

NOVEMBER



www.bramhallu3a.org.uk



Notes from the chair

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your committee.

Can I remind you that our December Christmas Party Meeting is by ticket only. Please contact Liz Pennington to get your ticket.

Light up Bramhall takes place on the weekend of 8 -9 December in the precinct and our choir will be taking part on the Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm

Reviewing our membership of just over 650, we were surprised to see that only 25% are men. The latest census shows that of the over 60s in Bramhall, 56% are ladies and 44% men. Your committee have been discussing what could we do to encourage more men to join us. A recent article in U3A News suggests that men look for different types of groups and have different ways of assessing if they should enrol for particular activities. Do you have any comments or suggestions on this? If so please contact Mike Hollingsworth who has agreed to co-ordinate a group to look into encouraging more men to join. One idea was a DIY group or activities like Men with Sheds.

A reminder that people are allowed to attend a monthly meeting, a group or go on a trip on 1 occasion before joining. Please note that in order not to invalidate our insurance cover, we can not accommodate children and young people at group or general meetings.

We are also looking at having a series of short /one off courses. if you have any suggestions, please let David, Ann or Liz know.

Following the success of the Science Study Day, the Network is planning a Literature Study Day for October 2014. Bramhall and Wilmslow are responsible for organising this. One suggestion was poems from World War 1 but I think this might be too narrow, I'd welcome your suggestions and also, if you have contacts with anyone who might be a suitable speaker I'd love to hear from you
Dorothy M Chesterman
Chairman

Walk Leaders needed for 2014 season

Please contact Bob Dumbarton if you can help out in any way next year.

A list of dates is available on request.

Group news

Line Dancing

Good fun plus exercise!!! Are you interested in joining the group? Please contact:

groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk subject "Line Dancing" for further details.

Creative Writing

This group urgently needs new members. If interested please contact Keith Wright or:

groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk subject "Creative Writing" for further details.

Bird Watching

There is now a list of forthcoming outings on the bird watching group page; new members are welcome - please see Groups Index page for details or groups@bramhallu3a.co.uk

Humour

National U3A has just appointed an adviser on setting up Humour Groups in local branches. The suggestion is that members would study individual comedians - humorous sketches etc and then spend some time at each meeting creating their own humorous material and entertaining each other.

If anyone is interested in getting a group off the ground please contact Ann Smith

U3A Birdwatching Group

Organisers Diana Oldfield and Paul Carter

The group is for anyone interested in birds and other wildlife which we may see. For local trips we meet at St Michael's Church car park for car sharing at 9.15am. For longer trips we may need an earlier start. Most outings take place on the 4th Wednesday morning each month, but this may need to be altered to take advantage of tides and avoid peak holiday times. Beginners are welcome, please bring binoculars.

For further information please phone Diana or Paul

While 'The Wellspring' are most grateful for all contributions to their food stocks, they find the following items the most useful:

**** Disposable razors ... Any tinned meats ...
Instant Coffee ... Sugar ****

Chairman
Vice-chairman/secretary
Treasurer
Groups organisers

Membership secretary
Speakers secretary
External Relations secretary

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

**Bramhall U3A meetings are held monthly at: St Michael's Church.
Every 3rd Thursday, 1.30pm for 2pm. Members Admission - £1.**

Group news continued

Bramhall U3A Birdwatching Group

Paul and I have put together a programme for the next four trips.

November 27 2013

Fog Lane Park & Chorlton Water Park

Meet at 9.15am at St Michael's Church car park. Morning visit to both locations with varied habitat. Hoping to see ring necked parakeets at Fog lane plus wintering duck species at Chorlton.

Perhaps the odd raptor?

January 8 2014 Woodford area

Paul will take us round his local patch for the morning. Meet at 9.15 am St Michael's Car park. We will still car share as there might not be much parking available at the birding site.

Kingfisher and dipper have both been sighted in this area. Also possibility of short-eared and barn owls.

January 29 2014 - Frodsham marshes and fields

Meet at 9.15 am for a morning outing. This area is noted for wintering wildfowl and waders. We may see raptors hunting over the marsh

March 5 2014 - Burton Mere RSPB/Parkgates (Wirral)

Full day out. Meet at 9.15am at St Michael's car park. This date has been picked to take advantage of a high tide during the day. A good list is likely especially if there is a good onshore wind. Burton Mere is a new reserve based near Inner Marsh farm and has a visitor centre.



Swans at Leighton Moss, photo by Graham Porter



We had a very interesting day at Leighton Moss in June, with good views of sedge warblers posing for Graham Porter's photo.

Dates for Your Dairy

19 December
Christmas Party
Tickets £3



2014

16 January
When did Mick Jagger Sleep Here?
Barbara Foster

20 February (AGM)
A Tribute to Joyce Grenfell
Doreen Firth

20 March
Talking Newspaper
Vincent Knowles

Walking Group

Wed 27 Nov
Disley
6 miles, Mod.
Derek Arkinstall

December
No Walks

Just to update you regarding our next walk on Wed 27th Nov. This is a 6 miles moderate walk, starting from Disley around the corner from the main gate, and goes via the canal to 'Severn Springs', into Lyme ' by the back door' (the East Gate), past the reservoir and the Cage, back to the main Gate.

Derek Arkinstall will be leading and we will be meeting in St Michael's large car park at 09.30. This will be the last walk for 2013 so it will be nice to see a big turn-out.
regards
Bob

Rapid change in the Arctic: What does it mean to you?

This talk by Professor Terry Callaghan, Nobel prize winner, will be given at 2pm on Tuesday 28th January in St, Michael's Church Hall. Cost is £2, including refreshments. Entrance will be by ticket only, which will be available at the November, December and January monthly meetings and the Science for All meeting in November. Enquiries to groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk, with subject to read "Science for All". For further details please see Mike Hollingsworth

Community news

Light Up Bramhall will take place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December. The **Light Up** ceremony will be from 4pm on the Saturday outside the Bramhall Methodist church. **Bramhall U3A Choir** will be performing in the Precinct on the Sunday from 3pm.

The **NW Region of the U3A Summer School** will be on the 26-29th August 2014 at Newton Rigg College near Penrith. Topics covered will be: Art, Archaeology, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, Geology, History of Ideas, Music. Outline details are at <http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=421&page=3>. Fuller details and booking forms will be available at a later date.

A **Researcher at Manchester University** is investigating the perception of musical consonance, whether chords sound pleasant or unpleasant, and how perception changes between younger and older people. Volunteers must have normal hearing and have not played an instrument in the last 5 years.

Another **Researcher at Manchester University** is studying computer-aided detection of early signs of dementia/Alzheimer's disease. The first part of the project is concerned with the ethical issues and practicalities. This study will involve a one hour interview and keeping an audio diary for 2 weeks recording your feelings about Alzheimer's disease triggered by news items, personal experiences with friends, etc.

Further information about the research projects can be found on the Bramhall U3A website (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html>). Contact Mike Hollingsworth, External Relations secretary, for information on any of the above topics.

Theatre, Visits and Outings

On yet another sunny day, 43 members visited the **Royal Crown Derby factory and Kedleston Hall**. The factory tour was a revelation. We saw every stage of production and, with their quality control system, we now know why their china is so expensive.

We then went to Kedleston Hall, the former home of the Curzon family. The Hall has been renovated over the last few years and paintings and upholstery etc. are in their original condition. An excellent visit rounded off by the usual tea and cake.

Holiday to Southern Ireland - May 2014

Details of the holiday to Ireland along with booking forms are now available and can be downloaded from the website. For further information please contact Peter Rhodes



Date	New Events - BOOK NOW	Price
Wed 27 Nov	BBC Media City, Salford*	£7.25
2014 Tues 21 Jan	Tour of John Rylands Library & afternoon tea at The Hilton Beetham Tower	£26
Mon 10 Feb	Tour of Manchester Town Hall plus the option of afternoon tea	£16 (four + tea) £5 (four only)

Date	**Full but with waiting list**	Price
Fri 22 Nov	Christmas at Chatsworth Special (90 places)**	£18
MoN 2 Dec	WarHorse, Lowry Theatre (evening)**	£50
2014 Wed 22 Jan	Tonight's the Night, Palace Theatre (matinee)**	£34

On sale today is the January outing, a guided tour of the beautiful **John Rylands Library** on Deansgate followed by afternoon tea at the **Hilton Beetham Tower**, the highest building in Manchester. Our February outing is a tour of the **Manchester Town Hall**, one of Manchester's most spectacular buildings, plus the option of afternoon tea. These outings follow our tradition of "local" outings in winter months. You can travel for free using your "bus" pass. *One place is available on the outing to **BBC Media City** as the BBC has increased numbers from 20 to 22 people. The events marked with a ** are full but you can apply to go on a waiting list. Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via the U3A website (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/>).

The events marked with ** are full but you can apply to go on the waiting list. The costs for all outings include transport, driver's tip and tickets. Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via our website www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/. The dates of several future outings, for which bookings are not being yet taken, are posted on the website under *Dates for your Diary*.

Cancellation and Guest policies

A full refund will only be made if a booking is cancelled by telephone within 2 days of the booking being made.
A refund of transport costs will be made if there is a sufficient number of members on the trip to cover transport costs.
A refund of ticket costs can only be made where either the ticket has not yet been purchased, e.g. National Trust properties, or the ticket is sold to another member.
Guest policy - Non-members can come on an outing as the guest of a member on one occasion only.

Bramhall **U3A** Interest groups

Group	Coordinator	Meeting dates
Archaeology	Peter Levy	Outings usually on Fridays
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Douglas Moore	Tuesday 2-4pm
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	4th Wednesday
	Paul Carter	9.15 am (may change)
Book group	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Bridge - Improvers	Ray Lee	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Canasta group	Sue Young	1st Thu @ 7pm + 3rd Mon @ 2pm
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt. Mondays
Chess	Arthur Mellor	Alt. Tuesday mornings
Choir	Chris Hollingsworth	1st & 3rd Mondays 9.30 - 11.30
Church history	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt. Weds 10am-noon
Computers	Michael lacey	Please call for details
Creative writing	Keith Wright	2nd Wednesday 2pm
Cribbage	Val Barker	4th Thursday 7.30pm
Crown green bowling	Ann Smith	Mondays 10am
Cycling	Ann Green	Tuesdays
Dining	Janet McMurray	Monthly - Tuesday or Wednesday, evenings
Dining	Joy Armstrong	4th Monday 2pm
Discussion group A	Dina Levy	3rd Friday 2pm
Discussion group B	Pat Wright	2nd Sunday - contact for details
Dog walking	Ann Smith	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd & 4th Thursday 2-4pm
Essential Oils	Linda Vann	Wednesdays 2pm
Family History A	Diane Bright	Wednesdays 2 - 4pm
Family History B	Mary Hambleton	First Thursday 1-3pm
Family History C	Brian Turner	4th Wednesday 10.30am
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	Alternate Mondays 2pm
French	Kay Witham	Thursday 2pm
Gardening	Ron Butler	2nd and 4th Tuesdays
German Intermediate	Alison Davids	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
History	Angela Devaney	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
	Margaret France	Alt Thursdays 10am
Italian - improvers	Helen Webster	1st Tuesday 2pm
Knitting	Mary Flynn	Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm
Line Dancing	Chris Chapman	3rd Monday 2pm
Mapping Bramhall	Val Murray	3rd Friday 10.30am
Music for leisure	Joanne Haigh	Tuesdays 10.30am
Norwegian	Joan Mobbs	Thursdays 10am-noon
Personal Image	Catherine Jones	Mon 11.30-12.30 + Thurs 10-11
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	1st Thursday 10am
Play reading Group	Olga Hampson	2nd Monday 2pm
Poetry	Lynn Whyte	4th Sunday 8.30pm
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm
Scottish country dance	Sheila Bruce-Smith	4th Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Science for All	Mike Hollingsworth	2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
Scrabble	Val Barker	Thursdays 2-4pm
Spanish Intermediate	Diana Blaney	Tuesdays 10-11.30am
Spanish Upper Intermediate	Gaye Huddart	Thurs 9.30am - Hazel Grove pool
Swimming	Jo Critchley	1st + 2nd Wed and 4th Mon
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	10.30 - 12.00
		See newsletters and website
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	Bi-monthly - contact for details
Wine Tasting	Jenny Richmond	See newsletters
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth	and
	Val Graham	website
	Jenny Richmond	
	Liz Pennington	
Holidays	Peter Rhodes	See newsletters and website