

Castle Bromwich u3a

AGM – 27th March 2024

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this year's AGM.

I have now been your chairman for several years having filled the position when there were no other nominations, consequently I was elected unanimously following a period as vice chairman.

Our membership currently stands at 109 members. The figure has remained fairly stable as members are lost and new members join. At this point I should like to mention Christine Shakespeare and Jennifer Gould who were long term and keen members of the group.

We have had many interesting speakers during the past twelve months. Talks were on a number of diverse subjects – Chateaux in the Loire, The Midlands Air Ambulance, to which you donated both cash and clothing very generously, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the early life of Mary Quant, the Wildlife Trust, the evacuation of a past member of our group by his son, and farming with a Christmas theme.

Entertainers during the year was provided by The Harvesters and Roger Brown and Mel Harvey the comedy magician gave Bob Brueton a good soaking during his act!

I hope you all appreciated the spread of the speakers subject matters and that the entertainers had your feet tapping!

Helen has all speakers and entertainers booked for the next twelve months – you will be able to see what is on offer when you receive your new membership cards.

We continue to have a large number of interest groups which are available to members. You will hear presentations from some of them later. Some interest groups, unfortunately, are not that well supported. There will be a list of all interest groups, together with facilitators contact information on your new membership cards.

The monthly coffee morning at Orchard Nurseries in Water Orton is well attended and provides a venue for a drink, food and a chat. Likewise the curry club provides members with the opportunity to enjoy indian food with other members of the group. We also had a very successful

Christmas lunch at Grimscothe Manor Hotel. My thanks to Ros Cooper and Josie Palmer for organising.

But it's not all about eating and drinking!

Your committee has met on a monthly basis and some external meetings have been attended by committee members: the Castle Bromwich Annual Parish Assembly meeting in May, meetings with Coleshill u3a, the Castle Bromwich Parish Annual Civic Service and Reception in June, the West Midlands u3a Regional Meeting in Sutton Coldfield in July, the Chelmund's Day at the Three Trees Community Centre, also in July, when the group was represented and several Castle Bromwich Network meetings during the year. Several committee members attended a recruiting and retention workshop on 13th March

And in November, Frank Hill and I attended the Castle Bromwich annual remembrance service and parade when we laid a wreath on behalf of the group.

And so it remains for me to pass on my thanks to this year's serving committee, particularly to Ann Sparey, Michael Buckley, June Conley and Mick Baker who are all standing down from the committee this year. We should especially thank Ann and June who have been committee members for more years than I care to remember. My thanks to all interest group facilitators and to all those who provide help at general meetings in whatever way to ensure the meetings run smoothly. And particularly to Marion Ridsdill for all her work on the monthly newsletter, to Roger Hateley for his quizzes and to Frank Hill for not only his technical support but also his support to me as vice chairman during this last year. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies but I'm sure we all appreciate that work that goes on in the background.

Lastly can I inform members that it is my intention to remain as chairman for one more year so next year it will be necessary to find a new chairman for the group.

David Abbott
Chairman