

March 2013

Bramhall

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk



By Royal Appointment



ALL SMILES: *Discover the inside story behind our front page photograph*

Notes from the chair. . .

Dear Members

Hopefully now our thoughts can turn to spring although as I write there is still snow on the hills. The bulbs are breaking through and our gardens will soon be bursting into colour.

A reminder that all renewals of membership should be paid by 31st March.

Can group leaders please check the members in their groups have paid up, otherwise they will not be covered by U3A insurance. The Bramhall Festival will be held at the end of June and we have been invited to take part - if any of you would like to join in, please let myself or Mike Hollingsworth know as soon as possible.

Our charity stall helps to raise funds each month for our two charities St Ann's Hospice and Wellspring. We invite you to bring in items of dry and tinned food and toiletries for Wellspring or put your cash donation directly in the bottle.

The card group makes cards which are sold for £1 for the fund and the knitting group bring items from time to time. Teddies are still needed - patterns are available from Joy Armstrong - these go to the Rotary Clubs emergency boxes.

Dorothy Chesterman
Chairman

Chairman
Vice-chairman/secretary
Treasurer
Groups co-ordinators

Dorothy Chesterman
Joy Armstrong
Alistair Gardner
David Armstrong
Ann Smith
Kay Witham
Jane Hind
Mike Hollingsworth

Membership secretary
Speakers secretary
External Relations secretary

The story behind the picture

It all started when Peter Richardson, co-ordinator of our Art group spotted a stunning photograph of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in his daily newspaper. Peter, a dab hand at producing superb paintings from photographs, showed his painting to his Art group members and, the women especially, urged him to send it to the Royal couple. They were so taken with it that they sent him a thank you letter and the photograph on the front page. Peter has reproduced his painting and was due to bring it with him for the March meeting.

Group News . . . Birdwatching - The group is for anyone interested in birds and other wildlife which we may see. We meet at St Michael's car park at 9.15am for car sharing. The intention is to have trips once per month, probably the 4th Wednesday morning. Beginners are welcome. Please bring binoculars. If you need any more information contact me, Diana Oldfield. The next trip is to Marbury Country Park near Northwich on Wednesday 27th March. I suggest bringing a flask and snack as we normally get back to snack as we normally get back to Bramhall about 1.30 to 2pm.

The next **Church History group** is on Wed 10th April, starting with a series on Martin Luther. information from Dorothy Chesterman

The **Bridge Group** are organising a "club style" duplicate evening on Tuesday 14th May. We have some spare places and are inviting any club duplicate players in the U3A to join us. It should be a pleasant and relaxed evening provided you are tolerant of our relatively slow standard of play and possibly plenty of mistakes - you may get a good laugh!

The start will be at 7.15 pm and we will play around 18 or 20 boards. We should finish sometime around 10.15 to 10.30 and most definitely not later than 10.45. Firm booking with advance payment by 10th April. Cost is unlikely to exceed £3 per person; please contact Ann Smith email ann.smith307@ntlworld.com

The **Creative Writing Group** is looking for new members with the next meeting scheduled for April 10th. Contact Keith Wright for further details.

Walking group . . . Walking group . . . Walking group . . .

Wed 27 March

Thurs 11 April

Wed 24 April

Thurs 9 May

Wed 22 May

Buxton
6 miles,
moderate
Mike Hayward

Kelsall
5 miles,
easy/mod
Rob Knowles

Brabyns Park,
Marple
5.5miles, easy
Mike Hawkin

Woodford
5.5 miles,
easy
Derek Arkinstall

Bollington
5 miles,
moderate
Liz Pennington

Dates for Your diary

18 April

Albania Land of
Contrasts
Sue Young

16 May

My Life as a Tiller Girl
Carol Ward

20 June

That Certain Age
Gay Rhodes

18 July

Snow in My Beard - and a
Big Belly

(Learning and teaching
at a new medical school
in Uganda)

Dr Adrian Sutton

15 August

Lower Mosswood
Nature Reserve & Wildlife
Hospital

Ray Jackson

19 September

My Life in the Wine Trade
Ian Bostock

17 October

My Life in Jazz—So Far
Martin Rodger

**Bramhall U3A Meetings
are held monthly at
St Michael's Church,
every 3rd Thursday,
1.30pm for 2pm.**

Members' admission £1.

Community information

Five new articles have been added to the Community Information page of the Bramhall U3A website (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html>):

- Stockport College Summer School, which is particularly for U3A members, will run again in the week beginning 15th July. Workshops are on Modern Electronic Technology, Universal suffrage in the 19th Century, Space and the Universe, Forensic Science (from Crime scene to Court), Richard III, Forensic Science (Crime Scene Investigation).
- Stockport Talking Newspaper will provide for free a weekly CD with a recording of the Stockport Express and other items of interest to blind and partially-sighted people.
- Screening for the presence of an aortic aneurysm (a swelling of the main blood vessel) is now available on the NHS for men over 65 years with a Greater Manchester postcode for their GP surgery. You can self-refer.
- Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group, that will commission health and social services from 1st April, is conducting a survey on what people think of the NHS currently in supporting people with long-term conditions. The aim is to improve future services.
- Volunteers are needed for a research project at Manchester University on "The effects of Ageing on Multisensory Integration", i.e. how we use the information from seeing, touching and feeling. Alternatively contact Mike Hollingsworth, External Relations secretary, for information.

Calling all amateur photographers. Entries for the U3A Photography Competition 2013 - What Makes Britain Great?- must be sent to Photography Competition 2013, The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE by May 10th. Photographs must be in colour and of a landscape orientation. Entries should be of up to three photos on a CD containing a high resolution JPEG (at least 300 pixels) plus a print (at least 7" x 5") with name and contact details on the reverse. The 12 winning photographs will feature in the 2014 U3A calendar with a gift token and six calendars to the winners. Neither CD or print will be returned

Theatre, Visits and Outings ...

Event date	Event	Price
Wed 17th April	The Full Monty Lowry Theatre (matinee)*	£31
Friday 19th April	Black Country Living Museum	£21
Tuesday 23rd April	Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker (with the Science for All group)	£18
Wednesday 15th May	Skipton and Gawthorpe Hall	£11 (NT members) or £14 (non-NT members)
Friday 21st June	Ferry 'Cross the Mersey and Ness Gardens	£20
Fri to Sun 23rd-25th Aug	Edinburgh & the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo	£272 £40 single supp
Mon 2nd Dec	War Horse , Lowry Theatre (evening)	£50

There are still a few tickets left for **War Horse**. Also on sale are trips to: 1) the **Black Country Living Museum** – an insight into the first industrialised area; 2) **Skipton**, an interesting market town on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales coupled with the nearby National Trust property **Gawthorpe Hall**; 3) Something different – **Ferry 'Cross the Mersey**, a river cruise on the Mersey, and a visit to the award-winning **Ness Gardens**, which includes a guided tour of the gardens.

Edinburgh weekend: Four twin rooms are still available. The weekend includes two nights 4* hotel (breakfast and evening meal), seat at the Tattoo, entrances to Holyrood House and Royal Yacht Britannia, guided panoramic coach tour of Edinburgh and visit with tour and lunch at Dumfries House.

The costs include transport, driver's tip and tickets. Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via the U3A website, www.bramhallu3a.org.uk.

The dates of several future outings, for which bookings are not being taken yet, are posted on the website under Dates for your Diary. *Fully booked

Bramhall U3A Interest groups

Group	Co-ordinator	Meeting dates
Archaeology	Peter Levy	Outings usually on Fridays
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Jenny Gibson	Tuesday 2-4pm
Beginners Bridge	Rodney Inglesfield	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	4th Wednesday
Book group	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Bridge improvers	Rodney Inglesfield	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Canasta group	Sue Young	1st Thur (7pm) 3rd Mon (2pm)
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt Mondays
Choir	Chris Hollingsworth	2nd and 4th Tues 10am-noon
Church history	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt Weds 10am-noon
Computers	Charlie Barker	<i>t.b.a.</i>
Creative writing	Keith Wright	2nd Wednesday 2pm
Crown green bowling	Ann Smith	Mondays 10am
Cycling	Ann Green	Tuesdays
Digital Photography	Harry Bosworth	Mondays 2 - 4pm
Dining	Janet McMurray	Monthly - Tuesday or
Dining	Joy Armstrong	Wednesday evenings
Discussion group A	Dina Levy	4th Monday 2pm
Discussion group B	Pat Wright	3rd Friday 2pm
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Family History A	Diane Bright	Wednesdays 2pm
Family History B	Mary Hambleton	Wednesdays 2 - 4pm
Family History C	Brian Turner	First Thursday 1-3pm
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
French	Kay Witham	Alternate Mondays 2pm
Gardening	Ron Butler	Thursday 2pm
German - Intermediate	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays
History	Tom Fanning	Alt Thurs 10 -12
Italian	Helen Webster	Alt Thursdays 10am
Knitting	Mary Flynn	1st Tuesday 2pm
Line Dancing	Chris Chapman	Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm
Mapping Bramhall	Val Murray	3rd Monday 2pm
Music (for leisure)	Joanne Haigh	3rd Friday 10.30am
Norwegian	Joan Mobbs	Tuesdays 10.30am
Personal Image	Catherine Jones	Thursdays 10am-noon
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	Mon & Thur (ring for info)
Play Reading	Olga Hampson	1st Thur 10am Bramhall Library
Poetry	Lynn Whyte	2nd Monday 2pm
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	4th Sunday 8.30pm
Scottish country dance	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm.
Science for All	Mike Hollingsworth	4th Tuesday 2 - 4
Scrabble	Val Barker	2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
Spanish (upper int)	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10-11.30am
Spanish (beginners)	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2-4pm
Swimming	Jo Critchley	Mon 7pm; Thurs 9.30am H. Grove pool
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	1st + 2nd Wed and 4th Mon 10.30-12.00
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See newsletters and website
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth	
	Val Graham	See newsletters and website
Holidays	Peter Rhodes	See newsletters and website