

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2025
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: SALLY SMITH
MAGNIFICEDNT WOMEN AND FLYING MACHINES



Chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 01271 812121
Dave20000@tinyworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Brian Gilbert
membershipbrauntonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter items to Amanda & Julia:
Tel: 816884 email: jjdevon45@gmail.com
January Newsletter deadline
16th December 2025
Website: <https://braunton.U3Asite.uk/>

Welcome

SPEAKERS BOOKED FOR 2026

6th January - James Benning or Gary
West Braunton Museum
3rd February - Garry Reed
It Shouldn't Happen to a Headmaster

**We wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from the
Braunton & District U3A
Committee: Beryl, David,
Rosemary, Julia, Brian,
Sue, Anne, Joan, Barbara,
Sandie and Marg.**



If anyone knows of or hears of any exceptional speakers could they send me the details please. Name, email or phone number, what they talk about, where they heard of them, etc. Please include my email address and phone number or they can pass me the info at any monthly meeting.
Many thanks Barbara Watson.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

At the AGM in June our Membership Secretary, Brian Gilbert, said that he wishes to relinquish his position in June 2026. We therefore urgently need a Member to come forward to take his place and progressively take over next year.

A U3A laptop computer is available to maintain the records and help is on hand. If you are interested in the position, please either contact Brian or me. Further information Beryl 01271 812121

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The money raised from this year's Christmas raffle will be given to the charity Chemo Hero, the first prize is £50 plus other items.
Raffle tickets will be on sale at the November and December monthly meetings and at the Christmas meal on 4th December.

BRIDGE

Yes, we have a new Beginners Bridge group!

Contact Helen Walsh on 07974020109
See Interest Group for details

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.

Local History

The December meeting is on Tuesday 9th December, when Collette Hall will be highlighting some buildings in and around Braunton.

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

PAPERBACK BOOKS

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Braunton I would like to thank the U3A members that kindly donated paperback books and foreign coins in the past few months.

I am pleased to report that £470 was raised and this will be donated to various local charities.

We will be placing books at various North Devon camp sites from Easter 2026, so further donations are always welcome.

Thanks again Beryl

Poetry Penners Page

If you pen poems, please send them in to Julia for the Poetry Page of the U3A Newsletter.

U3A (Braunton) Geology Group - Report for 2025 to mid-November

Meets at Paul's house 2-4pm first Wednesday of each month; plus occasional local field trips. Space for a few more to join us. After considering topics such as rock dating, different types of rock, fossils, geological maps, volcanoes, we're now concentrating on Local Geology – so if you have puzzled over the local cliffs, hills, valleys, building stones etc., maybe this group is for you?

Contact Paul at madgett@hotmail.com if you would like to join us.



Rosemary's 2/3 bays walk 21 October

From Saunton Sands Hotel over to Croyde then some went on passed Baggly point where these fungi were spotted.



**The Yarn Market at Dunster, as you can see it is quite wet.
We needed poles & proper boots,
To ascend the hill to Withycombe, we traipsed through so much wet & mud, as gooey as it gets.
Promised amazing views, with joy we plodded on. Only to find rain & mist, and so our views were gone.
Descending back to Dunster, forestry clearance in full swing.
Thousands of foxgloves evident we'll be back again in Spring.**



Rosemary Littlewood in Panto?
"Oh no she's not". O YES she is.



CROYDE PLAYERS PRESENT
DICK WHITTINGTON
AND HIS
COSMIC ADVENTURES
AT CROYDE VILLAGE HALL

FRI 23 JAN – SAT 24 JAN
FRI 30 JAN – SAT 31 JAN
MATINEES AND EVENING SHOWS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM www.croydeplayers.co.uk
AND FROM CROYDE POST OFFICE

ADULTS £9 • CHILDREN £7
PERFECT FOR FAMILIES OF ALL AGES!

**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 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.

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

last one Monday 15th December

Restart Monday 5th January

Croyde Village Hall

Weekly classes on Thursdays

10.15 – 11.15am

cost £2 per session

Last one Thursday 11th December

Restart 8th January

Rosemary's ramblings

Sometimes I sits and thinks and sometimes I just sits!!

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

rayvyoung2000@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. – 4.30.pm 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

See Poetry page.

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 3rd and 17th December

THEATRE COMPANIONS

Rosemary Littlewood – 890066

07811892686

See Dick Whittington poster

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.

Tuesday 25th November

Fremington

21b bus at Braunton Academy School at 9.29/30! (bus pass)

To Barnstaple bus station. Catch next 21 Bideford bus.

Off at New Inn Fremington.

Approximately six miles – a bit challenging in places!

Refreshment at Sandbanks or Fremington Quay.

Return bus or walk Tarka Trail back to Barnstaple.

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

Tuesday 9th December

Combe Martain

21b bus from The Geroge depart 9.54am

301 bus from Ilfracombe Garage at 10.30am

Circular walk from Beach to Little Hangman & Great

Hangman. Return bus 10 mins past the hour.

Convivial eating, where & What's open and available.

Tuesday 16 December

Walk around the Arlington estate with lunch break at cafe followed by visit to 'House After Dark'. Travel by car share. Meet Caen car park at 10.00am.

For further info please contact Phil Watson. 07889506380 (phone or text) or phil@philwatson.me

Tuesday 30th December

A 'Blow away the Christmas Cobwebs', walk Detail to follow

WINE APPRECIATION

Anne Young – 813255

rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk

2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm