

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2026
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: JAMES BENNING / GARY WEST
BRAUNTON MUSEUM



Chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 01271 812121
Dave20000@tinyworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Brian Gilbert
membershipbrauntonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter items to Julia James & Amanda
Tel: 816884 email: jjdevon45@gmail.com
February Newsletter deadline
20th January 2026
Website: <https://braunton.U3A site.uk/>

Welcome

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The January meeting is on Tuesday 13th January when Paul Madgett will be giving a talk about the Braunton Great Field. We meet at St. Brannocks Rooms, Church Steet, Braunton, EX33 2EL. We begin at 10am with refreshments and the talk begins at 10.30am.

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

SPEAKERS BOOKED FOR 2026

February - Gary Reed – It Shouldn't Happen to a Headmaster
March – Todd Gray – Mass Observation and North Devon
April – Graham Fairlie – National Trust Arlington Court

MEMBERS STORIES

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

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND RAFFLE

Seventy members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Williams Arms on Thursday 4 December. This was followed by Rick Turner singing songs from the 60s and 70s plus Christmas favourites. The amount raised by the raffle was £300 and this will be presented to a member of the charity Chemo Hero at the January meeting. The winner of the first prize of £50 was Rosemary Littlewood who has donated her prize to Georgeham Parish Hall. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and raffle.



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

Poetry Penners Page

I used to bring my bags to where you greeted
me each week
Your eyes & smiles warmed my heart you didn't
need to speak.
For years I came with things to touch
I'm not sure if I taught you much.
But how you warmed my heart.

Do you remember games we played the rule
books we chucked out.
I wanted you to show me what that game was all
about.
I guess you had your favourite toy.
To see you play gave me such joy.
And how you warmed my heart.

God granted me a little gift with you my life to
share.
It must have worked because you showed me
how to love & care,
I tried to understand you and get into your
mind.
To feel the real frustration and fear of every
kind.
I hope I warmed your heart.

I'm now retired my life's moved on but I would
like to say.
Thank you special friends and those that care
for you each day.
I hope that you'll remember me
I'll not forget, because you see.
I know I warmed your heart.

Rosemary Littlewood

Tutor of creative interaction for adults with severe
learning difficulties and challenging behaviour 1976 -
2006



VOLUNTEER CAR DRIVERS WANTED

CAN YOU SPARE A FEW HOURS A WEEK OR MONTH?

**Braunton Volunteers are looking for friendly, helpful drivers
to take older & less able people to their
health-care appointments.**

**These are mainly in the local area covering
Braunton, Croyde, Georgeham & Barnstaple.**

You can drive as often or as little as you like

- We work around your commitments - you let us know when you want to drive.**
- Trip costs are paid direct to you by the passenger on completion of the journey, no waiting for payment.**

If you can help or would like to find out more

Please contact Liz Hill on 01271 815222

or email brauntonvolunteers@gmail.com

Walking Group

A beautiful day at Arlington.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR BRAUNTON & DISTRICT U3A -2026
Registered Charity No 1168703

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title & Full Name

Address

POSTCODE

Telephone Landline Mobile

Email Address

N.B. To save costs, the committee will use email whenever possible

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership year of Braunton & District U3A is 1st April to 31st March.

Single Annual Membership is **£15** This includes a £3.50 Subscription Fee to our national organization, *The Third Age Trust*, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover. The Third Age Magazine (TAM) is issued 4 times a year. The cost is **£4 per year** and this is to cover the cost of postage. **Please make cheques payable to Braunton & District U3A**

A. I enclose a cheque/cash for £19 to cover membership and the Third Age Magazine.

B. I enclose a cheque/cash for £15 to cover membership only.

C. I have made payment of £19 via BACS to cover membership and the Third Age Magazine.

D. I have made payment of £15 via BACS to cover membership.

Payments via BACS to Lloyds sort code 30-90-49 account no 45943360 Account Braunton & District U3A.
Meetings will be held at Braunton Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30am when completed applications can be handed to Membership Secretary, Brian Gilbert

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members must :

1. Abide by the Aims and Guiding Principles of the U3A movement.
2. Always act in the best interests of the U3A and never do anything to bring the U3A into disrepute.
3. Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
4. Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
5. Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.
6. **Advise the committee of any change in your personal details.**

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Your personal details will be held on a secure database and will be used solely for the purposes of administration and the communication of U3A matters. They will never be supplied to an outside agency or party other than for you to receive Third Age Matters directly mailed.

I apply for membership of Braunton & District U3A and confirm that :

- **I will comply with the terms and conditions of membership as stated above.**

Signed

Dated

SUBSCRIPTION 2026/27

Next Year's application/renewal form for membership 2026/2027beginning 1st April 2026 is here.

The cost for membership is £15 and if you wish to receive the Third Age Trust Magazine issued four times a year, there is a postage fee of £4 p1er year.

Please indicate on the renewal form if you are paying for membership and magazine or just membership only. I would be grateful if you could get your renewals as early as possible to spread my workload, also it makes life easier if you pay by cash. Preferably with the correct amount placed in an envelope with your name on.

NEWSLETTER

For those of you who don't receive the newsletter by email, could you supply me

with stamped self-addressed envelopes so that I can post them to you. Post them to me at 16 Homer Crescent, Braunton, EX33 1DT, alter natively if you live anywhere around Saunton Park I'd be happy to deliver a copy to you. Those members using email should receive the newsletter regularly. Due to the size of our distribution list, some members have found that tightened security means that U3A emails have been blocked. Please search your Junk folders in, case,they have arrived there. Please also add the email address membershipbrauntonu3a@outlook.com to your personal address book or contact list or send an email to it to ensure that U3A is recognised by your system. This should all help to ensure that your Newsletter arrives safely.

Many thanks Brian

Lloyds Bank

If you were at the August Meeting, you would have heard an announcement that Lloyds Bank are going to start charging for debits and credits going over our two accounts. It is estimated that it will cost us about £10 per month

The charges will be as follows:-

Cash paid in 75p per £100 paid in at the counter
42p per £100 paid in using the Deposit machine

Cheques paid in 50p per cheque paid in at the counter
42p per cheque paid in using the Deposit machine

Cheques paid out 50p per cheque

In order to mitigate these charges if you have access to internet banking, please use it. It is very secure if you follow the procedures.

We would prefer that you paid in cash, (If you must go to the bank to get cash, instead of taking the cash, ask the bank to make a fast payment for you. You will need the Braunton & District U3A account number 45943360 at Lloyds Bank 30-90-49)

We will still accept cheques for membership, reluctantly, but for Trips & xmas lunch it will be pure cash only.

if you can help us in this matter, it will go a long way to keeping membership fees as they are.

**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!

The poster features a dark blue background with a planet, a star, a rocket, a man in a yellow shirt and brown vest, a blue cat, and a pirate character. The text is in yellow and white.

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

8th and 22nd January 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](tel:07811892686)

Braunton Parish Hall.

Weekly classes on Mondays .

12.30 – 1.20 and 1.45 – .2.35

£1.00 per session

Start Monday 5th January.

Croyde Village Hall

Weekly classes on Thursdays

10.15 – 11.15am

cost £2 per session Start 8th January

Rosemary's ramblings

Its not how much we have but how much we enjoy that makes happiness.

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.

POETRY – SCRIBERS

Contact Rosemary Littlewood on 890066

Or [WhatsApp 07811892686](tel:07811892686)

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 7th and 21st January.

THEATRE COMPANIONS

Rosemary Littlewood – 890066

07811892686

PLEASE WOULD A THEATRE LOVER TAKE OVER THIS GROUP FROM ROSEMARY

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 30th December

Woolacombe to Putsborough Cafe

Bus 303 from The George at 9.27am arrive Woolacombe 9.55am

- 1) Up, over Potters Hill & Putsborough Down
- 2) Marine Drive
- 3) The Warren
- 4) The Beach
- 5) Paddle (high neap tide at midday)

From Putsborough road walk to Croyde or various Baggy routes. Back ones could be waterlogged (Broadway Lane)

On Baggy Point routes either top or coast paths. Bus back to Braunton 50 mins past the hour.

No such thing as bad weather. Etc

A great 'in between Christmas and New Year blow Out

Tuesday 13th January

A Braunton ramble

Meet at the Countryside Centre 10.15 for 10.30 departure.

Refreshments in Braunton

(Now how's that for full details!)

Tuesday 20th January

(Rosemary Community Lunch)

Tuesday 27th January

Combe Martin

Try again following cancellation on the 9th December due to foul weather.

21B bus from George, depart 9.45am

301 bus from Ilfracombe Garage at 10.30am

Circular walk from beach to Little Hangman and Great Hangman. Return bus 10 minutes past the hour.

Convivial eating, where and what's open and available.

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Tarr Steps

Dulverton (walking routes are currently W.I.P.). There is an opportunity to stay over at Tarr Farm Inn, Tarr Steps, Dulverton (Quote Braunton Walking Group for their Black Friday deal of 20% discount). Call 01643 851507 and speak to Hilary. For more information on the venue Visit:

www.tarrfarm.co.uk

Currently 5 walkers have booked two nights: Monday 9th and Tuesday 10 March. Walks can be planned to include from Monday p.m. to Wednesday as required. But you can book one night if that suits you. Enquiries about the Walk/stayover please speak to Cliff, Linda or one of the other regular walkers.

For further information WhatsApp Rosemary on 07811892686

WINE APPRECIATION

Anne Young – 813255

rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk

2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm

U3A MONTHLY RAFFLE PRIZE

We have a new sponsor for our monthly meeting raffle prize, and it is a thank you to Roger Byrom and his team from L Clarke & Sons who are donating a £15 Tesco voucher as the prize.



L. Clarke & Sons
~ Independent Funeral Directors ~