

Introduction

Welcome to the November 2023 Newsletter!

Autumn is now well established, and we have all experienced the expected inclement weather over the past few weeks, however, there have been brighter days when I have been out and about and have enjoyed seeing the trees and hedgerows turn from green to yellow, orange and red. As the leaves fall from the trees our thoughts turn to preparing for Christmas, which will give us all much-needed opportunities to meet up with our families and friends.

General Meetings

The General Meeting for November will be held at 14:00 on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at the Institute, Bocking End, Braintree, CM7 9AA. We will be welcoming Sharon Gould, whose presentation is entitled 'Who is H?'.

Braintree u3a Christmas General Meeting

will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2023

Doors open from 13:30. The meeting starts at 14:00.

at **Rayne Village Hall, 3 Gore Road, Rayne, Braintree, CM77 6TX.**

There will be: -

- 'Sing a Long' with a Live Group
- Free raffle
- Festive Food: Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls
- Drinks: Coffee – Tea – Hot Chocolate
- Father Christmas

(There is a car park to the side of the Village Hall).

The January 2024 Newsletter will provide details of dates and speakers for the forthcoming year. Details of our 2024 meetings will be displayed on the notice board at our November General Meeting.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for the period 1 January – 31 December 2024 can now be paid. The membership fees have been kept at £20 per person or £35 per couple. The membership forms will be available at our General Meetings and are available to download from the Braintree u3a website.

Quiz Night

Our Quiz Night, which was held on Friday 27 October 2023, was very well attended and was successful. Thank you to all those who attended. We hope to arrange another Quiz evening in 2024.

YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!

The u3a is run by volunteers, who are elected onto a committee each year. The Charity Commission sets out the terms on how long a person is allowed to hold an office. The term for an office such as a Treasurer is 3 years. A person without a specific office can serve on the committee for up to 9 years. The Braintree u3a Committee is looking for those of you who would like to become our: -

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Speaker Co-ordinator
- Other Committee members

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please speak to Debbie Winchester either in person, or via email, or by telephone. Debbie's details are at the end of this Newsletter.

Request for Wartime Stories

The University of Oxford currently has a project called 'Their Finest Hour', which hopes to preserve stories of the 2nd World War. If you or one of your family members has a wartime story that you wish to contribute to the project, please email the Oxford University at theirfinesthour@ell.ox.ac.uk and mention that you are from the u3a. More on the study can be found by clicking on the following link. ['Their Finest Hour'](#)

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

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



The Committee would like to thank all our u3a members for supporting the Braintree u3a. A special thanks goes out to those who have organised trips and have helped with the running of the group meetings in 2023. The Committee would also like to thank those who have helped at the General meetings during 2023.

Lastly the Committee would like to take this opportunity in wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christine Deal - Newsletter editor.