

Castle Bromwich u3a August Newsletter 2023

Committee Notices

Committee members Frank, Dave and Helen attended the u3a West Midlands Regional Meeting on the 19th July where they met people from other local groups. A nice lunch was provided and they learnt about the Third Age Trust and plans for the u3a in the future. There is more information about this on the website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/regional-u3a-websites>

The Committee have now published the annual accounts 2022-2023 on the Committee page on the website. Follow this link to access them: [accounts2022-2023.pdf \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://www.u3a.org.uk/regional-u3a-websites/accounts2022-2023.pdf)

The Committee are still looking for a permanent Vice Chair, please contact Dave Abbott if you would like more details.

Chris Shakespear

It is with sadness that I report to you the passing of Chris Shakespeare on the 19 July. Chris has been very ill for some time and I know several of you visited her while she was at home, in hospital and in the hospice.

Many of you will remember Chris as a point of contact in the foyer at Arden Hall at our general meetings where she welcomed members and visitors with a smile and a few words.

I will keep in contact with her family and will of course let you know the funeral arrangements as soon as I know.

Dave Abbott, Chairman

Commonwealth War Graves - Thank you to those members who contributed to the collection for the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation at the June general meeting. A total amount of £57.21 was raised which was in addition to the speaker fee. An acknowledgment and letter of thanks has been received from the CWGF.

Midlands Air Ambulance - Clothes Collection - A number of members expressed an interest in donating unwanted clothing to the Midlands Air Ambulance. A collection has been arranged during the general meeting on 27th September. You should bring your unwanted clothing (which should be in tied black bin liners) on the day and drop them off at the rear of Arden Hall. Please note that at the August general meeting I shall require an approximate number of bags that members will be bringing on the day so that I can make sure that the correct size collection van is sent. Please do not deliver your bags in advance of the collection day as we are not allowed to store items in Arden Hall. If you are donating more than one bag or it is too heavy for you to carry please let me know. David Abbott, Chairman

Membership

As a matter of urgency those of you who have not paid your £20.00 subscription Please pay now. The end of May deadline has passed.

- Bank transfer to sort code 30 84 33, account number 23918560 remembering to add your name to the payment so we know who it is from.
- Cheque payable to Castle Bromwich U3A which should be passed to the Treasurer.

Your membership card will be issued once your subs are paid.

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The Christmas Lunch will be held on the 7 December at the Grimscote Manor Hotel.
Menus will be available at the September meeting.

Events

Llandudno 4th September £18 per person
Departing: Arden Hall 8:00 am. Departing: Llandudno 6:00 pm
There are still seats available for the trip to Llandudno
Book with Bob Brueton 07766923361

There are still seats available

Interest Groups

Can I encourage members to join at least one of our interest groups?
We have a wide variety of interest group which are listed in your membership card together with contact details of the facilitator.
u3a's is for you to 'Learn, Laugh, Live' and the aim of interest groups is to introduce you and learn a new hobby or activity.
Alternatively if there is not an interest group that appeals to you, how about you start up a group on a subject that is not yet covered? Please contact me if this is the case.

Dave Abbott, Chairman

Art and Craft Circle

Tuesday 1 August, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Aylesford Hall

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library

Wednesday, 2 August, 10:00 am.

Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill

Poetry Group

Thursday, 3 August at 2.00pm.

As we had to cancel the July meeting due to illness and holidays, the theme will be ' Magic and Mystery'.

Facilitators: Dave and Helen Abbott

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 7 August, 2 pm
Timberley Baptist Church

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill

Art Appreciation

Tuesday 8 August at 1:15
Timberley Lane Baptist Church

Facilitator: Elaine Johnson

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Thursday Reading Group

Thursday 10 August

Facilitator: June Conley

Table Tennis

Thursday 10 August, 2 pm

Timberley Baptist Church

Facilitator: Diana Price

u3a Strummers

Friday 11 and 25 August, 10 am for 10:30 start till 11:45.

Timberley Lane Baptist Church, £3.

You will need your own instrument and music stand.

Group Facilitator: Graham Ridsdill

Astronuts

Monday 13 August

Babbs Mill, Kingshurst

Details and time to be confirmed

Facilitators: Dawn Passant, Frank Hill

Coffee Mornings

Wednesday 16 August 10 am

Orchard Nursery

Elaine Johnson, CBU3A Interest Groups Coordinator

British Sign Language Group (BSL)

Thursday 17 August 10:00 am

Like to talk silently? Like to gossip in secret? Would like to talk to and involve friends, family or folks that have difficulty in hearing? Then use your creative side to learn to communicate in practical sign language such as British Sign Language (BSL). As a new part of the session's, we are looking to use video to record some specific exercises.

NOTE DATE AMENDMENT DUE TO WORK AT THE HALL: Our next BSL Group meetings at Aylesford Hall Shard End is on the 17th of August from 10.00 till 12.00 noon, I'm afraid there is a charge of £2.50 to go towards the cost of the room hire, but it includes tea and bikkies!

Facilitators: Katrina Hill/Frank Hill

Email address: castleu3a7@gmail.com

Digital Photography

Monday 21 August

We meet up monthly but work on the group project is done throughout the month, then at the meeting we show our results and discuss the merits (or not!) of our photographic efforts. Our group is currently making its way through a '30 Day Challenge' project. The next 'Challenge' is 'Silhouettes', with the camera using the Aperture priority mode. Leaving the photographer to 'fiddle' with shutter and 'film speed' (a term still used to describe either how fast the film accepts light or nowadays, how sensitive the camera sensor is set to). Photography is a real 'Time

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Capsule' that allows the present to mingle with the future. If you have the urge to 'mingle' then use our email: castleu3a7@gmail.com to contact me or at our General Meeting/ Coffee Mornings. Our next group meeting is on the 21 August from 1.00 till 3.30(ish).

Photography Workshop

The photography group are proposing to run a 'Photography Workshop' for anyone interested in taking photo's either with cameras or nowadays the phone. If you are interested, a proposal sheet will be put out at the General Meeting on Wednesday, or contact me Frank Hill via our email.

Facilitator: Frank Hill

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 23 August, 10 am, Arden Hall
Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

Curry Club

Wednesday 23 August
Please contact Barbara Durrant for more details.

Scrabble Group

Tuesday, 29 August, 2-4 pm
Castle Bromwich Library
Hurst Lane North, B36 0EY
Hot drinks can be bought for a donation to the library.

Facilitator: Margaret Riordan

General Meeting

Wednesday, 30 August, 1:30 pm
Arden Hall

26 July: Ruth Lowe – Early Life of Mary Quant

30 Aug: The Harvesters - there will be an extra charge of £1

Refreshment Volunteers:

July Meeting: Josie Palmer and Ros Williams
August Meeting: Margaret Riordan and Mark Treadwell

Volunteers are needed for tea rota, please contact a committee member if you are able to help. There are some guidelines/tips for the tea rota which is on the committee webpage [Castle Bromwich U3A: Committee Members and Reports \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://CastleBromwichU3A:CommitteeMembersandReports(u3asites.org.uk))

Do you have books/magazines you would like to swop?
If so bring them to the General Meeting.

Michael Buckley

Yompers Walking Group

Thursday 31 August , walk details to follow.

Facilitator: Bob Dadd

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Railway and Railway Model Club

Thursdays 10:00 am until 1:00pm at Model club Cadbury Drive, Castle Vale, B35 7JE £3 to cover room rent and refreshments.

NEW live steam loco 5 inch gauge. Several models under construction. 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 have lots of other activities, outings etc. No charge this year! 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 07766923361.

Jotters Corner

Find members short stories on the Jotters Corner page on our website:

[Castle Bromwich u3a: Jotters Corner \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)

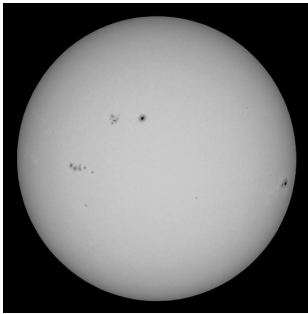
Repton steam train and CB Fry by Ray Pearce

Lunartics

This is a website based group and you will find lots of information on our u3a website page

[Castle Bromwich U3A: The Lunartics \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)

Solar Photography



The sun has been a bit reluctant to show itself these last few days so I thought you may like to see what's going on with our star a few days ago, the 17th July in fact. The image shows groups of sunspots, some of which are almost the size of the Earth. A dedicated glass solar filter is used at the front end of the telescope which reduces the heat and light by 99.9%.

Quizzes

A new quiz from Roger this month (numbers 11 and 12). They can be found on the quiz page on the website: [Castle Bromwich u3a: Quizzes \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)

Thank you to Roger Hateley.

u3a Members welcome at these other Local Groups or Organisations

Neighbourhood Officers Coffee Morning

Come and meet your local Neighbourhood Officers who will be listening to your concerns and be available to offer any crime prevention advice.

Location: Arden hall, Water Orton Road, Birmingham, B36 9PB

On Thursday 17th August 2023 at 09:30 – 11:30hrs

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Young at Heart Dancing 1.30 - 3.30 pm £3.00

At The Remembrance Club. U3A members are always made welcome
Organised by: Bob Brueton

Generations Choir

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. Sing Gary Barlow's song plus Sea Shanties, plus more new songs. Several performances being planned. We also sing popular songs of the decades and from musicals. If you can talk you can sing!
For details talk to Bob at General Meeting or call 07766923361. U3A Members very welcome.

Generations choir are singing outside Sainsbury's Castle Vale on Saturday 26th August 11.00 until approx 1.00 If wet under cover by Starbucks. Come and watch or join in!
Organiser: Bob Brueton

Litter Pick

Mondays 1:30 – 3:00 pm approx. (Weather Permitting)
Meet at Hickories car park (we pick up for about a one and half hours session)
We have a coffee and chat at The Crafty Cow afterwards. All welcome!
Organiser: Mike Davey

Colehill Country Dancing

U3a Coleshill invites CB members to join this group that takes place every 2nd and 4th Tues in Old Courtroom, Coleshill Town Hall, Coleshill. Further details from u3a Coleshill website

General Notices

Newsletters that are printed out for members who are not on email will be brought to general meetings for collection and not mailed out. Unfortunately this has been found necessary due to the increased cost of postage.

The CBu3a calendar can now be found on the calendar page of the website. Please follow this link: [Castle Bromwich u3a: Calendar \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://u3asites.org.uk)

Please forward any information to share or group updates to Marion Ridsdill at mridsdill@hotmail.co.uk or use the group email castleu3a7@gmail.com