

Newsletter

May 2015



Bramhall

U3A

How the years have flown - five of them

This is the last four-page newsletter before our fifth anniversary party (details below) and to mark that milestone and to gauge how much progress Bramhall U3A has made in that time we are reproducing Dorothy Chesterman's initial Chairman's message

Welcome to the first edition of our news-sheet which will be produced bi-monthly. At the moment I feel like the Old Woman who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do – at least as far as our speaker meetings are concerned! To date 212 people have signed up as members and we have over 20 interest groups up and running, with a further 39 looking for organisers to get them off the ground – not bad for a start. Your committee has been thinking about how to address the problem for our monthly meetings having had to turn people away at our first two meetings.

The alternatives are:

- Set up a completely separate, new, U3A, which would need another steering committee i.e. 12-15 volunteers.
- Create A and B groups within our own organisation having two speaker meetings a month with members opting for which meeting they would come to. This would allow us to have a membership of 400-450 and ensure no-one was turned away.
- Booking the scout hut and the hall and two speakers for the same time. People could choose which speaker but once the main hall was full would go to the scout hut.
- To close our membership and create a waiting list. This is not a favoured option by the committee or the national body.

It may be that once the groups are operating, the speaker meeting numbers will level out and the problem disappear, but we do need to ensure that people aren't turned away.

We would value your comments so it's over to you. Please let Joy Armstrong, Alistair Gardner or myself know what you would like us to do.

Pownall Green School already has a link with Cheadle Hulme U3A with members going in to help children with reading. The head teacher has indicated that he would welcome more people. He also wants to set up an after-school gardening club and would like help. If you feel this is something you could do, please let me know. The school will undertake CRB checks for all volunteers.

I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months and to hearing your comments on our programme of activities.

Bramhall U3A are celebrating their 5th Birthday this year by holding a Tea Party on Thursday July 2 between 2.00-4.00 pm at St Michael's Hall. Tickets will be priced at £3 and will be available from your Group Organisers, at the May and June meetings or direct from Bob Dumbarton. The tickets will be for members only and the price will include refreshments and entry to a raffle. Many of our Groups will be displaying how they have evolved over the past five years and some will provide entertainment during the afternoon.

Your Committee

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

Website: www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Groups information: groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Dates for your diary

July 16

Matt and Yvonne's Musical
Afternoon
Yvonne Pinder

August 20

How I made my first Million and
spent it
Neil Cliffe

September 17

My Life in Crime
Terry Simms

October 15

A small person in a tall person's
world
Penny Dean OBE

November 19

The Eddie Stobart Story
Sheila Dale

■ Bramhall U3A meet on the third
Thursday of every month at St.
Michael's Church hall, 1.30pm for
2pm.
Members' admission £1

■ Computer Course update:

The next course will take place on
Mondays, starting on June 29
then July 6, 13 and 20.

Community matters

The Police and ActionFraud have produced a very useful booklet called **The Little Book of Scams**. It gives advice on how to avoid matters such as Identify Fraud, Investment Scams, Door-to-Door Scams, Dating and Romance Scams, Bank Scams, Mobile Phone Scams, Health Scams, Internet Scams and Psychic Scams. You can download a copy to read or print at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/book-of-scams-launched-met-police-jun12>.

The NW Region of the U3A has linked with St. John Ambulance to arrange **First Aid courses** for U3A members at the heavily discounted price of £5. The courses are 3h long and cover topics such as resuscitation, severe bleeding, chest pains, choking and dealing with the unconscious casualty. Courses are being held in Heaton Chapel on 6 dates from 26 May to 28 July. For more details, location map and how to book, go to <http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html>

Group News

We are trying to find out if there is a demand for a Shed Group. The Group would share tools and resources to work on projects together. The projects could include woodwork, bike and vehicle repair, upholstery, model engineering, milling, turning in plastics, etc. Obviously if someone has a large shed with tools that would be most useful. If interested, please email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk with "Shed group" in the title.

The **Wine group** meets every two months on a Tuesday evening at the Village Club in Bramhall. Our wine experts continue to educate us with wines from all over the world which, of course, we then taste! So if you would like to learn a little more about the wine you drink, come and join us at the Wine Club. We are a friendly bunch, even more so after a little wine! We will always have room for more members.
Contact: groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk for more details.

Walking Group schedule

Wed May 27	Tony Sharples	Gawsworth	5 miles easy
Thur June 11	David Pechey	Bowstones	4.5 miles easy/mod
Wed June 24	Anne Lee	Acton Bridge	6 miles easy
Thur July 9	David Pechey	Frodsham	7 miles mod/tough

All walks meet at St. Michael's Church between 9.30-9.40am. Please contact the walk leader prior to the date you wish to attend

Theatre and Outings . . . Theatre and Outings . . . Theatre and Outings. . .



Full steam ahead . . . but watch out for the sheep. The Welsh Highland Railway

The village of Eyam, with its' plaques in the gardens of the houses detailing the occupants who died, was a chastening reminder of their bravery in dealing with the Plague. Biddulph Grange was a very lovely garden with international areas - it was fun finding our way around. Caernarfon and the Welsh Highland Railway were very interesting; sheep on the line was a novelty in a very enjoyable day.

Date	Events open for booking	Price
Fri June 19	The Wirral Peninsula (including Port Sunlight)	£26
Fri July 17	Manchester Ship Canal to Liverpool	£44
Wed Aug 5	Kendal and Leighton Hall (including afternoon tea)	£26.50
Tue Sept 29	BBC Media City	£9.75
Thur Oct 8	The Importance of Being Earnest, Lowry Theatre (matinee)	£32

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Thur Aug 6	Barnum, Lowry Theatre (matinee)	£46.50
Sat Sept 12 to Mon Sept 14 (short break)	Stonehenge, Bath & Bristol – A 2-night stay	£210 + £50 single supp

Wirral Peninsula is a guided tour of the area. First to Port Sunlight then onto New Brighton for lunch (included) and continuing around villages with an ice cream stop. The Manchester Ship canal has a commentary by a blue badge guide detailing the history of the route. Our coach takes us to Salford Quays and brings us back to St. Michael's. New on sale this month is a trip to Kendal and then onto Leighton Hall with its collection of Gillow furniture. The Hall visit will include a falconry display and afternoon tea.

Please note our revised Booking conditions below plus our Cancellation and guest policies:

Booking conditions

Bookings can be made via our website (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk>), by post or at the monthly meeting (both before and after the talk). Bookings are made on a "first come, first served" basis and once an event is full, your name can be added to a waiting list. For all bookings (including via the website) where payment has not been received, the booking will be deemed to be provisional. Full payment must then be received within seven days. If payment is not received within this period, the booking will be cancelled.

Cancellation and guest policies

Full refund: If a booking with payment is cancelled by telephone within two days of the booking being made, then a full refund will be made.

In other circumstances: (a) A refund of transport costs will be made if there are a sufficient number of members on the trip to cover transport costs.

(b) 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.

Interest Groups . . . Interest Groups . . . Interest Groups . . . Interest Groups

Group	Coordinator	Days/times
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Carolyn Johnson	Tuesdays 2-4pm
Bird watching	Diana Oldfield/Paul Carter	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 Thursday 7pm; 3rd Monday 2pm
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt Mondays 2-4pm
Church history	Dorothy Chesterman	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Computers	Michael Lacey	Phone for details
Creative writing	Pat George	2nd Wednesday 2pm
Cribbage	Val Barker	4th Thursday 7.30pm
Crown green bowls	Ann Smith	April-October Monday mornings 11am
Cycling	TBA	TBA
Dining	Janet McMurray/ Joy Armstrong	Monthly, Tuesday or Wednesday 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-noon
Family History A	Diane Bright	Monthly - Wednesdays 2pm
Family History B	Mary Hambleton	Monthly - Wednesdays 2pm
Family History C	Brian Turner	1st Thursday 1-3pm
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
Fitness & Flexibility	Vikki Radford	Monday 10.30am
French	Kay Witham	Alternate Mondays 2pm
Gardening	Marilyn Hughes	4th Thursday
German intermediate	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10.30am
History	Angela Devaney/ Margaret France	Alt Thursdays 10am-noon Alt Thursdays 10am-noon
Italian improvers	Helen Webster	Alt Thursdays 10am
Knitting	Mary Flynn	1st Tuesday 2pm
Line Dancing	Chris Chapman	Wednesdays 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
Photography	Janice Shaw	3rd Monday 2pm
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	See website for details
Play reading	Olga Hampson	1st Thursday 10am
Poetry	Lynn Whyte	2nd Monday 2pm
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	Last Thursday 8.30pm
Real Railway Group	Peter Webster	Monthly – contact for details
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 2-4.30pm
Singing for fun	Gillian Rowe	1st & 3rd Mondays 9.30-11.30am
Spanish intermediate	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2-4pm
Spanish upper intermediate	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10-11.30am
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	1st, 2nd and 3rd Wed; 10.30am-noon
Ukulele	Joyce Kilgour/Ann Gray	1st and 3rd Tuesday 2pm
Video	Mike Waterhouse	Last Friday 2pm
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See newsletters and website
Wine tasting	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly; contact for details
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth/ Val Graham/ Tricia Canning	See Newsletters and website
Holidays	Gill Moorhouse	See Newsletters and website