

# Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age March 2023

## Committee News

This year's AGM is due to take place on **29th March** when members will be informed of nominations received to stand on the committee. The committee is the main part of the decision making process to ensure that the Castle Bromwich U3A group operates successfully.

This year Margaret Riordan, Group Developer and Janet Nelson, Membership Secretary are both standing down from the committee. Margaret has served on the committee for a number of years, at one point she was our Chairperson and Janet has been our membership secretary also for several years. Both Margaret and Janet are intending to continue as members of the group. On behalf of the committee and all of our members, may I pass on our sincere thanks to them both for everything they have done to make the group the success it is.

Dave Abbott  
Chair



Come and help the Castle Bromwich u3a Committee who are looking for new members. Anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think. The committee meet once a month. Do you have any skills you can share that will help us to continue our work? If you are interested you are welcome to join us at our next meeting on the 22 March, Arden Hall. If you are interested in joining the

committee or this post please contact Dave Abbott or contact one of the committee members

### Proposed Astronomy/Stargazing Group

To see if there is an interest in setting up an Astronomy/Stargazing Group, a proposal sheet will be available at the February General Meeting on one of the rear tables for you to show your interest. If indeed there is sufficient interest, then an inaugural meeting will be arranged and the venue and date sent to those members who have shown an interest. If you are unable to attend the General Meeting but are interested in the proposed group then contact me Frank Hill at: [castleu3a7@gmail.com](mailto:castleu3a7@gmail.com).



Facilitator contact details can be found on your membership card

## Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age March 2023

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)

### **Book Club No 4 at Shard End Library**

Wednesday, 1 March, 10:00 am.

**Facilitator: Marion Ridsdill**

### **British Sign Language Group (BSL)**

Thursdays 2 and 16 March, 10:00 to 12:00

Aylesbury Hall, Shard End

Talk without speaking? Communicate at a distance without shouting?

Explore a total communication method using hands, fingers, facial expressions and body posture. This is the challenge you will face in this group of enthusiasts; we use basic British Sign Language (BSL) and are now starting to use more of Sign Supported English (SSE). We are not experts but the progress our members have made and are making; is really great to see.

We meet about every 2 weeks, currently on a Thursday at Aylesford Hall Shard End from 10.00 till 12.00 noon, (sometimes the meeting day spills over into the following month as other meeting days clash). With tea/coffee and bikkies about half way through the session.

Our next meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10.00 till 12.00 noon.

One of our newer members, who is herself deaf; helps us out and keeps us in order!

The ultimate objective is to hopefully encourage folks in the wider community who may have a hearing problem to come and join CBU3A and find folks that they can talk to.

If you are interested then you can contact me Frank Hill via our email address: [castlu3a7@gmail.com](mailto:castlu3a7@gmail.com) or at the General Meeting.

### **Poetry Group**

Thurs 2 March, 2pm.

We are a small group with an interest in searching for, reading and enjoying poetry.

We normally meet on the first Thursday of each month. This month's theme is Christmas. If you are interested in giving us a try please contact Dave on 07754 205541 for venue details. Refreshments provided.

**Facilitators: Dave & Helen Abbott**

### **Castle Bromwich Local History Group**

Monday 6 March, 2 pm

Timberley Baptist Church

Castle Bromwich Time Line: The group have now moved to the years from 1950 so if you have any memories of Castle Bromwich please share them with the group.

**Facilitators: Barbara Durrant and Paulette Burkill.**

### **Art and Craft Circle**

Tuesday 7 March, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Aylesford Hall

**Facilitator: Elaine Johnson**

**Facilitator contact details can be found on your membership card**

**Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age  
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**Table Tennis**

Thursday 9 March, 2 pm  
Timberley Baptist Church  
**Facilitator: Diana Price**

**Thursday Reading Group**

Thursday 9 March  
**Facilitator: June Conley**

**u3a Strummers**

Friday, 10 and 24 March, 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**

**Art Appreciation**

Tuesday 14 March at 1:15  
Timberley Lane Baptist Church  
**Facilitator: Elaine Johnson**

**Coffee Mornings**

Wednesday 15 March, 10 am  
Orchard Nursery  
**Elaine Johnson, CBU3A Interest Groups Coordinator**

**Digital Photography**

Monday 20 March

Hi everyone, we are currently revisiting the '30 Day Challenge'. This is a series of mini-projects that we have to complete before our next meeting (which is currently monthly for all members to get together, although for some of the challenges we also get together for a 'Photoshoot' on location).

The first 'challenge' is the dreaded 'Selfie', however going on past experience there are quite a few 'artistic' touches made; say no more on that.

Other projects in the challenge include Landscape, Black and White, Street Photography, Macro etc.

Recently some astrophotography has been undertaken with shots of the sun, moon and the current comet (Comet/2022 E3). This last one has proved quit a challenge, particularly from a local site due to significant light pollution and the faintness of the comet.

At present, because our group numbers are small, we meet in a member's house once a month after completing the current project and to discuss the next, including any site visits to be made.

We are a group of photo' enthusiasts with varying expertise but always looking to gain more skills, If you would like to join us, contact me Frank Hill via our email: [castleu3a7@gmail.com](mailto:castleu3a7@gmail.com) or at the General Meeting.

**Facilitator contact details can be found on your membership card**

# Castle Bromwich University of The Third Age

## March 2023

### **u3a Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 22 March, 10 am, Arden Hall  
Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

### **Evening Reading Group**

Tuesday 28 March  
**Facilitator: Barbara Durrant**

### **Scrabble Group**

Tuesday, 28 March, 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**

Arden Hall 1:30  
29 March Annual General Meeting plus Interest Group Talks

Refreshment volunteers:  
March meeting: Carole Farrar and Sue May  
April Meeting: June and Bob Dadd

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://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 30 March  
**Details from**  
**Facilitator: Bob Dadd**

### **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)

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### **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)

Do Not Look At The Sun Naked Eye or Through A Telescope Or Binoculars Without Solar Filters.

### **Quizzes**

A new quiz from Roger this month (numbers 01 and 02). 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 Community Groups**

#### **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 likeminded 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!

Generations Choir are performing at Gracechurch Shopping centre on Sat 25 March 11:00 and 12:45. At 12:00 The Line Dancers from the Wednesday afternoon dance group will perform. Under cover outside W H Smith come and join in or watch!

For details talk to Bob at General Meeting or call 07766923361. U3A Members very welcome.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tues in Coleshill. Further details from u3a Coleshill website

Please forward any information to share or group updates to Marion Ridsdill at [mridsdill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mridsdill@hotmail.co.uk) or use the new group email [castleu3a7@gmail.com](mailto:castleu3a7@gmail.com)

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