

BRAUNTON & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST 2026
10.00 – 12.00 – PARISH HALL

SPEAKER: RICHARD PATMORE - UKELELE
JULIE GENGE - READ EASY DEVON



Chairperson: Beryl Lloyd 01271 812121
Dave20000@tinyworld.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Judi Walker
membershipbrauntonu3a@outlook.com
Newsletter items to Julia James:
Tel: 816884 email: jjdevon45@gmail.com
September Newsletter deadline
18th August 2026
Website: <https://braunton.U3Asite.uk/>

MEMBERS STORIES

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

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST COFFEE MORNING

- Richard Patmore and the Ukelele All Stars
- Read Easy Devon
- Dogs Trust Ilfracombe

Admission to the coffee morning will be free so please come along and bring your friends who are not members of U3A so they can find out what they are missing! There will be short talks from Read Easy Devon and from Dogs Trust Ilfracombe and the Ukelele All Stars will be playing a selection of music during the morning.

Welcome

Bill Hitchcock

SPEAKERS BOOKED FOR 2026

September – Liz Shakespeare – Talk about her novels

DAY TRIP TO DONKEY SANCTUARY OR SIDMOUTH

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Cost £20 which includes coach and driver gratuities.

Tickets on sale at the August and September monthly meeting.

Payment in **CASH**. Members will need to advise at the time of booking if they wish to spend the day at the Donkey Sanctuary or Sidmouth.

Entry into the Donkey Sanctuary is free but a donation to the charity is expected. There are exhibitions, walks around the gardens, café and shop and of course you will be able to meet the donkeys.

Ash Jones MBE who gave us an outstanding talk on The Dickin Medal



Walking Group
Few Photos from the Walk to Codden Hill.



Strollers

Strollers have decided to finish this group and we will amalgamate with the Wellbeing Walks with the Countryside Centre which is every fortnight on Wednesdays. Next Wellbeing walk is on 8th July.

Membership

If you are new member joining our u3a for the first time you are required to fill in an application form. This is to comply with GDP, also we need your details to send out newsletters etc. preferred payment is by Bank Transfer, or cash. Details of our bank account can be found on our website. We get charged 50p a cheque when we pay them in to the bank.



BRAUNTON REPAIR CAFE
Textiles • Mechanical • Bicycles • Electrical

2026
(Saturdays, 10am-1pm):

- May 9th:** Festival Glow Up Special
- 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:



Rummikub

Rummikub group playing at Lawrence's house today. We enjoyed tea & home made cakes this afternoon.



Lyme Regis Day Trip



Walking Group

Two walks that day from Hunters Inn. One 'over the top' and the other along to Heddons Mouth. Unfortunately both were WET!



Easy' Walking Group 14 July

We started on part of the Heritage trail..

- 1) Group - beside the River Taw in Rock Park
- 2) The Brannam Pottery Bottle Kiln
- 3) View - The River Taw with distant view of Barnstaple Medieval Long Bridge.

MEMBERSHIPS

Some members have failed to receive the newsletter, even though their e mail addresses are in our distribution list. If this applies to you, please check your junk folders to see if they have been delivered there. Many providers have tightened security to ban messages going to groups.

Alternatively, you could send an e mail to membershipbrantonu3a@outlook.com which should help your mail service to recognise this address. You could also try adding us as a contact. If all the above has failed, then please let me know by e mail or in person at the next meeting and we can try to resolve the situation. Many thanks Judi

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

There is no Local History Group meeting in August.
In September Lisa Chanter will be telling us about Highwaymen in North Devon and Exmoor on the 8th

BRAUNTON PARISH HALL PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

The Committee were aware that there were ongoing problems with the PA system in the hall and approached the Branton Parish Council to see if it could be updated. The result was that the Parish Council recently purchased a new public address system. The new system is still experiencing a few teething problems which are being corrected but the new system is certainly an improvement.

The committee were also aware that some members have stopped coming to the meeting because they could not hear the speaker.

We say to those members please come back and give the new system a try and give us some feedback.

Beryl

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



The Great Branton Golf Ball Race

IS BACK for 2026!

 Friday 14th August

 At Heanton Street

 7.00pm

PRIZES FOR THE WINNING BALLS

1 st	£100.00 CASH
2 nd	£50.00 CASH
3 rd	£25.00 CASH

In aid of



Devon Air Ambulance
Registered charity No. 1077998

 Golf Balls are **£1.00** each

**RAISING FUNDS FOR
DEVON AIR AMBULANCE**

CINEMA GROUP

At last a film is coming out that might be worth going to see, after a spring and summer of disappointment.

It is **& SONS** and stars Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton.

Dates for it in Barnstaple don't appear to be out yet, but it will be sometime in August, so if you think you might like to come and see it (we usually catch a bus into Barnstaple at about 11.30, have a cafe lunch and then go to the afternoon showing) please get in touch and I'll contact you as soon as we have any further information.

Barbara Watson

07740941263 barbingledene@gmail.com

or Sue Gilbert

07969150318 suegilbert46@gmail.com.

GARDENING GROUP

Is there any interest in a gardening group? Obviously, many members may have wonderful gardens; some of us have pocket handkerchief gardens or even just window boxes, so this would try to cover interest at any level. We could : go and visit gardens; visit garden centres; possibly buy plants and materials in bulk at cheaper prices; swap plants; have lunch in garden centres/beautiful gardens; arrange visits to RHS (and other) garden shows. It's just an idea at present, but if you'd be interested please contact me.

Barbara Watson

07740941263 barbingledene@gmail.com.

ADVERTISEMENT - VOLUNTARY HELP NEEDED

Most of you know Braunton Museum, but did you know that it is run solely by volunteers?

Unfortunately, mainly due to illness and holidays, we are struggling to keep it open as much as we would like.

Sessions are 10-1 or 1-4 most weekdays, and if we can get enough volunteers we are hoping to be able to open for at least a couple of hours on Saturdays.

It's good fun, everyone is very friendly and you don't need any sort of specialist knowledge - just to be willing to welcome people and help them in any way you can. We always work in twos, so you would never be on your own.

If you've got a couple of hours spare sometime in the week, please think about joining us. You could do a couple of sessions as a trial to see if it's for you.

Please either drop into the museum at any time it is open, or send your contact details to me on 07740941263

or barbingledene@gmail.com. We'd love to welcome you.

Barbara Watson



Evening Walks

Join us weekly on a Tuesday
starting on Tuesday 28th July until 8th
September

These walks are for anyone who would like to explore our beautiful surroundings, this will also include walking on uneven ground

Meet at the Countryside Centre at 5.45pm walk starts at 6pm time 1.5 - 2 hours



Live Well in Braunton
Connecting the Community



U3A MEMBER CLIFF WILLMER IS UNDERTAKING A SKY DIVE TO RAISE MONEY WITH HIS GRANDAUGHTER FOR THE NORTH DEVON HOSPICE

For her 16th birthday, Clemmie has chosen to undertake a skydive to raise money for North Devon Hospice in memory of her beloved Nanny who was cared for there until the end of her life. Her nearly 80 year old grandfather still thinks he's a young buck of a fighter pilot and has elected to do it with her!

North Devon Hospice have been such wonderful support for our family - helping to care for not only my mum (nanny) but my cousin and aunt also. It has been an incredibly tough few years for our extended family, but the hospice have supported us all throughout.

Jumping out of a Serviceable Aircraft at 15,000 ft!
Am I mad?

The North Devon Hospice is an amazing organisation but is always under financial stress, even a very small amount of funding can help it to be here for when people need its services! I have agreed to do a 15,000 ft free-fall sky dive with my grand-daughter in August and hope to raise funds for the Hospice. Giving is easy, either through the link in this message or through a Hospice cash box that will be available at the August monthly meeting. None of us know when and if we may need the Hospice's support so please donate to help protect its future! Many thanks! Cliff.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/hannah-prowse-3?utm_source=CL&utm_medium=DT



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

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

Unfortunately classes will not run for the Autumn Term.

Hopefully start again in January 2027.

Croyde Village Hall

Weekly classes on Thursdays

This class has finished for the summer and will not run for the Autumn Term

Hopefully start again in January 2027

Rosemary's ramblings

'Happiness is Intrinsic. It's an internal thing. Even when old age and ailments try to snatch it away'.

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 07477599381

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 – Penners

Bill Hitchcock wfh1951@me.com 07736671440

Meet Monthly at The Countryside Centre on Wednesday 12.30 to 1.30

5th August and 2nd September

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.

TRIPWIRE

Beryl Lloyd 812121

Trip to Donkey Sanctuary and Sidmouth on Thursday 17 September

Tickets on sale at August, and September meetings

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.

For more details of these walks please contact Rosemary (details above) or Phil Watson on 07889 506380 or via WhatsApp group

Tuesday 28 July

Walk to Winsford on Exmoor. Further details from Cliff Willmer via WhatsApp group. Options For A and B Group.

Tuesday 11 August

A Group - 'Over the top@ from Saunton Golf Club to Croyde

B Group - Walk around Croyde Bay

Lunch for both groups at Manor House Inn - Croyde

Tuesday 18 August (afternoon/early evening walk)

A Group - Mortehoe to Barricane Beach via Morte Point

B Group - Woolacombe to Barricane Beach

5.00pm - Sri Lankan curry evening at Barricane

Tuesday 25 August

A Group - Ilfracombe to Hele Bay (over the hill)

B Group - Ilfracombe swimming pool car park to Hele Bay

Lunch at The Corn Mill, Hele

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 —