

2015
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bramhall

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk



U3A Christmas Spirit

Thanks to the generosity of our members and the hard work of the knitting and card making groups, altogether in 2014 we raised £1095 for our chosen charities, The Wellspring and St Anne's Hospice. Of this, £710 was donated to The Wellspring and £385 to St Anne's Hospice, both of whom were most grateful for our efforts.

At the Christmas party, nearly £300 was raised through the tombola and the other events and Peter Richardson raised £170 for the Macmillans with his skilful portraits. Once again, thanks are due to those who put time and effort into these productive and entertaining features.



Notes from the chair ... First and foremost, I hope you all had a really enjoyable Christmas and I wish you a very happy, healthy and fun-filled 2015. There has been an incredible number of people who have succumbed to very heavy colds, accompanied by a really nasty and long-lasting cough. Hope you have all avoided this bug and if you haven't, hope you have finally got rid of it.

I usually try to put something funny into 'my blurb' but seem to be 'funnied out' so instead will tell you a sad little tale I heard over the Christmas period. Chatting to a lady in Costco over a cup of coffee, a friend of mine, accompanied by her two adult daughters, just remarked that she was glad of a sit down having been 'dragged' round the shops for what seemed like hours by her two girls. The stranger remarked on how lucky she was as *her* daughters never ever asked her if she would like to go to the shops, out for a meal or just for a coffee and unless she went out alone, she never saw a soul. This lady was of course, immediately told of U3A and recommended that she got cracking with her own life and if ever her daughters suddenly did remember her, she should tell them "I am too busy having fun, thanks". I tell you this tale just in case you know of anyone alone who would enjoy our U3A just as we do.

All our Groups are starting again this month and you should know from your Group Leader just what is going on - if you have forgotten, please give them a ring. Don't forget, if anyone would like to see a new group set up, please mention it to Ann Smith or one of her new helpers, Pat George or Helen Webster who are taking on the role of Ann's new assistant Group Co-ordinators.

Have you ever considered looking at Groups other than the one(s) you currently attend? Bramhall U3A have 60+ groups and there are many groups and activities within Bramhall Village itself. The more you do, the healthier you stay and the younger you feel (well, on some days). We are told by all the medics that getting out and taking part is all to the good.

We are coming up to the AGM and I give my grateful thanks to my husband David and Sandy who, as stated, are both stepping down this time. They have served our committee well over a number of years and will be missed, although they will still be around of course. I do trust that those who would like to come on our committee are busy completing their nominations, then hopefully we can look forward to another enjoyable and successful year. The role on our Committee carried out for by many years by Sandy Millard is that of Minutes Secretary; we are now of course, seeking a replacement. We only have a committee meeting once a month on the second Tuesday afternoon and if anyone is interested, I look forward to hearing from them.

If you have not already done so, could I just remind you to remember to send in your membership renewals and cheque (accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope). At Thursday's meeting there will be a box in which to pop your membership renewal or new membership applications - Kay will not be with us as she is at home recovering from surgery and we wish her well.

The Singing for Fun Group had another 'Pianist Crisis' over Christmas but I am pleased to say (with everything crossed yet again), this problem has now been overcome and we are on the right course once more, for which we are most thankful and the Singers can keep singing!

Talks ...

19 February

AGM

BU3A Members

19 March

Talking newspapers

Vincent Knowles

& Walks

Thursday 12 Feb

Nelson Pit

4 miles - E/M

David Pechey

Wednesday 25 Feb

Adlington

5 miles - M

Bob Dumbarton

Community - The **NW Region U3A** is again running its popular **Residential Summer School**. It will be held 1 - 4 September 2015 at Newton Rigg College, Penrith. Courses on offer are: Archaeology, Geology, Creative Writing, Introduction to Digital Photography, Architecture, Japanese Encounter, Egyptology, Introduction to Philosophy. Full board residential delegate rate is £300 with a discount of £40 if you pay the deposit before 31 January.

Get 'appy and stay 'ealthy Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group have released a Stockport Health and Care Finder app to use on your smartphone. The app will give users rapid and easy access to up-to-date local health and social care information including a directory of pharmacies, GPs, hospitals, clinics, care homes and other services. The app can also be used to send out reminders about health checks and screening entitlements. If you have a compatible Android or Apple device you can download the new **Stockport Health & Care Finder app** by going to your app store and searching for it by name.

Stockport Council is looking for volunteers to teach **I.T. skills** to complete beginners. It would involve a series of six 1-hour sessions helping learners with the basics of the keyboard, the internet and email using PCs in one of Stockport libraries. Volunteers, as well as having I.T. skills, would need patience and an empathy with such learners.

For further details of 1 and 2 above see the Community Information page of the Bramhall U3A website: www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html. Contact Mike Hollingsworth for information on item 3.

GROUPS - New group - the Real Railways Group is for anyone Interested in real railways old and new; local, regional and national railway history; travelling on/looking at preserved trains; visiting railway preservation societies, railway museums and, eventually, railway walks. Meetings will be once a month. If you are interested, excellent, then contact **Peter Webster** or go through groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with Real Railways as the title.

Birdwatching - The group is for anyone interested in birds and other wildlife which we may see. We meet at the St. Michael's car park at 9.15am for car sharing. The intention is to have a trip once a month, usually the 4th Wednesday morning of the month. Complete beginners are welcome. Please bring binoculars.

The next trip is planned for January 15th 2015 to Reddish Vale Country Park. New members welcome. Please ring me if you are new to the group so that I can look out for you and let you know any last minute changes to the programme which may occur due to bad weather. For more information phone **Diana Oldfield**

Scottish Country Dancing - Dates for 2015: January 9, 23 & 30; February 13 & 27; March 13 & 27; April 10 & 24

If you are interested in developing, and/or are willing to lead a new interest group please let us know through groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with **new groups** as the subject.

SILVER THREADS AND HIDDEN GEMS - copies of the Creative Writing Group's book are still available. Cost is £3 with all proceeds to one of our charities, The Wellspring. Please contact Pat George or Dorothy Chesterman for your copy.



The Chocolate House, Nov '14



Co-operative Pioneers Museum, Nov '14

Bramhall U3A Holiday 2015

With the Christmas and New Year celebrations over, isn't it time to book a holiday?

Take a look at the 2015 Bramhall U3A holiday to Northumberland in June visiting such places as, Alnwick, Bamburgh, Lindisfarne and the Farne Islands amongst others. All travel, accommodation and entry fees are included. For full details please see the Bramhall U3A website. Go on, take a look.

Theatre and outings 2015

The newly advertised outing is **Towneley Hall** and **Boundary Mill** (culture and shopping), a complete day out that includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea with cake. Towneley Hall has recently featured on the Antiques Road Show.

Short Break , 12 – 14 September

This year we are visiting **Stonehenge, Bath and Bristol** – see Britain through the ages starting with the Neolithic and ending with the Victorian. A deposit of £40 is required by the end of March.

There are still places for a fascinating tour of the **Bridgewater Hall**, where you even get to see the springs in the basement. Also on sale are the ballet **Coppelia**, which is a new venture for us, and the musical **Oklahoma**. Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via the U3A website <http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk>.

Date	Events open for booking	Price
Wed 11 Feb	Tour of Bridgewater Hall – own transport	£4
Thurs 5 Mar	Coppelia – Ballet at the Lowry Theatre (matinee)	£46
Thurs 19 Mar	Oklahoma , Lowry Theatre (evening)	£40.50
Frid 20 March	Towneley Hall & Boundary Mill	£26
Sat 12 – Mon 14 September (short break)	Stonehenge, Bath & Bristol – A 2 night stay	£210 + £50 single supplement

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 can only be made where either the ticket has not yet been purchased, e.g. National Trust properties, or the ticket is re sold.
Guest policy – Non-members can come on an outing as the guest of a member on one occasion only.

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Tues 3 Feb	* Radisson Blu – tour and cream tea (25 places) Own transport	£19
Wed 18 Mar	* The Producers , Palace Theatre (matinee)	£28

Group

Art
Badminton
Bird Watching

Books
Bridge Beginners Improvers
Canasta
Card making
Church history
Computers
Creative writing
Cribbage
Crown green bowling
Cycling
Dining

Discussion

Dog walking
Embroidery
Family History

Film & discussion
Fitness & flexibility
French
Gardening
German - Intermediate
History

Italian - Improvers
Knitting
Line Dancing
Mapping Bramhall
Music for leisure
Norwegian
Personal Image
Photography
Pilates
Play reading
Poetry
Pub Quiz
Science for All
Scottish country dance
Scrabble
Singing for fun
Spanish - Intermediate
Spanish - Upper Inter.
Table Tennis
Ukulele

Video
Walking
Wine Tasting
Theatre/outings

Holidays

Co-ordinator

Peter Richardson
Douglas Moore
Diana Oldfield
Paul Carter
Dudley Newell
Peter Levy
Ray Lee
Sue Young
Dorothy Chesterman
Dorothy Chesterman
Michael Lacey
Pat George
Val Barker
Ann Smith
TBA
Janet McMurray
Joy Armstrong
Dina Levy
Pat Wright
Ann Smith
Dorothy Chesterman
Diane Bright
Mary Hambleton
Brian Turner
Pamela Roth
Vikki Radford
Kay Witham
Marilyn Hughes
Alison Davids
Angela Devaney
Margaret France
Helen Webster
Mary Flynn
Chris Chapman
Val Murray
Joanne Haigh
Joan Mobbs
Catherine Jones
Janice Shaw
Wendy Litchfield
Olga Hampson
Lynn Whyte
Sheila Porter
Mike Hollingsworth
Sheila Bruce-Smith
Val Barker
Gill Rowe
Diana Blaney
Gaye Huddart
Liz Pennington
Joyce Kilgour
Ann Gray
Mike Waterhouse
Bob Dumbarton
Jenny Richmond
Chris Hollingsworth
Val Graham
Tricia Canning
Gill Moorhouse

Days/times

Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Tuesday 2-4pm
Usually 4th Wednesday @ 9.15am
4th Thursday
Tuesdays 2 - 4pm
Wednesdays 10am - noon
1st Thu @ 7pm + 3rd Mon @ 2pm
Alt. Mondays 2 - 4pm
Phone for information.
Phone for information
2nd Wednesday 2pm
4th Thursday 7.30pm
April to October - Mondays 10am
TBA
Tuesday or Wednesday evenings - 3rd week of each month
4th Monday 2pm
3rd Friday 2pm
2nd Sunday - contact for details
2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Monthly - Wednesday 2pm
Monthly - Wednesday 2pm
First Thursday 1-3pm
4th Wednesday 10.30am
Mondays 10.30-11.30 & 11.30 -12.30
Alternate Mondays @ 2pm
4th Tuesday
2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 10.30am
Alt Thurs 10 - noon
Alt Thurs 10 - noon
Alt Thursdays 10am
1st Tuesday 2pm
Wednesday 1.30 - 3.30pm
3rd Monday 2pm
3rd Friday 10.30am
Tuesdays 10.30am
Thursdays 10am-noon
3rd Monday @ 2pm
See website for details
1st Thursday 10am
2nd Monday 2pm
Last Thursday each month
4th Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm
2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
1st & 3rd Mondays 9.30 - 11.30
Thursdays 2 - 4pm
Tuesdays 10 -11.30am
1st, 2nd + 3rd Wed 10.30-12.00
1st + 3rd Tuesday 2pm
1st Friday @ 2pm
See newsletter and website
Bi-monthly - contact for details
See newsletter and website

See newsletter and website