

September 2014

www.bramhallu3a.org.

Bramhall

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



Notes from the chair

BU3A members, +1, at Yorkshire Sculpture Park - July 2014

Hello everyone and welcome (oh dear, I sound like the late David Frost),

Recently, I was one of the fortunate 51 members who went on the excellent U3A three-day trip to Oxford. We stayed in a nice hotel and managed to fit in Blenheim Palace, a tour of Oxford, the Ashmolean Museum of Art & Archeology, free time and Bletchley Park and all without a drop of rain!

Although we have had to close a couple of small groups, we have two new groups. All our groups are up and running and we hope you will enjoy taking part. Do keep your eyes on the Website and Newsletter for changes and information. David or Ann are usually at the monthly meetings if you have any queries. Could I just reiterate that we have a reputation as being the friendly U3A. Please, whenever you are in a group or on an outing, look out for new members, particularly those who are on their own, offer a friendly smile and word and help them to feel wanted and able to join in. It is not easy to join things if you are on your own, particularly if this is a fairly new experience and none of us knows when that person may happen to be us.

As you know, we have enjoyed a singing group from the start of our U3A, with some 40 members all enjoying a good sing-song under the excellent leadership of Christine. We have decided to rename the Choir, now to be known as SINGING FOR FUN, which sums up its intentions very well. Prior to the exit of the pianist, Christine announced that she wished to stand down as leader, as she had carried out this role ever since we started, while of course continuing as a singer. We have a group of volunteers who will perform some of the tasks formerly falling to Chris, so that the role of leader is less onerous.

We are trying very hard to find a new pianist or keyboard player and are sure we will find someone before too long. Meanwhile, please, all you singers, and would-be singers, continue to turn up for your fortnightly sing-song, otherwise we will never get a pianist to play for just a few. We want to restore this group to what it was - a happy band of people who enjoyed singing, purely for pleasure, and having a chat over a cup of tea or coffee at half time. It is always good to see new faces and even if you do not consider yourself to be a 'singer', everyone can sing within a group and enjoy the fun and camaraderie, so do come and join in.

Just a note about Copyright, as many people seem to get confused between the rules of Copyright and Performing Rights. Bramhall U3A hold the correct Licences but the rules of Copyright in particular are strict and it is very easy to fall foul of them. If this happens, it can involve a heavy fine, going into thousands of pounds. Your U3A Committee are Trustees and it is on our heads that any such fines would fall. As much as we all work hard for our U3A and thoroughly enjoy what we do, none of us is prepared to risk being fined. This U3A can only operate under the correct rules and guidelines. It would be very sad and most unlike the spirit of Bramhall U3A members, if we have to lose a large, happy group of singers as a result of this issue, so come along all you singers and sing your hearts out (ready for Christmas) whilst we do our darnedest to find a pianist.

Joy A. Armstrong, Chairman

Chairman
Vice-chair
Business Secretary
Treasurer
Groups organisers

Membership
Speakers
External Relations

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

Talks ...

16 October

Penguin Safari to
The Falklands

Peter Kirk

20 November

A Christmas Cracker

Michael Burgess

18 December

A Christmas Party

U3A Members

Groups **Gardening - CHANGE OF DETAILS** for the Group. Please now contact **Marilyn Hughes**. See website for details

Creative writing - The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and we are starting to do the U3A online Creative Writing course as a group. We hope this will inspire us all. New members are always welcome.

Card Making - We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons of the month and members make the cards, which are now on display, for purchase in aid of The Wellspring. If you would like a card made for a special occasion, then please speak to Jill on the stall or contact Dorothy Chesterman. See website for details

Table Tennis - Session dates for table tennis are changing to: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10.30-12.00 and 1st and 3rd Fridays 10.30-12.00

Pub Quiz - The group always meet on the last Thursday in the month. It is not always the 4th. Further details? Contact Sheila Porter.

Science for all - We meet for talks at 2pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Lounge at St. Michaels. The programme for the Autumn is:
23rd September – Talk on "Fritz Haber – Nobel prizewinner and War Criminal";
28th October – "19th Century Manchester Scientists – a walking tour of Manchester";
25th November - "Adults with Cystic Fibrosis: A Medical Success Story". Please contact Mike Hollingsworth find out more.

NEW GROUP - Fitness & Flexibility - Mondays -10-30am-11-30am & 11.30am-12.30pm. Suitable for both men and women and includes a cardiovascular workout along with floor exercises. Contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk subject Fitness & Flexibility.

Line dancing - has started again after the summer break. Everyone is welcome to come and give it a try. Every Wednesday at 1.30pm. Sept 10th to Nov 26th in 2014, Jan 14th to Apr 1st & Apr 15th to July 1st in 2015. For details call Chris Chapman. See website for details

Personal Image - For details of the next Personal Image course please contact Catherine Jones. See website for details

Beginners Bridge - starting on Tuesday 23rd September at 2pm. Further details contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

New Groups - We wish to expand the range of interest groups available. If you feel that we need a new group to cover a particular subject/topic and/or you are willing to lead a new group in any area of interest, please let us know through groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with new groups as the subject.

& Walks

Wed 24 Sept

**Chadkirk &
Peak Forest Canal**

4 miles. Easy.
Chris Stubbs
439.7691

Thurs 9 Oct

Werneth Low

6 miles. Mod.
Mike Hawkin
430.3734

Wed 22 Oct

Goyt Valley

5 miles. Easy/Mod.
Marjorie Davies
439.2130

Thurs 13 Nov

Over Alderley

4 miles. Easy/Mod.
Bob Dumbarton
439.8720

Wed 26 Nov

t.b.a.

Tony Sharples
312.4469

December - No walks

Bramhall U3A Christmas Party - 18 December 2014 - Tickets will be on sale at the next meeting on 16 October. The ticket price has been held at £3 per person. Numbers are restricted to 130, so book early.

Can you help - we would like to make and sell a Bramhall U3A Christmas Booklet. If you have any favourite or successful recipes and/or tips; tales of childhood Christmases or general Christmas trivia, please pass it on to any committee member or contact Helen or Peter Webster

Theatre and Outings



Blenheim Palace Italian Garden



Blenheim Palace library



Bletchley Park

Modern sculpture and a grand house fitted nicely together when we visited Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Nostell Priory. Modern materials and style contrasted sharply with traditional furnishings and portraiture. Plas Newydd in Anglesey provided a delightful day out. A beautiful house had many paintings by Whistler and a striking mural painted by him in the dining room. The views of Snowdonia were spectacular as we watched people water skiing in the Menai Strait.



Plas Newydd

Date	Events open for booking	Price
Wed 19 Nov	Co-op Pioneers Museum & The Chocolate House (includes morning coffee and lunch)	£24
Wed 18 Mar 2015	The Producers, Palace Theatre (matinee)	£28

Bookings for the **Co-op Museum in Rochdale**, the birthplace of the Co-operative Society, and the **Chocolate House** have been brisk but there are still a few places left. Tickets for the smash hit Broadway Musical, **The Producers**, a hilarious musical comedy, must be booked by the end of September.

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Sun 12 Oct	Riverdance, Opera House (matinee)	£41.50
Wed 29 Oct	Blackpool Illuminations Plus - Fish & Chips supper	£16
Tues 6 Jan 2015	The Curious Incident of the Dog at the Night Time, Lowry theatre (evening)	£40
Tues 13 Jan 2015	One Man, Two Guvnors, Lowry theatre (evening)	£31

The Oxford trip was a huge success with three very different days. Home to the Dukes of Marlborough, Blenheim Palace (birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill) was our first port of call. The splendour of the Palace, both buildings and interior, was breathtaking, room after beautiful room. The grounds too were lovely with beautiful Italian and Rose gardens, even a secret garden; fortunately the weather was good which allowed us to explore.

Day 2 was spent in Oxford. An excellent guide took us on a coach trip around Oxford pointing out places of interest and some history. This journey was followed by a walking tour which included Trinity College - always good to see how these impoverished undergraduates live. A free afternoon gave us plenty of time to wander and visit those famous sights, museums, colleges and libraries. Some of us also wandered down to the river and observed the art of punting.

The last day, which to many people was the highlight of the visit, was spent at Bletchley Park. The code breaking activities there during World War II are well known. To see the complexity of the machines they designed to break the codes was amazing. The story was told in different ways, partly by a guide who took us around the grounds explaining the history and organization and also by wandering through the huts with their original layout. We were treated to a demonstration of one of the machines designed by Alan Turing - a very humbling experience.

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.bramhall3a.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	Co-ordinator	Days/times
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Douglas Moore	Tuesday 2-4pm
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	Usually 4th Wednesday @ 9.15am
Books	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Bridge - Beginners	Peter Levy	Tuesdays 2 - 4pm
Bridge - Improvers	Ray Lee	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Canasta	Sue Young	1st Thu @ 7pm + 3rd Mon @ 2pm
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt. Mondays 2-4pm
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 A	Dina Levy	3rd Friday 2pm
Discussion B	Pat Wright	2nd Sunday - contact for details
Dog walking	Ann Smith	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	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	Mondays 10.30-11.30 & 11.30-12.30
Fitness & flexibility	Liz Pennington	Alternate Mondays 2pm
French	Kay Witham	Contact Marilyn Hughes for details
Gardening	Marilyn Hughes	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10.30am
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	See website for details
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	1st Thursday 10am
Play reading	Olga Hampson	2nd Monday 2pm
Poetry	Lynn Whyte	Last Thursday each month
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	4th Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Science for All	Mike Hollingsworth	Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm
Scottish country dance	Sheila Bruce-Smith	2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
Scrabble	Val Barker	1st & 3rd Mondays 9.30 - 11.30
Singing for fun	t.b.a.	Thursdays 2-4pm
Spanish - Intermediate	Diana Blaney	uesdays 10-11.30am
Spanish - Upper Inter.	Gaye Huddart	1st + 3rd Wed & Fri 10.30-12.00
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	1st + 3rd Tuesday
Ukulele	Joyce Kilgour	2pm
	Ann Gray	See newsletter and website
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	Bi-monthly - contact for details
Wine Tasting	Jenny Richmond	See newsletters
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth	and website
	Val Graham	See newsletters and website
Holidays	Gill Moorhouse	