

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2025
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: STEPHEN POWLES
HEDGEHOGS



Chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 01271 812121
Dave2000@tinyworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Brian Gilbert
membershipbrauntonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter items to Julia James:
Tel: 816884 email: jjdevon45@gmail.com
November Newsletter deadline
21st October 2025
Website: <https://braunton.U3Asite.uk/>

Welcome

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting is Tuesday 14th October. Sue Hill will be telling us about "Some North Devon Cottages" The meeting is at 10am in St Brannocks Rooms, Church Street, Braunton EX33 2EL

CROQUET GROUP

The Croquet group has finished for the summer. We will begin again in May 2026.
Contact Anne Young on 01271 813255 or email rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk to join the group and for information on the location.

SPEAKERS BOOKED FOR 2025

November 4th - Devon Air Ambulance
TBA

December 2nd
Sally Smith - Magnificent Women and Flying Machines

BRIDGE

Yes, we have a new Beginners Bridge group!

Contact Helen Walsh on 07974020109
See Interest Group for details

MEMBERS STORIES

Any other interesting items from members. it could be a life experience, funny story, meeting with someone famous or anything of interest.

Articles and photos (if available) to be submitted to our Newsletter Editor, Julia

ART APPRECIATION

We are a group of 7/8 members which meets on the second Tuesday of the month in each other's homes.

Each month one person provides light refreshments and then presents information on an artist of their choice. We then try to create work in the style of that artist. The group has been together since the formation of the U3A in Braunton. The sessions are very enjoyable, and the format works well. We are a mixed group in terms of artistic skills but everyone "has a go". There may be 1 or 2 spaces for new members in the next few months If you would like to know more please contact either Jackie Osborne – 01271 813317 or Jane Casey 01271 816893



Group 2 Country Diners

Instead of visiting a pub or restaurant we met in August at my home and we did a bring and share. The food as good as any eating house, the weather was excellent, the company great and talk lasted all afternoon

Walking Group

Seven intrepid Walkers took to the paths: with a promise of a drink and a soaking in baths. Descending from County Gate with 7 miles in our sight we couldn't be late for our Dinner date.

Five turned left in Malmsmead; 2 turned right, but we all met up at the Staghunters that night.

Day 2 was gentler as we trekked across the river, down the lane, to avoid the rain.

Dippers and a Heron were our guides to lead us to Watersmeet for our homeward bus rides.

A swim and a paddle and lots of butterflies, oh what an adventure and how time flies!



BRAUNTON & DISTRICT U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday 4th December 2025 at the Williams Arms Wrafton

GUEST ENTERTAINER Rick Tucker with a selection of music from the 60s and 70s.

Midday arrival for lunch at 12.30pm

The cost per person is:

Carvery only – £19

Or

Carvery and Sweet – £23

Prices include gratuity but NO drinks which should be paid direct.

OPTION A – £19

Carvery only – choice of Turkey, Pork, Beef or Nut Roast

OPTION B – £23

Carvery as above plus a choice from the Sweets of the Day.

Please advise your choice when you book at the October, November or December meetings. Numbers are limited.

The correct amount of payment IN CASH would be greatly appreciated.

If you are unable to attend the monthly meeting and would like to book a ticket, please call Beryl Lloyd on 01271 812121.

ROSEMARY'S TIGER MOTH FLIGHT EXPERIENCE.

The love of the Haviland DH. 82 Tiger Moth Bi plane built in the 1930's , started about 60 years ago. A dancing friend married a farmer who found a Tiger Moth in a barn. He restored & piloted it for many years. Living in Georgeham on a summers evening, the iconic sound then sight of this little yellow bi plane as it flies across the sky is a constant joy. My 80th Birthday present from my family was a flight voucher. This took place on Thursday 24th July from Eaglescott airfield. Wrapped up warm, safely boarded, strapped in & with microphone & earmuffs/ headphone Barry, my pilot, behind me set off for our 45 minute flight. We circled Barnstaple, Braunton, Georgeham , Baggy, then across to Appledore, Torrington, Rosemoor Gardens & back. Despite being shown how to fly the thing I was too busy enjoying the amazing, familiar views. Watch out for my next adventure!!



The Craft Group had a very enjoyable afternoon making these gift envelopes. Thank you Judy Goswell for showing us how to do it. We try our hand at all sorts of crafty things and have a good old chat as well. If you would like to come along and join us you would be very welcome.



A TRIP TO DEEPEST DEVON

On Thursday 18 September four carloads of our members made their way through very narrow roads to the War Horse Valley Country Park in Iddesleigh.

It had been raining for days before, we were so lucky as it stayed dry for us, the sun even made a brief appearance!

We were made very welcome by Graham & Rose Ward, their family have farmed in the area for hundreds of years.

Graham gave each of us some food for the animals and then took us on a tour around the farm.

We met all the usual farm animals plus alpacas, emus and some very noisy turkeys. They all knew the routine and came to meet us for their treats.

Graham then took us to the museum set in a fifteenth century cob barn.

We watched a video by Michael Murpurgo telling us of how he was inspired to write his book War Horse after talking in his local Duke of York pub to a local man involved in the conflict. Millions of horses were killed in WW1 roughly the same number as people on both sides.

He also told how he and his wife set up Farms for City Children in 1976. The scheme is still ongoing after hosting thousands of children and now has three farms one in Devon another in Pembrokeshire and the third in Gloucestershire.

The museum was full of interesting bits and pieces with photos from the local area telling of years ago.

Then we all climbed on to a trailer and were taken for a tractor ride around the fields. We were high up so the views were amazing, we could see villages like Meeth & Iddesleigh with Dartmoor in the distance.

Every now & then Graham stopped and told us stories about farming in the past and today. We watched the farm dog herding the sheep.

We finished up in their conservatory having a delicious home made Devon cream tea (cream first!) made by Rose.

A great and different day out which we will always remember



INTEREST GROUPS

ART APPRECIATION

Jane Casey – 816893

Jackie Osborne – 813317

We take a light-hearted look at the work of a different artist and then have a go at working in their style.
2nd Tuesday of each month 10am – 12pm

BOOK GROUP

Brian Gilbert

816911 or 07876308317

briangilbert8@gmail.com

2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm in the Library

BEGINNERS BRIDGE

Helen Walsh 07974020109

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month

23rd October and 13th November

10.30 – 12.30

CINEMA GROUP

Barbara Watson 07740941263.

<barbingledene@gmail.com

Sue Gilbert 07969150318

suegilbert46@gmail.com

Please contact by email or WhatsApp to register and for details of films.

COUNTRY DINERS

Group 1 - Ray and Lola Hanson 817681

lolahanson@btinternet.com

Group 2

Jean Barnes 890927 jeanb68@btinternet.com

3rd Friday of each month

CRAFT

Sue Gilbert – 816911

suegilbert46@gmail.com

Third Wednesday of each month, 2pm at the Countryside Centre

CROQUET

Anne Young 813255

amcyoung2003@yahoo.co.uk

DISCUSSION GROUP

David Kent 816042

drandjgkent@btinternet.com

Meets the last Monday of the month for discussions on various subjects.

EXERCISE - Medau Movement

Rosemary Littlewood – 890066

WhatsApp 07811892686

Braunton Parish Hall,

Weekly classes on Mondays .

12.30 – 1.20 and 1.45 – .2.35

£1.00 per session

Croyde Village Hall

Weekly classes will resume on Thursday 9th October, cost £2 per session

Rosemary's ramblings

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are and do that perfectly".

FLORAL ART

Jan Evans 812852 janetevans6@icloud.com

Meeting third Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 12.00 at St Brannocks Rooms

GEOLOGY

Paul Madgett 812617

madgett@hotmail.com

Contact Paul for next event

LANGUAGES

GERMAN

Sheila Higdon 812585

higdonsheila15@hotmail.com

Wednesday 10.30am – 12.00

SPANISH IMPROVERS

Christine Delve 07884 944297

Email: cdelve55@gmail.com

Monday 10.30am - 12.00 noon

LOCAL HISTORY

Anne Young 813255

ayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk

The Local history group meets on second Tuesday of the month at St..Brannocks rooms, Church St., Braunton, EX33 3EP at 10am until 11.45am, new members welcome.

There is only limited parking at the venue. Refreshments are served until 10.30am. The cost is £2.00. **See box for details**

LOCAL LUNCHES

Shirley Fry 813944

12.15 for 12.30 pm on the second Friday of each month

MAH JONG

Peter Barnes 816998

peterbarnes1958@hotmail.com

Meeting on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 2pm.

POETRY

Gillian Kerr 549150

Every second Wednesday of month 2. – 4.30pm approx..

We now have a vacancy in our friendly group due to a member leaving the area. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Gillian . (She returns from holiday on October 8.)

POETRY - SCRIBERS

New group

Contact Rosemary Littlewood on 890066

Or WhatsApp 07811892686 to set up group

RUMMIKUB (BOARD GAME)

Marg Abbott. 07710 201396

margabbott@icloud.com

Meeting on the third Wednesday at members' homes from 2 till 4pm. This group is full at the moment but if anyone else would like to play do get in touch so I can put you on a waiting list.

INTEREST GROUPS

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Lora White 870171

lora@planetmail.com

Come and join the Social Sciences group, learning about interaction and developments in society through Computer & TV presentations with Lora, provoking and sparking new ideas. We would love to hear your views. Meeting once a month, on the 4th Tuesday. 10.30am – 12.30pm at member's homes with Lora, unless otherwise arranged.

STROLLERS

Carole Sellwood 07729899444

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Meets at the Countryside Centre at 10.30am

Wednesday 1st and 15th October.

THEATRE COMPANIONS

Rosemary Littlewood – 890066

07811892686

Thursday 2nd October

Queens Theatre.

Play – Breaking the Code

2.30 Matinee

Row Q 11-15 Row R 12 - 16

Ten seats reserved

Early Bird discount

Tickets £16,50

All tickets must be paid for in advance with booking.

Contact Rosemary if interested in any of the above

TRIPWIRE

Beryl Lloyd 812121

WALKING

Rosemary Littlewood 890066

WhatsApp 07811892686

Most Tuesdays, varied bus/walks, with refreshments at pub/cafe if you wish. Appropriate clothing, light refreshment and poles if required.

Dogs welcome on the walk but restrictions at some cafes.

ROSEMARY NOT WALKING!

On the third Tuesday of the month

Tuesday 23rd September

Rosemoor Gardens (RHS)

Barnstaple bus station 5B bus departs 9am

Return bus 3.40pm

Tuesday 30th September

Braunton Burrows

Meet at George 21C bus for Croyde Bay

Depart at 10am, off at Saunton Golf Club

To Crow Point back along ridge to Velator Quay

Ruth Turner is leading this walk.

Tuesday 14th October

Hunters Inn – Trentishoe – Circular walk

Car Share

Tuesday 21st October

Three Bays Walk

Saunton, Croyde and Putsborough with lunch

Back at The Thatch Inn Croyde

Tuesday 28th October

Croyde - Georgeham

Homemade soup, bread and hedgerow jelly.

Donations to Georgeham Village Hall

Meet at The George 10.00am for Croyde Bay

Return bus from Georgeham 1.40pm or 3.40pm

For further information and if the weather looks doubtful the routes may change, so WhatsApp Rosemary on 07811892686 nearer the time

WINE APPRECIATION

Anne Young – 813255

rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk

2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm

