

March 2014

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Bramhall

We have 55 interest groups.
Are you in one?

Bramhall U3A meet monthly at St Michael's Church hall.
Every 3rd Thursday, 1.30pm for 2pm. Members Admission - £1.



Notes from the chair

Hello Everyone,

This is my very first note for the Newsletter since becoming your Chairman and what a busy month it has been, I haven't known whether I have been on my head or my feet but I suppose it will calm down in time (I hope).

We held a 'thank you' lunch for all the Group Co-ordinators which was an excellent occasion here at St. Michael's (except that I forgot the bell which Dorothy had kindly presented me with and had to gain silence by banging the table with a spoon)! The Group Co-ordinators work very hard making sure that whatever group you belong to, you are happy, it all works well and is enjoyable. It is also a good opportunity for the committee to meet the Co-ordinators and put faces to the names. As usual for Bramhall U3A, there was a great deal of noisy friendly chatter.

At the lunch, we mentioned the **ICE** (In Case of Emergency) system of having particular numbers in your mobile phone for the ease of emergency services. It was obvious by the reaction that quite a few people had not heard about this so Mike Hollingsworth will have further information for you today – do take a look.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are hoping to run a first aid course. The powers that be keep on moving the goal posts and it is important that we all keep up to date in order to be able to deal with an accident or emergency within our own age group or indeed, with our grandchildren.

Anyone who hasn't renewed their membership, please put your skates on as 31st March is the cut-off date. Could I also remind all Group Co-ordinators just to check that everyone in your group has actually renewed their membership and has a 2014 GREEN membership card.

I am writing this after virtually a week of glorious weather, sometimes a little cool but wall-to-wall blue skies and wonderful sunshine. Next week is the first day of Spring which sees some of us going on a U3A day trip, which we hope will be accompanied by Chris's usual sunshine.

Joy A. Armstrong - Chairman

U3A on-line courses - Six new U3A online courses will start at the end of March. Enrolment by March 29. Go to www.onlinecourses.u3a.org.uk for more information.

A big thank you

20 February 2014

Could you please thank the committee and all the members for the very generous gift of Garden tokens you gave me today. It was a complete surprise and Ruth has instructed me to use it carefully so I've something to mark the occasion. I don't know of a U3A shrub but I'm sure I will find something suitable - perhaps a blue and yellow flowering bush.

It was a real pleasure to set up Bramhall U3A and the support I've had from everyone is what really made it. Here's to the next 4 years.

Best Wishes, Dorothy Chesterman

The Choir would like to say a huge thank you to Adrian Lawson for getting us started 4 years ago. He has provided us with music and entertainment over the last four years. We wish him well in his retirement.

We would like to welcome Valerie Brook as our new leader. We will still be 'Singing for Fun', just slightly more structured.

For the men out there, we currently have 4 male singers and more would be welcome."

Chris Hollingsworth

Thanks to our generous members, we raised £156 for The Wellspring at the AGM. Gratefully received!

****Map Reading****

A short Map Reading Course is proposed for the near future which can be attended by any member of Bramhall U3A. The course will include an understanding of map symbols, grid references, contours, map orientation, measuring distances and route mapping.

If you are interested, contact Bob Dumbarton - r.dumbarton@talktalk.net

****First Aid Training****

We are planning a one off, two hour, **first aid training** session during either April or May; date and venue to be arranged once we have an idea of numbers.

It would be run by a fully qualified trainer from firstaidtrainingstockport.co.uk and will deal with issues relevant to our age range.

The cost will be £10 per head.

Please contact ann.smith307@ntlworld.com subject, First Aid.

Chairman	Joy Armstrong
Vice-chair	Peter Webster
Business Secretary	Dorothy Chesterman
Treasurer	Alistair Gardner
Groups organisers	Ann Smith
	David Armstrong
Membership	Kay Witham
Speakers	Jane Hind
External Relations	Mike Hollingsworth

Groups **Birdwatching Group News** - So far this year we have had 3 trips, all of which produced an interesting and varied list.

The first trip of the year was to Woodford, with Paul taking us round his local patch. We were amazed to see a little owl so close to home. Due to the adverse weather in January we changed the Runcorn trip to Reddish Vale which proved a good choice, with views of Great Spotted woodpecker, Goosander and Grey wagtail. In early March we had a full day out on the Wirral, visiting the recently opened RSPB reserve at Burton Mere and Parkgate marshes. This day gave us our record list of 46 species, including Peregrine falcon and a pair of avocets.

Birdwatching Group Programme

March 26th Cromford and Carsington - The Cromford area is a good place to see hawfinches. Carsington water has wintering duck and Great Northern divers. We hope to see dipper also. This will be a day trip.

April 23rd Woolston Eyes - This is a trip organised by one of the group members, Dave Morton. We will be guided round this interesting reserve by one of the volunteer wardens. There will be charge of £2. Numbers are limited to 12 so please phone or email Diana, (439 9219) to book a place. We will be leaving from St Michael's as usual at 9.15 and probably be back about 2pm.

April 29th Goyt Valley and Daneblower - We will be on the lookout for summer migrants especially redstarts and warblers. We may also see ring ouzel. Morning trip.

May 21st Coombs Valley - This RSPB reserve is good for warblers, flycatchers and other woodland birds. This will most likely be a day trip as the reserve is in Staffordshire.

June 25th South Stack, Anglesey and possibly Holyhead harbour - We will take advantage of long hours of daylight and fine(?) weather to get an early start, leaving St Michael's at 7am. South stack is impressive and we should see lots of breeding seabirds such as puffins, kittiwakes and fulmars. This is one of the few places in the UK to see choughs which are confined to the western extremities of the country. If time permits we will go to Holyhead harbour looking for Black guillemots.

New members welcome. No previous experience required, just a pair of binoculars. We meet at 9.15am at St Michael's church car park for car sharing. Please contact the organisers for further details.

**Diana Oldfield
and
Paul Carter**



Humour Group - The group will meet each month at 2pm on the 4th Thursday. First meeting Thursday 27th March. All you need is your wit and your laughter!!! Please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with a subject heading Humour Group.

Proposed Photography Group - We have been asked to form a Photography Group so would like to hear from any budding photographers who would be interested in such a Group. Please email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with subject heading "Photography Group".

4 dates for your diary

17 April

The history of the Nevills of Bramall Hall
Dr Diana Leitch

15 May

Beehive power
Barbara Davies

19 June

1950's Rock & Roll
Bill Jubb

17 July

From meadows to medals - Creating a RHS show garden at Tatton Park
Mary Hoult

Upcoming walks

Wed 26 Mar.

Tatton Park
4 miles. Easy.
Pam Rhodes

Thurs 10 April

Nelson Pit
5 miles. Easy.
Marjorie Davies

Wed 23 April

Styal
5.5 miles. Mod.
Liz Pennington

Thur 8 May Rowarth

6 miles. Easy/Mod.
Liz Cresswell

Wed 28 May

Three Shire heads
6 miles. Easy/Mod.
Bob Dunbarton

Community

Have you ever thought of ICE - By putting the person you would want to be contacted **In Case of Emergency** (ICE) in your mobile phone it makes it much easier for relatives to be contacted.

Use the **ICE** prefix (e.g. **ICE son** followed by the number) All emergency services in the UK, Europe and the USA know to look for **ICE** if you are Injured or rendered unconscious.

Copycat websites

Don't be caught out by Copycat websites – These are websites pretending to be Government websites but in fact they will charge you a fee for a service the government often provides for free.

If you Google certain services (e.g. Renew Passport), you may find that a copycat website will appear top of the list, as it is a paid advert. It will look genuine and may look like a government site, but it is not. **All official Government sites will use the web suffix .gov.uk or .nhs.uk**

For further information on any of these, go to www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community or contact Mike Hollingsworth

Theatre and Outings

January's visit to the John Rylands Library was fascinating.

Our guide opened our eyes to places that we just had not noticed. The tour was followed by afternoon tea in Cloud 23 at the Hilton Hotel. With spectacular views and a clear day, we

thoroughly enjoyed ourselves spotting different areas of Manchester.

Manchester Town Hall was the venue in February. Another great guide gave us the history and gossip of the building.



John Rylands Library



Afternoon tea, Cloud 23, Hilton hotel

Date	Events open for booking	Price
Thurs 10 April	Lancaster, Bowland and Scorton Barn (includes am refreshments & lunch)	£28
Fri 9 May	Malvern Flower Show	£30 (non-RHS members) or £29.50 (RHS members)
Wed 2 July	Dunham Massey (Stamford Military Hospital Exhibition)	£3 (N.T. members); £13 (non-N.T. members)
Wed 17 Sep	Jersey Boys , Palace theatre (matinee)	£48
Sun 12 Oct	Riverdance , Opera House (matinee)	£41.50

Date	All full but with a waiting list	Price
Fri 21 Mar	Boundary Mill & Canal Cruise** (includes lunch & pm refreshments)	£24
Wed 3 to Fri 5 Sept	Oxford – Churchills, Colleges & Codebreakers**	£225 (+ £50 single supplement)

New on sale this month is the early **July trip to Dunham Massey**, which has undergone a transformation to its WW1 incarnation of the Stamford Military Hospital. As we expect a lot of interest in this visit, the coach will make two trips, leaving Bramhall at 10.30 and 12.30. There will be **106 places available** for our members. This visit is an absolute must in this Centenary year.

* Holiday to Ireland *

May I remind travellers on the holiday to Ireland in May that they should take with them photo identification e.g. passport, bus pass or driving licence. *Euros* will be required for spending money. Once again tips have been included in the price of the holiday. **Peter Rhodes**

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.

Group	Co-ordinator	Days/times
Archaeology	Peter Levy	Usually Fridays
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Douglas Moore	Tuesday 2-4pm
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	Usually 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 2-4pm
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
Dining	Joy Armstrong	evenings
Discussion group A	Dina Levy	4th Monday 2pm
Discussion group B	Pat Wright	3rd Friday 2pm
Dog walking	Ann Smith	2nd Sunday - contact for details
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Essential Oils	Linda Vann	2nd & 4th Thursday 2-4pm
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 10.30am
History	Angela Devaney	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
	Margaret France	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
Humour	Joyce Kilgour	4th Thursday
	Ann Gray	2pm
Italian improvers	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	See website for details
Play reading Group	Olga Hampson	1st Thursday 10am
Poetry	Lynn Whyte	2nd Monday 2pm
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	4th Sunday 8.30pm
Science for All	Mike Hollingsworth	4th Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Scottish country dance	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm
Scrabble	Val Barker	2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
Spanish Intermediate	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2-4pm
Spanish Upper Intermediate	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10-11.30am
Swimming	Jo Critchley	Thurs 9.30am - Hazel Grove pool
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	1st + 2nd Wed and 4th Mon
		10.30 - 12.00
Ukulele	Joyce Kilgour	1st + 3rd Tuesday
	Ann Gray	2pm
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See newsletter and website
Wine Tasting	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly - contact for details
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth	See newsletters
	Val Graham	and website
Holidays	Peter Rhodes	See newsletters and website