



BROMBOROUGH u3a

NEWSLETTER

July 26

Our website address is: bromborough.u3asite.uk

Speaker Meetings - 10:30am in Bromborough Village Hall

On July 6th, Bromborough U3A will meet from 10.30am for our speaker meeting.

Interest Groups

A reminder – if you would like to join a group please contact the leader initially.

Beginners UKULELE Group (BUG) – Jane Kemp – 3281284

Meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at 2pm in members' homes. Please contact Jane for further details.

COFFEE 'MORNING' –

Meeting Tuesdays at The Merebrook pub, **2pm**. Don't forget to register your car details if you use the car park.

KNITTING/CROCHET - Lindsay - 0151 327 4879 or 07969 226 185.

Any prospective new members please contact Lindsay

FRENCH (GCSE Level) – Diana Selmer – 0151 327 5093

The group meets once a fortnight on Wednesday mornings on Zoom, starting at 9.30 am. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Diana.

LOCAL HISTORY – Jim Tunley – 327 7413.

Jim will announce details of the next trip when available.

LUNCHEON CLUB – Irene Crowder – 334 6684

Contact Irene about future meals.

QUIZ GROUP – Chris Kellett – 07719 103 929

The group meets on the second **Monday** in the month at 2pm.

RUMMIKUB – Penny MacDonald – 07791 286 972

Please contact Penny for details.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE – Jane Kemp – 328 1284

We usually meet on the last Friday of the month in St Barnabas Village Centre, 2pm.

WALKING – Denis Toohey – 0151 343 1555 – denroamin@gmail.com Look out for an email about future walks.

We are always happy to include new interest groups so if you have any ideas speak to me or anyone on the committee.

What's On

Regular Events

Bromborough village walk on Mondays 10.30 - 11.30 am (not on Bank Holidays). Meet at St Barnabas Church car park for walks to Eastham Country Park or Dibbinsdale 2-3 miles.

Thursdays 11.30 am - 12.00 pm, Eastham Group Practice, 47, Bridle Road, Bromborough.

Contact Fiona (Wellbeing Walks Coordinator) for more info, tel. 0776 967 4718

Spring 2026 The Floral Pavilion, New Brighton

Lunchtime Music Wed, Thurs and Fri, 12.30 - 14.00 Panoramic Lounge. Free entry.

2nd Saturday every month. 9am - midday, Farmers' Market at New Ferry Village Hall. Coffee and homemade cake at reasonable prices.

Line Dance classes, taught by Judy, are held every Wednesday at Bromborough Village Hall. 10-11am Intermediate, 11am-12 Beginners, 6-7pm Complete Beginners and 7-8pm Intermediate.

2nd and 4th Friday, 11.30 - 1.30 Meet and Eat at St Mary's Community Church Hall, Eastham Rake. Donations welcomed.

Every Thursday, 11.00-12.00. Tea, coffee, sausage rolls and cake at St David's URC, Eastham. Donations welcomed.

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month – 10.30 – 12.00. Singing Café at the Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight. Free event. Hot drinks and raffle available. Live music from 50s – 80s. Words provided if you want to join in, or just sit and listen, or chat.

Every Tuesday, 1pm at Bromborough Odeon – Silver Cinema and free coffee

Eastham Library Events

Thursdays 10 -11.15 am TABLE TALK at Eastham Library. Discussing book extracts, poetry and art. Organised by St Mary's Church community.

Knit and Natter. This is a free regular weekly activity held at Eastham Library, where like-minded friends meet for a chat and coffee/tea on Wednesdays, 10.30 - 12.00.

Age U.K, Meadowcroft, Spital Road, Bromborough:-

Monday	1.30 - 3.30 Art and Drawing
Tuesday	10 -12 Singing for Health 12-15-1.15 Chair based Exercise
Wednesday	10.00-11.00 Tap Dancing 10 -12 Crochet Corner

12 – 1 Salsa Gold
12 - 2 Soup and Sandwich Lunch
1.30 – 2.30 Chair based Tai Chi
2.30 - 3.30 Reading Group
2.45 - 3.45 Tai Chi

Thursday 10 - 12 Art and Drawing
 10.30-11.30 Chair Based Exercise
 1.15 - 2.15 Strong and Steady with Julie Ann. Stand/sit exercises
 1.30 – 4 Papercraft for all skill levels
 2.30 – 3.30 Zumba Aerobics

Friday 10.00-11.00 Pilates
 11.15-12.15 Pilates
 10 - 12 Jewellery Workshop (3rd Friday)

Age UK offer One 2 One Computer Sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at £5 per session. Also, DIY Computer Club with Sue is on Wednesdays from 10am - 12.

Age UK can help with advice on a range of issues including application for Pension Credit. If your telephone call goes to answer machine leave your name and number and they WILL get back to you. Call 0151 482 3456 Option 7.

Delamere Community Centre, Delamere Avenue, Eastham. CH62 9ED

Wednesday chair assisted exercise class 12-12.45 pm. £2

Wednesday Social afternoon 12.45-2.30 pm.

A 2nd Yoga class with Frances is being planned.

Tel. Diana 0151 327 8767

Please note that some of the classes etc above have changed recently.

St David's Church Food Bank, Mill Park Drive, Eastham, Wednesday 1pm – 2.30pm

For emergency food voucher tel. 0151 606 2005 (option 4 emergency financial aid)

Monday - Friday 9am - 5 pm or tel. Citizens Advice Bureau (freephone) 08082 78 78

48 Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm. At other times, including Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, tel. 0151 6776557.

Justin Madders – local MP for many of us, holds drop-in surgeries at Eastham Library on 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 10-4 (closed 1-2) and at Bromborough Village Centre on 2nd and 4th Friday of each month 10-4.

Coming Shortly

New Ferry Butterfly Park is currently open on Sundays 12-4.

Saturday 4th July, 2-5pm. Open Day at Poulton Gardens, Bebington. Adult admission £6 or £10 – includes cream tea. Hilary Ash will lead a meadow walk at 2.30 and 3.30.

Wednesday 15 July Age U.K's Coach Trip to British Ironworks £25. Departs Royal Oak, Bromborough 9.30 am. Return from Oswestry 4.30 pm. Tel. 0151 482 3456 option 3.

Thursday 16th July. Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight. The film An American in Paris will be shown. This is a 1.30 for 2pm start.

Saturday 18th and Sunday the 19th at Birkenhead Park 'We are Wirral'. This is a family event of music, food and entertainment. Further details: wearewirral.com

Until 1st November Lady Lever Art Gallery is displaying 'Crafting, a Lagacy', showcasing the work of May Morris.

The Gladstone theatre is looking for volunteer stewards, bar staff and ice cream sellers. No experience needed, contact 0151 643 8757.

If any of these announcements are now out of date, please let me know, so they can be amended or deleted.

Remember, if **you** have news to include in the monthly newsletter, please pass it to me by the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Chris Kellett – 07719 103 929 or 0151 327 8286 or Christinekellett@sky.com

JULY

Canada Day is the national holiday of Canada, celebrated on July 1st to mark the anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 1867. It commemorates the formation of Canada as a dominion through the British North America Act on July 1, 1867. Originally called Dominion Day, the holiday was renamed Canada Day in 1982, when Canada gained full sovereignty from the United Kingdom. Canada Day is celebrated nationwide with parades, flag displays, concerts, fireworks, and the singing of the national anthem "O Canada" Many Canadians also participate in barbecues, community festivals, and citizenship ceremonies. People often wear red and white, the national colours, and paint their faces or homes to show patriotic pride.

Bastille Day, celebrated on July 14, is a national holiday in France that marks the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789, the beginning of the French Revolution. It marks the end of the king's absolute power and the birth of the people's sovereignty. Celebrations include military parades, fireworks, and various festivities across the country, with the most notable event being the grand military parade along the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

The third Sunday in July is, apparently, Ice Cream Day, the 7th is World Chocolate Day and 16th is World Snake Day! There are actually several days in July dedicated to ice creams – so plenty of opportunities to indulge!

Bromborough U3A – Talk from Hearing Dogs

Thank you to all the members for attending the recent talk we provided at your meeting on 4 May 2026. Apologies for the technical issues for the screen presentation and I hope this didn't negatively impact on your attendance. As promised, I hope I can offer some of the questions and answers asked at the event as I appreciate that it was not always possible for individuals to hear the questions asked.

Why do we choose the breeds we do and not offer other breeds? The breeds currently trained are miniature poodles, Cockapoos, labradors and cocker spaniels. The size of the breed may be important to the individual, the home environment and any allergies. Apart from Labradors, the other dogs are non-shedding and require grooming every 6-8 weeks. The above breeds respond to training extremely well and are very intelligent. It is hoped in the future there may be other dogs introduced but no definite decision has been made yet.

From what age can anyone apply for a hearing dog? 7 years plus through to whatever age the owner can manage. A hearing dog for a 7 year old cannot go to school with the owner as this would be deemed too noisy and unsuitable for its welfare.

How does the training programme work for the dogs and their matched owner? Every dog must be matched to its owner as their needs may be different. This matching process is not done on a whim, and it takes time to see the dog's personality/character develop during the training period. The dog will need socialisation on an ongoing basis to new people, its environment, the noises around them. There is a strict training programme, and each dog must pass each stage of the programme to be fully certificated as a hearing assistance dog. This is when the dog will receive its own Hearing Dogs harness to wear when out in public.

There is no such thing as failure for the dog as there will always be possibilities to match the dog and become a companion dog. This may be because the dog doesn't get used to public transport, is nervous in certain situations – maybe in a large family environment. Care is taken to ensure the dog's welfare and that of the matched owner.

Grace was partnered with Polly at 18 months, and this was their first meeting. It was decided after working with Polly and separately with Grace, that they were well matched.

At what age do the dogs retire and what happens to them once they do retire? This will depend on a few factors which include the health of the dog, the breed of dog and if there are any other life factors that come into play. The size of the breed, for example, may determine how long they work for. A large dog such as a labrador may retire around 10 whilst a smaller dog such as a miniature poodle may retire at about 14.

In most cases the owner will want to keep their dog but sometimes it might not be possible and quite often the dog will be offered to the trainer who originally had the dog in the first 18 months or a member of staff. The dog's welfare remains of paramount importance.

What support and contact are provided to the dog throughout its life? The dog and owner are always supported usually every two/three weeks. Training will continue throughout its life depending on the needs of the owner. It will lessen over time but regular contact is essential. Hearing Dogs will come out to see each owner and dog in their home environment to ensure that the owner and training continue address the needs of both. It also ensures that the dog is thriving and is not subjected to bad treatment.

Does Grace (hearing dog) take direction from Polly's husband? Grace is Polly's dog though currently there is ongoing training for her. Polly will shortly be training with Grace to find her husband should she be in any difficulty. She will then be able to find and alert her husband

How old is Grace? Grace is four years old. She was placed with Polly once her initial training was completed and the right match was made – as described earlier.

Does Hearing Dogs pay for all the dog's needs i.e. food, vet's fees? The main thing is that no one should be refused having a hearing dog. However, once training is over the everyday needs may be met by the owner. Polly pays for expenses such as food, grooming, insurance and vet bills. There is no selection due to income and many owners are happy to meet the everyday expenses and vet's fees. However, should there be a large vet's bill, the charity would meet those fees if there were hardship issues.

Can you take Grace into any restaurant and where can you be located? An assistance dog is allowed into any public place be it shops, cafes, post offices. Hearing dogs are defined as an auxiliary aid and under the Equality Act of 2010 cannot be disallowed to enter. They can even be allowed in taxis. Some restaurants may have a dog friendly area, but an assistance dog does not have to be confined to this area. The owner will determine what is best for themselves and the dog.