

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2026
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: KIMBERLEY COLMAN
HERITAGE RANGER – THE EXMOOR PIONEERS



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
June Newsletter deadline
19th May 2026
Website: <https://braunton.U3Asite.uk/>

Welcome

Janet Reynolds
Katherine Moule
Julia Conibear

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.

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.
Depart Braunton 9.15 am.

LYME REGIS Thursday 18 June 2026 Cost
£20 which include coach and driver
gratuities.
Depart Braunton 8.55 am

PAYMENT IN CASH ONLY

Contact Beryl for information 01271 812121

SPEAKERS BOOKED FOR 2026

June – Ashley Jones – The Dickin Medal –
Animals at War
July – Alex Bowler – My Big Cat Sightings
August Coffee Morning – Richard
Patmore – Ukelele and Julie Genge – Read
Easy Devon

POETRY SCRIBERS

Meet monthly at the Countryside Centre
on Wednesday 29th April, 27th May and
24th June 12.30 – 1.30pm.
New group. If you like writing the odd
poem or enjoy hearing/reading your
own or favourite poem you will be most
welcome.
Rosemary Littlewood 01271 890066 or
WhatsApp 07811892686.

Braunton Village Fair Music Stage

Organised by **Braunton Rotary** and **Braunton Caen Rotary**

in support of **Little Willow's Wish** and **Chemo Hero**



CUTLEFISH
An eclectic mix of rock and indie tunes - in their own acoustic style



THE ACOUSTIC BAND
A trio of acoustic vocal harmony voices and original songs



MENTALITY
A young, energetic group of friends who love performing a mix of soulful covers and original music



BRIGHT LIGHTS COLLECTIVE
Acoustic harmony trio performing originals and covers



DANCING FEET ACADEMY
Celebrating our 20th year dancing in the Braunton Community!



ISAAC GREGORY
Singer-songwriter who plays acoustic rock, pop and folk, through his music



SMART AND DANGEROUS
A lively duo with electric guitars creating a large volume of music with backing from his sons

This year's charities are: willows Wish and Chemo Hero and other Rotary supported charities
We are pleased again this year that the Vivian Moon Braunton Community Trust Fund has sponsored this flier.



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:



Braunton Rotary and **Braunton Caen Rotary**

Braunton Village Fair Celebrates



Monday 25th May 2026
10am to 4pm
Recreation Ground, Exeter Road, Braunton

The Vivian Moon Braunton Community Trust Fund



Registered as a Charity No. 309211

CROQUET GROUP

The Summer season has now begun. Present and new members are welcome.

We meet at Barnstaple Croquet Club, Raleigh Meadow, Barnstaple EX31 4UX on Tuesdays 2-4pm.

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

The charge is £4 to join / rejoin the group and £4 for each session you attend.

Contact Anne Young on 01271 813255 or email rayvyoung2000@yahoo.co.uk

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

There next meeting is on Tuesday 12th May. Denise Holton will show a Virtual tour of Barnstaple Guildhall.

We meet at St Brannocks Rooms, Church Street, Braunton, EX33 2EL at 10am for refreshments and the talk will be at 10.30am. Everyone Welcome

Rosemary's Health Day

It was a valuable opportunity to explore in a safe and relaxed atmosphere the benefits of some of the different teachings on our health. We covered for example the right amount of nutrition, exercise; positivity and working with nature. These are tools to help us to have a balanced outlook so that everything works in harmony if done in moderation.

So, it is not just freedom from ill-health we are striving for Ultimate Good Health!



Rosemary's Walk - Simonsbath (14 April 2026)

As the guidebook said we would be able to see Dunkery Beacon our new lady Jill was looking forward to the spectacular views from the top of the valley. So, we trekked across rough and rocky terrain and sheltered from the cutting wind (see photos) but alas we saw nothing but mist! However, our path back to Simonsbath and Boeveys Tea rooms heard many a laugh.



WALKING GROUP CHANGES

Occasionally groups need to change.

GROUP A – Faster, fitter, further

GROUP B – slower, flatter. 2-3 miles maximum.

Many planned walks can encompass both abilities. Starting together and meeting up again for shared refreshment/lunch.

See Walking (Interest groups), you will see Group A, Group B or Group A & B.

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

A good variety of walks this month. Including Combe Martin (up and around the Hangmen), Woolacombe to Putsborough and back, and Westward Ho! to Bideford. Lots miles, lots of good walking weather



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

Roy Baker 07768314226

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month

14th and 28th May 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](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va811892686)

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

"Dance as though no one can see you. Sing as though no one can hear you. Love as though you have never been hurt. Love as though heaven is on earth."

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. – 4.30pm 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.

POETRY – SCRIBERS

Rosemary Littlewood – 01271 890066 or Whatsapp

07811892686

Meet Monthly at The Countryside Centre on Wednesday

12.30 to 1.30

29th April, 27th May and 24th June

New Group. If you like writing the odd poem or enjoy hearing / reading your own or favourite poem, you will be most welcome.

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 6th and 20th May

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 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 12th May

Lynmouth / Lyton

Groups B & A

Depart SQ 21b bus 8.58 Depart

Barnstaple Bus Station 309 bus 9.50

Return bus Lynmouth 10min past the hour.

Various short walks for Group B

Extended walks for Group A

Tuesday 19th May

The Grand Western Canal

Group A Leader Phil Whatson

Walk along The Grand Western Canal from Sampford

Peverel to Halperton and return -Approximately 6 miles, followed by lunch at The Globe Inn in S.P.

Car share from Caen Car Park -leaving at 9.30am.

Contact Phil Watson on 07889 506380.

Tuesday 26th May

Exeter by train

Depart Barnstaple 9.35. Return ticket to Exeter Central. Group of 3 third off rail fare.

Walk from St David's along the canal to Exeter Quay or Leisurely day in Exeter.

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 ~