

Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age February 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
Litter Pickers			Railway and Railway Model Club	
7	8	9	10	11
Litter Pickers	<i>Coleshill Country Dancing</i>	CB u3a Committee	Railway and Railway Model Club	Strummers
Castle Bromwich Local History			Table Tennis	
Digital Photography				
14	15	16	17	18
Litter Pickers			Thursday Book Club	
			2 Mile Walkers	
			Railway and Railway Model Club	
21	22	23	24	25
Litter Pickers	<i>Coleshill Country Dancing</i>	General Meeting: John Mayell, Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Train	Yompers Railway and Railway Model Club	Strummers
28	Further details on the u3a Castle Bromwich website			
Litter Pickers	https://u3asites.org.uk/castle-bromwich			

Committee News

The Castle Bromwich u3a are looking for new members for the Committee. Would you be interested in being on the CBU3A committee?

At present we need to fill these three positions:

Acting Vice Chairman - Currently vacant.
Vice Chairman - Vacant from March 2022.
Speaker Secretary - vacant from March 2022.

If so please contact Roy Edwards or speak to one of the present committee.

Facilitator contact details can be found on your membership card

Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age

February 2022

Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)

In 2013 and 2016 Castle Bromwich u3a ran a six-week course to introduce CBU3a members to British Sign Language. The courses were well attended and members did exceptionally well in coping and mastering this very different language.

It is proposed to run the course again in the near future, but first we need to know if you as CBU3a members, would be interested in taking part?

The course will last for six weeks will go through for instance: Finger Spelling Alphabet, Basic Greetings, Animals, Food, Transport and other useful signs. At the end of the six weeks there will be an assessment and if sufficient skill has been gained a certificate will be awarded. Note though that certificate is not a registered one and is for our own satisfaction on a task very well done.

If you are interested then please contact me: Frank Hill at: castleu3a2@gmail.com

General Meeting

Wednesday, 23rd February at Arden Hall.

The speaker will be **John Mayell Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Train Talk**

Covid restrictions are still in place. If you are unwell please do not attend. Masks must be worn indoors unless exempt from wearing them.

We will be continuing GM meetings without refreshments. Book Swop is also cancelled, however Michael Buckley will continue to accept donations. The Committee will review the situation in the New Year. The Raffle has restarted. Do you have any prizes you could donate?

2 Mile Walkers

Thursday 17th February

Our February walk will be at Pype Hayes Park, car park entrance is off Chester Road. Meet @ 10-30am. Optional lunch @ The Fox pub in nearby Walmley.

Yompers

Thursday 24 Feb walk

Details to follow, please see website for updates.

Facilitator: Bob Dadd

Castle Bromwich Local History Group

Monday 7th February, 2 pm, Timberley Baptist Church

Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill.

Digital Photography

Details to follow on the website.

Group Facilitator: Frank Hill

Facilitator contact details can be found on your membership card

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U3A Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 9th February, 10:00 Arden Hall

u3a Strummers

Friday, 11th and 25th February, 10 am for 10:30 start till 11:45. Baptist Church, Timberley Lane, £3. You will need your own instrument and music stand.

Group Facilitator: Graham Ridsdill

Table Tennis

The next meeting will take place on 10th February, Baptist Church, Timberley Lane.

Group Facilitator: Mike Davey

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!

Group facilitator: Mike Davey

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. Models being built/operated in 'O' 'OO' 'N' gauges Outings Come and have a look - no obligation Call Bob 07766923361 for more info. **STOP PRESS!!** Funding has been obtained to purchase equipment for new layout.

Group Facilitator Bob Brueton

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

Choir restarts Jan 6th with our new choir leader.

Thursdays 5.30pm until 7.30pm at Castle Vale Community Campus, High Street, Castle Vale B35 7PR. U3A Members very welcome.

U3A Members very welcome.

Organiser: Bob Brueton

Colehill Country Dancing

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

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Curry Club Christmas Meal



Perfect Image

In early December 30 of our members from Curry Club met together for a Christmas Curry at Kismet in Castle Bromwich. We had a private room and were able to feel safe as there was lots of space.

As well as the lovely food and the welcoming staff there was a quiz and entertainment.

Roger Hateley provided the quiz and Geoff Durrant played the ukulele, sang a couple of songs and told some amusing stories.

As you can see from the photos there were lots of smiling faces and some Christmas outfits.

It was a most enjoyable evening.



Perfect Image

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February 2022

Lunartics

We have spots!! Well not here on Earth, but on the sun. Although we are now into the next solar cycle, the sun has not shown; at least in white light, an awful lot of activity.

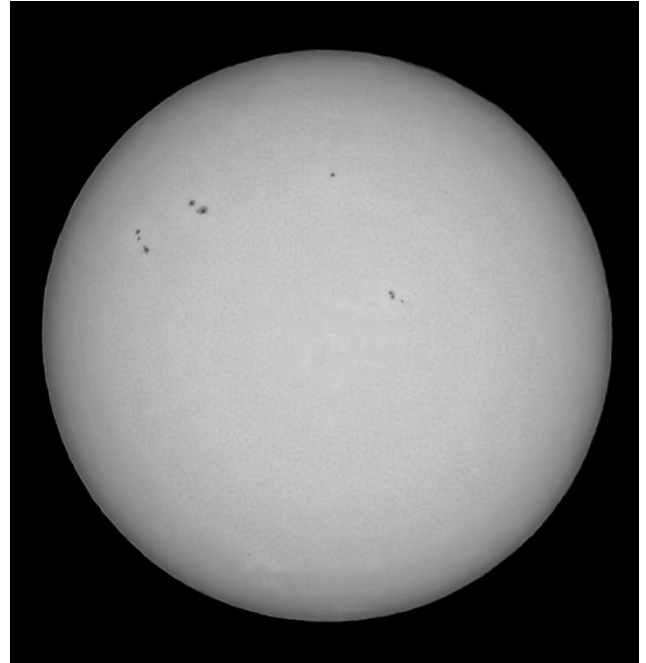
However, taking advantage of the clear weather over the last couple of days, I thought I'd have a look at the moon last night and the sun to-day (16th & 17th respectively).

First, a little out of sequence; but I'll cover my observation of the sun this morning (17th). I use a 70 mm Refractor Telescope fitted with a special glass filter over the lens at the front of the 'scope. As I was to take photos of the sun, I fitted an adaptor onto the focuser that will allow me to fit my Olympus EPL1 camera to the telescope.

To align the telescope and get the sun into position, you can use the shadow of the apparatus as a guide to get close to where the sun will be on the camera screen. Turn the camera on and use to drive cables to align and then to focus the sun onto the camera screen. The camera was set to 100 ISO and a shutter speed (to start with) of 1/160. A delay was also set of 2 seconds, this is useful in allowing the telescope and camera to settle before taking the photograph.

A series of photos are taken and between each set the shutter speed is changed so that a comparison can be made with each shot to try (!) and determine an optimum photo. I hope you find the images of interest.

As you can see there are a number of 'spots showing on the solar disc which is great to see.



This is an extract from the photo above showing the active region a little better.

Sun Spots are 'cooler' regions of around 4000C as against the average 'surface' temperature of around 6000C. They are the tops of huge magnetic flux tubes from deep in the sun.

Never look at the sun without suitable protection, either naked eye or with an optical aid
Frank Hill

The Moon with a View – on the Lunartics page on CBU3A website

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Jotters Corner

Find this month's pieces on Jotters Corner on our website: [Castle Bromwich U3A: Jotters Corner \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://www.castlebromwichu3a.org.uk/jotters-corner)

The Mahdrum Witches Meldrum Medias and Meham 5374 – Frank Hill

How come some of us oldies have survived so long? - Roger Hateley

Quizzes

This month's quizzes can be found on the quiz page on the website: [Castle Bromwich U3A: Quizzes \(u3asites.org.uk\)](https://www.castlebromwichu3a.org.uk/quizzes) Thank you to Roger Hateley

Yompers October Trundle

The October outing was a walk starting and finishing at the Shustoke Reservoir. The walk was around four and a wee-bit miles and took in some well cultivated fields, and a stile or two, unfortunately not an awful lot of mud! Ho Hum! Kick-off was from the Shustoke car park:



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The walk was good going with lots of space for overtaking!

Although competition was intense!

Time for a nosh and check out the competition again!



Ho Humm! FH

A Moon with a View

Apart from Earth orbiting devices that have been placed there by us (taking a liberty here, but we will soon be able to from the British Isles). Our nearest neighbour in space of course is our Moon (notice the 'our' as we seem to be the only folks about in this neck of the galaxy!).



Quite a useful device is our Moon, from driving the tides as it orbits our planet, helping to retard our rotation and keep our 24-hour(ish) day, otherwise; we could have a 6- or 12-hour day. It would also of course be an awful lot darker and no romantic moonlit walks along the beach!

A fair bit is now known about the moon, apart from the odd visit in the late sixties and early seventies many Lunar probes have been sent and a number are still operating, even on 'Farside' (note: not 'Darkside'). Water ice has been discovered in some of the deeper craters, which

will provide a valuable resource for when the Lunar City is constructed.

When early observers began studying the moon, you can of course see now what they saw then; there are bright areas and darker areas. The dark areas were thought to be seas, as we have here on Earth, hence the name Mare', Latin for sea. It was not until the early part of the 1600's that an 'Eyeglass Device' was invented. The inventor was Hans Lippershey a Norwegian spectacle maker, unfortunately the patent he applied for did not materialise and within a few years the 'Telescope' became the iPad of its day.

If you want to follow in the footsteps of those early pioneer users of this device, then why not grab yourself those old binoculars sitting in the bread bin and take a look at our nearest neighbour and see those 'seas' of old and the craters, hills and rills that have been around for 4.6 (ish) billion years.

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This photograph was taken through a 70 mm 'Telescope' (70 mm is the diameter of the lens) with an Olympus camera attached, the image was then checked over in the photography program 'Paint.Net' to slightly change the brightness and contrast. You can clearly see the areas thought to have been seas, which were in fact molten lava flooding up and out onto the surface. The mechanism is thought to have been through a combination of volcanic action and impacts from huge rocks and material coalescing while in orbit around our young solar system. One such huge impact can be seen to the south east. This is known as 'Tyco' named after the early astronomer Tyco Brahe. Just to note, observing the moon through an astronomical telescope; unless you have what is called an 'Erecting Prism' all



astronomical views will be inverted, i.e., South at the top North at the bottom. This is because leaving out an additional eyepiece lets more light through the lenses. This of course is less of a problem when observing the moon, indeed there may be times when less light is more comfortable; full moon for instance.

This chart may help you to identify some of the more prominent features on our neighbour in space.

Chart courtesy -
astronomy.swin.edu.au

Good Viewing

Frank Hill



Experiments in Black & White



FH "Hello Mate!"

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February 2022**



JW “Oops!”



AH “Snakes Alive!”



JM “Waiting for Nemo”

Please forward any information to share or group updates to Marion Ridsdill at mridsdill@hotmail.co.uk

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