'm loving these longer Spring days. Seeing the Spring flowers appearing in gardens and in hedgerows puts a smile on my face when I'm out walking. The longer days are also making me look forward to spending time in my garden. Have you had any thoughts on what you will plant this year?



General Meeting Programme – March to November 2024

Date	Speaker	Meeting Title
20 March 2024	Bob Reed	Let's Talk about toilets
17 April 2024	Jackie Lucas	AGM and Powers of Attorney and Wills
15 May 2024	David Caulfield	Songs and Stories from the 60's and 70's
19 June 2024	Philip Caine	Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again
17 July 2024	Gary Lewis	Hitchcock's Leytonstone
21 August 2024	John Worland	Essex Witch Trials
18 September 2024	David Gask	The John Ray Trust
16 October 2024	Dan Tussler	My Vital Health
20 November 2024	Carolyn Harley	The Importance of Re-cycling

We'd like to see you at our u3a's Annual General Meeting

which will take place at

2:00pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024 (Doors open at 1:30pm)

at the Institute, Bocking End,

Braintree, Essex, CM7 9AE.

We will also be welcoming Jackie Lucas who will be advising us on the importance of having a Power of Attorney and a Will.

Your U3A needs you!

We are looking for more people to join us on the Committee to help shape our u3a's future. If you'd like to join the Committee, please contact Debbie Winchester. Debbie's details are at the end of this Newsletter.

Sadly, Pauline McAllister is having to leave her role as Speaker Co-ordinator having spent 9 years on the Committee — here are a few words from her about her role.

For the last few years, I have been booking the speakers for the monthly u3a meetings. It is now time for me to step down from this position and from the committee.

So - as you've probably guessed I am looking for a replacement.

Could it be you?

It won't take up too much of your time - there are several resources to use, just a couple of emails back and forth making arrangements, greeting them on arrival and giving them their payment at the end of the meeting.

I have already booked well ahead (up to and including May 2025) so nothing needs to be done immediately.

It goes without saying that getting the speakers booked is an integral part of the monthly meetings so you would be taking on a very worthwhile position.

Whilst it isn't absolutely necessary to be on the committee to hold this position, it would be desirable. Feel free to contact me if necessary.

pmac.btreeu3a@outlook.com or

07967 400390

Please take a few minutes to consider IF YOU COULD BE OUR NEXT SPEAKER CO-ORDINATOR.

Thank you

Pauline McAllister

Group News

We are pleased to announce that our u3a has two new Groups.

Yarn Buddies

meets

at 1:00pm on the 2nd Monday in the Month

at Brambles café in the Co-op.

Contact details for our Group Co-ordinator are at the end of the Newsletter.

Building Computer Confidence

meets

at 10:00am in Braintree Library every two weeks starting from 6 March 2024.

Cost - £3

Contact details for our Group Co-ordinator are at the end of the Newsletter.

Funding Available for Small Items of Equipment

The Committee are pleased to announce there are funds available for groups to spend on low value items of equipment. If your group would like to apply for the funds, please email Debbie Winchester. Debbie's details are at the end of this Newsletter.

Braintree u3a Ukulele Group



The Ukulele Group playing at St Mary's Care Home in Bocking on 5/3/2024

The Braintree u3a Ukulele Group performed at St Dominic's Care Home, Kelvedon, in February. The Group have gigs planned for April, May, and June. The Group feels that going out into the community is giving enjoyment to others, who have never heard Ukuleles played in a group. We now have 15 members in the group, playing different types of ukuleles and a cajon drum.

Dan Collis

Group leader

Details of all our Group activities can be found on our website, or by clicking [Group activities](#), alternatively contact Linda Hellewell if you'd like further information on our Groups.

GROUP TRIPS

Our Group Outings Co-ordinators have been busy organising fantastic trips for you to book and make memorable memories on. Details of the trips are below.

Victoria and Albert Museum —Tuesday 9 April 2024 — Cost — £45.00pp

Cost Includes coach travel and entrance to the exhibition—full payment is due by 16 March 2024. Pick up: Braintree Railway Station at 9:00 o'clock.

For further details contact Rebecca Fuller by mobile 07710 903975 or via email on braintreeu3a@gmail.com or Anne Brittain by mobile 07443 0568369.

A day trip to the historic town of Harwich, which includes a guided walking tour and a visit to the “Redoubt” fort—Friday 10 May 2024—Cost £27.50pp

Pick up: Braintree Railway Station at 9:00am.

For further details contact Rebecca Fuller by mobile 07710 903975 or via email on braintreeu3a@gmail.com .

A Visit to Ipswich including an hour on the Orwell Lady—Wednesday 5 June 2024—Cost—£32.00pp

Pick up: Braintree Railway Station at a time to be confirmed.

For further details contact Rebecca Fuller by mobile 07710 903975 or via email on braintreeu3a@gmail.com or Anne Brittain by mobile 07443 0568369.

Southwold/Snape Maltings—Tuesday 9 July 2024—Cost - £21.50pp

Cost includes a trip to the seaside to enjoy a leisurely stroll along the pier before having a cup of coffee . The second stop will be Snape Maltings.

Pick up: Braintree Railway Station at 8:30am.

For further details contact Rebecca Fuller by mobile 07710 903975 or via email on braintreeu3a@gmail.com or Anne Brittain by mobile 07443 0568369.

Outings

Making Memories



New friends

Having fun

Other News

Our Beacon software currently shows 286 lapsed memberships. If you know anyone that has left the our u3a group for whatever reason, please inform one of the Committee so that we can mark their record on our database appropriately. Thank you.

The Committee

Geoff Mead - Braintree U3A Honorary President

Debbie Winchester	Chair
Brian Armstrong	Membership Secretary
Alan James	Treasurer
June Thompson	Secretary
Linda Hellewell	Vice Chair and Group Co-ordinator
Christine Deal	Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor
Pauline McAllister	Speaker Co-ordinator
Anne Britton	Outings Organiser
Andrew Ings	Publicity
Ann Hunt	Meeting Boards and Greeting
Kathryn Varley	TBA

Non-Committee member

Elaine Orpe	Web Editor
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Contact Details

U3A mobile – 07938 982183

Debbie Winchester – 07746 958824 - email: debawinch@gmail.com

Linda Hellewell – 07951 369991 – email: lindahelly2@gmail.com

Pauline McAllister - 01376 320096

Christine Deal - 07791 729242 – email: christinedeal@hotmail.co.uk

And Finally...

I'm hoping to booking on the Southwold and Snape Trip. Snape is a place that I have been longing to go to as some of my ancestors come from that part of Suffolk.

Please sign up to one of our trips and take the opportunity to make some new friends!

Christine Deal

Newsletter Editor.