

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2026
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: GRAHAM FAIRLIE
NATIONAL TRUST – ARLINGTON COURT



Chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 01271 812121
Dave20000@tinyworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Brian Gilbert
membershipbrauntonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter items to Julia James:
Tel: 816884 email: jjdevon45@gmail.com
May Newsletter deadline
21st April 2026
Website: <https://braunton.U3Asite.uk/>

Welcome

INTEREST GROUP Convenors – Leaders

There are at present 23 interest groups, all led by volunteer members (none are paid!).

Many are happy to share their expertise, while others organise their groups, giving their name and contact details. Often this is shared within the group.

Once a year, about this time either a convenors get together is arranged for discussion and support or by phone call or WhatsApp message.

Rosemary Littlewood, Group
Co-ordinator can be called on
01271890066 or WhatsApp
07811892686.

MEMBERS STORIES

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

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT U3A AGM

The AGM is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 2 June 2026 at the Braunton Parish Hall from 10.30 am.
If a member has any item that they wish to be discussed at the AGM, please contact the Chairperson Beryl Lloyd by 5 May 2026.

PAPERBACK BOOKS

The 2026 holiday season is only a few weeks away and The Rotary Club of Braunton will again be placing paperback books at the various North Devon holiday camp sites for visitors to purchase. The money raised will be donated to local charities.
If you have any paperback books that you would like to donate, please contact Beryl on 01271 812121.

DAY TRIP TO BUDE AND LYME REGIS

Tickets for the visit to Bude and Lyme Regis will be on sale at the monthly meetings.

The costs are:-

BUDE Thursday 21 May 2026 Cost £17 which includes coach and driver gratuities.

LYME REGIS Thursday 18 June 2026 Cost £20 which includes coach and driver gratuities. Both trips depart Braunton 9.15am.

PAYMENT IN CASH ONLY

Contact Beryl for information 01271 812121

You are invited to the



BRAUNTON COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday 30 April, 6–7pm
Refreshments from 5.45pm • Chat until 7.30pm
At the Vivian Moon Community Centre

WHY JOIN US?

- Hear what's going on in our community
- Meet people involved in local activities
- Share ideas and opportunities

6.00–6.30pm:
Quick updates from local clubs and organisations—what they're doing, events coming up, and ways to get involved.

6.30–7.00pm:
Time to meet people, and make connections. Plenty of great projects have started from these chats.

And yes... there'll be superior biscuits, Yorkshire Tea, and top-tier instant coffee.

Come meet and support your community

BRAUNTON REPAIR CAFE

Textiles • Mechanical • Bicycles • Electrical

2026 (Saturdays, 10am–1pm):

March 7th:
Bicycle Servicing & How to Use a Sewing Machine

May 9th:
Festival Glow Up

July 4th:
Summer Upcycling

September 5th:
School Uniform Upgrade

October 31st:
Halloween Fancy Dress

December 5th:
Christmas Crafts & Fun!



Bring your items to be repaired and learn some new skills

**Museum of British Surfing
Braunton EX33 1AA**

Supported by:



POETRY SCRIBERS

The idea has been floated for the formation of a group to share their poetry. This might simply be favourite poems or examples of their own work. We need to gauge interest in such a group so please message me if this might include you.

Poetry Scrivers get together on Tuesday 7th April at SQ for 12noon following the monthly meeting in Braunton Parish Hall to decide how often, where, what day, time etc.

Any members welcome, Contact Rosemary Littlewood on 01271 890066 or WhatsApp message 07811892686.

CROQUET GROUP

The Croquet Group will restart on Tuesday 21st April, weather permitting. Present and new members are welcome. We meet at Barnstaple Croquet Club, Raleigh Meadow, Barnstaple EX31 4UX on Tuesdays 2-4pm.

All equipment and tuition is provided. Wear comfortable clothes and flat shoes. You may need a waterproof coat and a drink.

The charge is a joining/rejoining fee of £4 and £4 for each session you attend.

Contact Anne Young on 01271 813255 or email rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk to join the group and for more information.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

There is no meeting in April. The next meeting is on 12th May when Denise Holton will present a Virtual tour of Barnstaple Guildhall.

At St Brannocks Rooms, Church Street, Braunton, EX33 2EL

We begin at 10am for refreshments and the talk will be at 10.30am. For more information contact Anne Young on 01271 813255 or email rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk.

NOMINATION FORM FOR 2026/2027 COMMITTEE

**BRAUNTON & DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS
FOR 2026/2027**

I.....nominate the member named below to the committee.

Name of Candidate.....suggested office.....

I.....second this nomination.

I.....accept this nomination, and if elected agree to serve on the Committee.

Signature of candidate.....

Please send the completed form to our chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 1 The Brittons Braunton EX33 2HE by 5 May 2026.

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 2 June 2026 10.30 am
Notice is hereby given of the Braunton & District U3A Annual General Meeting to be held in Braunton Parish Hall 10.30 am 2 June 2026.
If you wish to nominate anyone, please complete the form making sure to include a seconder and the candidate's signature and return to the address above by 5 May 2026.

Current officers:

Chairperson - Mrs Beryl Lloyd

Vice Chairperson - Vacant

Treasurer – David Kent

Secretary – Sandie Hazel

Membership Secretary – Brian Gilbert

Refreshments – Sue Gilbert

Speakers Secretary – Barbara Watson

Assistant Speakers Secretary – Anne Tabor

Newsletter - Julia James

Groups Co-ordinator - Rosemary Littlewood

Webmaster Co-ordinator – Joan Ainsworth

Committee member – Marg Abbott

Please note the following: -

David Kent wishes to relinquish the post Treasurer.

Brian Gilbert wishes to relinquish the post of Membership Secretary.

Current committee members can be re-elected if proposed and willing to stand or replaced by newly elected members.

Walking Group

Croyde then Exmoor/Tarr steps/Withypool, plus some amazing Fungi!!

17 February and 9th /10th March Walks

A special offer at Taw Farm Inn on Exmoor prompted Cliff to lead an interesting Walking Tour!

The route around Dulverton revealed some unusual delights from Red Elf Cups and Jelly Ears fungi to Red deer seen from a height but the best of all was when Rosemary had Tarr Steps in her sight. Some areas were wet and soggy; occasionally it was misty and foggy! One route took us up to Withypool for a well earned coffee, cake and the loo!

then back to Tarr Farm along the river with sightings of ducks and dippers giving us the opportunity to walk and talk about our well-earned Kippers.

Rosemary's birthday celebrations prompted Ruth's Trumpet serenade and ended with a candle on her dessert where the round table was laid.



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

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month

12th and 26th February 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

See box for details

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

Classes continue until 29th June, resume in the Autumn.

Croyde Village Hall

Weekly classes on Thursdays

This class has finished for the summer and will resume in the Autumn.

Rosemary's ramblings

Do not wish to be anything but what you are and be 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

First Wednesday of each month, 2 - 4pm, at 1A Lower Park Road; plus occasional local field meetings.

Please contact Paul in advance

at madgett@hotmail.com or on 01271 812617 for details.

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

See box for details

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 April

TRIPWIRE

Beryl Lloyd 812121

21 May 2026

Trip to Bude

Tickets on sale at the April and May monthly meeting.

Proposed trips (subject to change)

18 June 2026 – Lyme Regis

17 September 2026 – Donkey Sanctuary and Sidmouth

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 31st March

Westward Ho to Bideford

21B bus depart SQ at 8.58am

Tuesday 14th April

Simonsbath

Car Share – Meet at Simonsbath car park at 10.15am for 10.30am depart

Tuesday 21st April

Chaple Wood - Spreacombe

George 21B bus Depart 9.45am to Stoney Bridge

Return and Refreshments as and when

Tuesday 28th April

Bideford to Instow

For the no longer such good walkers

SQ 9.54am Bus 21B to Barnstaple Bus Station

Change to 21A bus at 10.30am

Leisurely flat walk to Instow

Return bus as and when

Tuesday 28th April

Dulverton

Information and details on walking group whatsapp.

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 ~