

GENERAL MEETINGS PROGRAMME

20th September 2023

General Meeting:
Speaker: Christine Beedle –
'The Essex Scrubber'

18th October 2023

General Meeting:
Speaker: Cherish Watton -
'The Women's Land Army'

15th November 2023

General Meeting:
Speaker: Sharon Gould –
'Who is H?'

13th December 2023

General Meeting:
'Sing a Long' with a Live Group
Festive Food & Raffle

Introduction

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer despite the inclement weather? The Braintree u3a photography group's challenge for July/August was to take photographs of clouds and/or the night sky. With that in mind, I thought the brief would provide me with an opportunity to photograph the Perseids meteor, which appears in our skies in August. The meteor eluded me; however, I did manage to capture a clear picture of the night sky and several landscapes showing interesting cloud formations.

General Meetings

Please present your u3a membership card for scanning on arrival. Scanning your card will provide us with a list of attendees, which we will refer to, if we need to evacuate the building.

We would like to encourage our u3a groups to share their news and photographs on our General Meeting noticeboard. If you would like to display anything on the Groups' noticeboard please contact Ann Hunt, her details are at the end of the Newsletter.

Committee meeting minutes will be available for viewing at the General Meeting. They will be in a folder on the table near to the General Meeting noticeboard.

Our Christmas (December) meeting will commence at 14:00 on the 13 December 2023, which is the second Wednesday in December, at the Rayne Village Hall. There is a car park at the venue. We will be inviting a live group along for a 'Christmas Sing a Long.' More details will follow in our next Newsletter.

Gift Aid

Please find attached/enclosed gift aid form and guidance notes. The u3a has an obligation to collect gift aid from those who are UK taxpayers. Once completed please send the forms to Alan James via email (his details are at the end of the Newsletter) or hand in to Alan at one of our future general meetings. Please inform Alan if your circumstances change and you are no longer a taxpayer.

Outings Update from Rebecca Fuller/Sheila Mead/ Anne Britton

Thursday 16 November 2023 – Visit to ELY CATHEDRAL – CHRISTMAS GIFT & FOOD FAIR

Cost £25

Coach pick-up – Braintree railway station (time to be confirmed)

There are more spaces on this trip as we have hired a bigger coach. If you would like to go on this trip, please contact Anne Britton, her details are below.

Wednesday 6 December 2023 – Visit to THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, Matinee performance –

This Trip is now full. Trip organiser – Sheila Mead. Contact details for Sheila – telephone 01376 321198 or via email at sheilamead69@talktalk.net

Please feel free to contact any of the organisers if you have any questions about any of the trips. If the trip is marked as sold out, please contact the event organiser as a 'standby list' is kept.

Please take the opportunity to join us on one of the trips as they are great fun and offer an environment in which to make new friends.

Friday 27 October 2023 – Quiz Night

There is still an opportunity for you to come along and join the Quiz Night fun. The doors will open at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start at the Catholic Church Hall (also known as the memorial hall). The hall is adjacent to Sainsbury's car park. Each quiz team should consist of eight people. The cost per person is £3. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will be prizes for the winners and there will be a raffle. Forms will be available to register your team at the information table at the general meeting. If you are unable to attend the general meeting, please contact Tony Fraser: mobile 07508 042676 – email: anthonyfraser@tbshs.org to register your team.

Braintree u3a Groups

New Group – 'Out and About'

We are delighted to announce that we have a new group called 'Out and About.' The 'Out and About' inaugural meeting will take place from 10:00 to 12:00 on Tuesday 3 October 2023 at the Braintree Bowls Club, which is situated between 29 and 31 Clare Road, Braintree, CM7 2PA. The first meeting will be a picture led guided tour around Braintree lasting around 1 hour. For those who have difficulties in walking there will be an opportunity to take part in a pictorial quiz at the Bowls Club. Coffee, tea, and biscuits will be available at the Bowls Club, who have suggested a courtesy donation of £2 per person for the use of their facilities. Those present at the venue will be able to discuss future 'Out and About' adventures. For further information regarding the group, please contact Jean Grice via email on timberlodge2b@btinternet.com or Telephone Jean on 01376 330310.



Our current list of groups is set out in the table below.

Group List			
Art Appreciation	4th Tuesday @ 2.30	Astronomy	Suspended - no group contact
Bird Watching	1st Wed @ 10.30am	Book Club 1	2nd Tues @ 2.00pm
Bus Pass Safari GPI	Suspended - no group contact	Card Making	Adhoc Mondays or Thursdays
Cards & Board Games	Meet fortnightly on a Monday	Cheese & Wine Appreciation	Suspended - no group contact
Crafty Yarners	Suspended - no group contact	Creative Writers'	3rd Friday @ 10.00am
Digital Photography	3rd Thurs @ 10.00am	Family History	2nd Mon @ 2.30pm
Flower Arranging	2nd Wed @ 10.00am	French Conversation	2nd Wed @10.15 am
Gardening	3rd Tues - Venues vary	Geography	3rd Fri @ 10.00am
Grumpy Old Men	3rd Mon @ 7.15pm	Jazz & Jammin	Ad hoc Mondays at 2pm
Le Dejeuner Lunch Group	4th Tue - Venues vary	Line Dance	suspended - lack of interest
Local History	Suspended - no group contact	Modern Sequence Dance	suspended - lack of interest
Painting	2nd Thur @ 10.00am	Petanque-Tuesday	Tuesday-Weekly @ 9.30-11.00am
Petanque-Wednesday	Wednesday-Weekly @ 10.00am	Scrabble	10.00am 2nd & 4th Thurs
Singing for Pleasure	Suspended - no group contact	Snooker	2nd and 4th Thurs @ 2.00pm
Sunday Luncheon	Check Venue	Tuesday Luncheon	Check Venue
Ukulele Group	Every other week @ 2.00pm	Walkie-Talkies	4th Wed @ 10.30am
Walking Group 1	3rd Thur @ 9.45am	Walking Group 2	3rd Tue @ 10.30am

The table above shows there are eight groups, which are no longer running. If you would like to restart one of these groups or would like to start a new group, please contact Linda Hellewell (Linda's details are below). If you would like to start a new group and are looking for a venue in which to hold your meetings, please contact Linda as she now has details of venues in the Braintree area that are available for hire.

Please note that the scrabble group meet between 10:30 and 12:30 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month and not as in the table above.

I, together with Linda Hellewell and/or Ann Hunt would like to help you promote your Group in future Newsletters and on the General Meeting noticeboard by taking photographs of one of your Group meetings and writing a small piece about your meeting. We hope this will attract more members to your Group and in turn increase u3a membership. Please contact one of us if this is of interest to you. Our contact details are below.

The Flower Arranging group have produced some amazing flower displays, which are set out below.



The Committee

Geoff Mead - Braintree U3A Honorary President

Debbie Winchester

Brian Armstrong

Chair

Membership Secretary

Alan James
June Thompson
Linda Hellewell
Christine Deal
Pauline McAllister
Anne Britton
Andrew Ings
Ann Hunt
Kathryn Varley

Treasurer
Secretary
Vice Chair and Group Co-ordinator
Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor
Speaker Co-ordinator
Outings Organiser
Publicity
Meeting Boards and Greeting
TBA

Non-Committee member
Elaine Orpe

Web Editor

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

I hope you are all keeping well and are looking forward to seeing the autumn colours.

Christine Deal - Newsletter editor.