

January Bramhall

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Notes from the chair ...

Happy New Year to you. I hope you all enjoy a happy, healthy, fun-filled and active 2016, filled with laughter. I personally believe that laughter can get you through anything. Globally. I hope we see a peaceful year, although I think this is a bit of a forlorn hope in the present climate. However, we must remain optimistic.

Most of our groups have now restarted after the Christmas break and indeed, some groups are so popular that we have secondary ones starting up. Remember to keep your eyes on our website to make sure you do not miss anything

Could you also keep your eyes open for anyone new to the area, anyone lonely or who maybe needs a friend or a cheery word and, of course, invite them to U3A? Even the medical profession are recommending U3A to patients in cases where they feel it would help. Do remember also, that it can be very daunting to walk alone into a room full of strangers (even if we are all smiling inanely), so if you see such a person, lady or gentleman, do offer them a seat near you. Likewise, if you know or hear of someone who would like to come, but has no-one to come with, please offer to accompany them, if only for the first time.

I have to put my serious hat on now and talk about the amount of room available here at St. Michael's.

November's monthly meeting saw the largest number of members we have ever had to house and we were somewhat packed, in case you had not noticed! You may have seen members of the Committee anxiously looking round the hall from time to time (i) thinking how on earth would we get everyone out in the event of a fire, (ii) crossing fingers that a Fire Officer did not decide to do a spot check and (iii) hoping that none of our members present were Fire Officers, even retired ones!

The hall actually has room for 150 and the lounge for 30. We do have to adhere strictly to this from now on, although nothing went wrong at the November meeting, it was quite frightening. From now on no more than 150 will be allowed into the main hall. Over and above that number, the next 30 will be seated in the lounge and enjoy a separate speaker. Any above that number will unfortunately have to be turned away, although we do not wish to do this. This is for your safety. Having said that, the extremely large number at the November meeting was a first ever in six years, but we do have to be aware and ready just in case.

Still with my serious hat on, could I please insist that you do not put your coats, or anything else, on chairs to reserve them for friends. We wish every member to have the same chance of a seat to be fair. If you could meet up with your friends outside and come in together, this would be really helpful and fair to all. There will be a few chairs with reserved notices on them. Please do not move these notices as they are for disabled or tea ladies. The tea ladies are not late; they are merely busy getting the kitchen ready for your cups.

We are on the lookout for any member who has had an interesting career or hobby, who would be prepared to give a talk in the lounge if required. We would like to build up a list of such members in order that we would always have a pre-arranged speaker for the lounge for each month, in case it is needed. We do not have to use the lounge very often, so you would only be called on possibly once a year if we had a list. Even then, you may not be used on the day, if we did not use the lounge. Could anyone interested please contact me, letting me have your name, subject and contact details?

Sorry for my serious hat. "Nuff" said, but, your safety is paramount at all times.

Here's to a happy U3A year and being involved in lots of enjoyable activities. Remember age is just a number.
Live, Love & Laugh

Joy Armstrong Chairman

Our meeting dates for this year are are: 18th February, 17th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November, December date is still to be decided.



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

Website: www.bramhallu3a.org.uk
 Groups Information: groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk
 Bramhall U3A meetings: St Michaels and all Angels Church Hall. Third Thursday each month, at 2pm.
 Members entrance: £1 (with membership card)

Talks ...

18 February
 Writing Crime Fiction
Barbara Fagan Speake

17 March
 History of Soap & Bathing
Matthew Lepp

21 April
 TBA

19 May
 Monarchy & Dunham
Peter Braun

16 June
 An adventure on wheels
Matt & Yvonne



Christmas 2015



& Walks

Easy + = flat with a few very short uphill sections

Wednesday 20 January
 Macclesfield Canal
 5 miles Easy
 Bob Dumbarton

Thursday 11 February
 Styal Park
 5 miles Easy +
 Bob Dumbarton

Wednesday 24 February
 Peak Forest Canal
 5 miles Easy
 Tricia Canning

Thursday 10 March
 Plumley
 5.5 miles Easy
 David Pechey

Wednesday 23 March
 New Mills
 4.5 miles Easy
 Pam Rhodes

Thursday 14 April
 Lyme Park
 5 miles Moderate
 Marjorie Davies

Wednesday 27 April
 Brookbottom
 5 miles Moderate
 Elaine Hitchinson

Groups CARD MAKING The ladies thank you for your continued support. We raised £350 over 2015. If you would like to us to make a special card for you, please speak to Jill or Dorothy.

CYCLING - We are in the process of reinstating the Cycling Group this spring. For more information please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

CROWN GREEN BOWLING - The new season starts on Monday 7th March. If you are interested and would like more information then please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

MEMORY COURSE - Having run several extremely successful courses Phyl and Chris are standing down from their roles as coordinators at the end of the current course. The committee would, if possible, like the course to continue. If you are interested in finding out more about the coordinator role, please email groups@bramhallu3a.co.uk

Wanted - Storage Space - Can any member help by providing a secure, dry storage space about the size of an old telephone kiosk, with reasonable access? With the increasing amount of all types of equipment Bramhall U3A owns, the committee are seeking assistance with its storage. Insurance will be the responsibility of Bramhall U3A and we are happy to pay a nominal charge for the service. If you can help, please contact the Treasurer on 439.1582 or email communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Community Information

Bramhall Library is now open all day Wednesday, 9am to 8pm and weekday evenings until 8pm, unstaffed, for you to gain access, using your library card and pin number to use many of the facilities on a self-service basis, a system called Open+. To register for Open+ you need to show library staff a proof of identity and a proof of address. Ask in the library for further details.

Thank you. Due to your continuing generosity during 2015 Bramhall U3A was able to donate:
£830.51 to the Wellspring and £490.61 to St Anne's Hospice.

Theatre & Outings

A Tatton Christmas Treat

80 of our members really enjoyed a Christmas trip to Tatton Hall. A walk around the beautifully decorated Hall, followed by a very festive lunch, started our Xmas celebrations in style.



Date	Events open for booking	Price
Fri 12 February	Salford Museum & Art Gallery plus Theatre Organ Heritage Museum	£22 or £23
Fri 11 March	World of Wedgwood	£32 or £37
Sun 10 to Mon 11 July	Downton Abbey and Cotswolds locations (including overnight stop)	£124 (£26 single supp; dep. £50)
Fri 7 to Sun 9 October	A Royal Escape (Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, boat trip, Kew Gardens)	To be confirmed

Salford Museum and Art Gallery opened in 1850 and its reconstructed street tells the story of Victorian Salford. The Theatre Organ Heritage Centre includes a mock-up of a theatre and shows the development of theatre organs.

The outing to the World of Wedgwood includes a guided factory tour and a visit to the museum. You will also see the Craft, Decorating and Design studies, the Wedgwood flagship store and the factory outlet. The outing includes coach, morning refreshments and lunch.

The 2-day trip to Downton Abbey takes us to Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) and Downton locations in the Cotswolds. The visit includes an overnight stay at the Hilton Hotel in Newbury. There are still some single rooms available.

This year is the chance to visit some of those places you have never managed to visit. Hampton Court Palace is an awe-inspiring and flamboyant showcase for kingship, rivalling the great palaces of Europe. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. This year, in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday, there is a special exhibition "Fashioning a Reign: 90 years of style from the Queen's Wardrobe" in addition to all the wonderful buildings to visit. In the afternoon there will be a 40 minute trip on the River Thames. The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew is a UNESCO World Heritage site and this year unveils its Broadwalk Borders, the longest double herbaceous border in the world at 320 metres. There are so many places to see in Kew you will be spoilt for choice. Join our friendly group on our Royal Escape. New members especially welcome.

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Thurs 3 Mar	*Romeo & Juliet (Ballet at the Lowry Theatre, Matinee)	£40

Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via the U3A website <http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk>.

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.

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.

Disclaimer - All details were correct at the time of publication. Bramhall U3A cannot be held responsible for any changes that may have taken place after this time.

Bramhall Interest groups

Group	Co-ordinator	Days/times
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm
Badminton	Carolyn Johnson	Tuesday 1-3pm
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield Paul Carter	Usually 4th Wednesday @ 9.15am
Books	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Bridge Beginners	Peter Levy	Tuesdays 2 - 4pm
Improvers 1	Ray Lee	Wednesdays 10am - noon
Improvers 2	Judith Fletcher	Thursday 7 - 9pm
Canasta	Sue Young	1st Thu @ 7pm + 3rd Mon @ 2pm
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt. Mondays 2 - 4pm
Church history	Dorothy Chesterman	Wednesday 10 -12
Computers	Michael Lacey	Phone for information
Creative writing	Pat George	2nd Wednesday 2pm
Cribbage	Val Barker	4th Thursday 7.30pm
Crown green bowling	Ann Smith	April to October - Mondays 11am
Cycling	TBA	TBA
Dining	Janet McMurray Joy Armstrong	Tuesday or Wednesday evenings - 4th week of each month
Discussion	Dina Levy Pat Wright	4th Monday 2pm 3rd Friday 2pm
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Family History	Diane Bright Mary Hambleton Brian Turner	Monthly - Wednesday 2pm Monthly - Wednesday 2pm First Thursday 1-3pm
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
Fitness & flexibility	Vikki Radford	Friday 9.45
French	Kay Witham	Alternate Mondays @ 2pm
Gardening	Marilyn Hughes	4th Thursday
German - Intermediate	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 10.30am
History A	Angela Devaney Margaret France	Alt Thurs 10 - noon Alt Thurs 10 - noon
History B	Glenys Steedman	Contact for details
Italian Improvers	Helen Webster	Thursdays 10am
Knitting A	Mary Flynn	1st Tuesday 2pm
Knitting B	Shelagh Lord	1st Thursday 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
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 - 4.30
Singing for fun	Gillian Rowe	1st & 3rd Mondays 10.00 to 12.00
Spanish - Intermediate	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2 - 4pm
Spanish - Upper Inter.	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10 -11.30am
Table Tennis: Fun for All	Liz Pennington	1st, 2nd + 3rd Wed 10.30-12.00
Competitive Singles	Liz Pennington	4th Wednesday 10.30-11.30am.
Ukulele	Joyce Kilgour Ann Gray	1st + 3rd Tuesday 2pm
Video	Mike Waterhouse	Alternate Fridays at 10.30
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See schedule on website
Wine Tasting	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly - contact for details
Theatre/outings	Chris Hollingsworth Val Graham	See newsletter and website
Holidays	Gill Moorhouse	See newsletter and website