



### *Notes from the chair ...*

Well, we are well into March and already we have had New Year's Day, Burn's Night, Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday (with pancakes, of course), Valentine's Day, our U3A AGM, St. David's Day, Mothering Sunday and St. Patrick's Day, to be followed shortly by an early Easter. How the year races on regardless of wars, hurricanes, poverty, illness as well as this year's constant arguments and discussions as to whether we should stay in or leave Europe.

More importantly, we have been busy as usual in Bramhall, holding our AGM last month and welcoming new blood onto our committee in the form of Doreen Neil, who has kindly taken over the role of Speaker Secretary.

We would also like to welcome Wendy Burton, who has taken over the job of handling our theatre trips. Following some discussion and listening to what our members would like, we have decided to split the Theatre Group and Outings into two separate entities. This we feel will make the work load easier. A request by a number of members suggests that we also have some trips to one or two of our many interesting local theatres, as well as the large city theatres. It can be quite a daunting experience if you would like to visit one of the local **theatres or indeed any theatre, if you are on your own for any reason, or your friends' interests are not the same as yours.** It may well be that Wendy will require help and if anyone would be interested in this role please contact myself initially. Keep your eyes on future editions of the Newsletter as usual and also watch for future events on the website.

**We held what has become the annual 'Thank You' lunch for all your Group Coordinators.** This event is literally to say a big thank you for all they do in running the groups, which so many of you enjoy. It is also an opportunity for Group Coordinators to get together and exchange ideas. In a large U3A like ours, Group Coordinators do not often get to know others who carry out the same job in different groups. We as a committee look for feedback to see if there is any way we can help or support a particular group and also let them know what resources are available from within the U3A.

Fortunately our Groups Organisers, Ann, Helen and Pat do a grand overall job of trying to make sure everyone is happy.

As my 'blurb' this month seems to have been a little on the more serious side of things, hopefully this little item will give you a smile!

**A police officer called the station on his radio.  
"I have an interesting case here. An old lady  
shot her husband for stepping on the floor she  
just mopped."  
"Have you arrested the woman?"  
"Not yet. The floor's still wet."**

**URGENT REQUEST** Storage Space needed - Can any member help by providing a secure, dry storage space about the size of two old telephone kiosks, with reasonable access, to accommodate the increasing amount of equipment owned by Bramhall U3A. Insurance will be the responsibility of Bramhall U3A and we are happy to pay a nominal charge for the service. If you think you can help, please contact the Treasurer, Alistair Gardner. email: [communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

The £10 membership fee for 2016 is now overdue.  
If you have any questions about your membership please contact:  
Kay Witham - [enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk) - as soon as possible.

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:	Doreen Neil
External Relations:	Mike Hollingsworth

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.

Entrance: £1  
(with membership card)

## Talks ...

- 21 April  
**A Small Person in a Tall Person's World**  
*Penny Dean*
- 19 May  
Monarchy & Dunham  
*Peter Braun*
- 16 June  
An adventure on wheels  
A year around the USA  
*Matt & Yvonne*
- 21 July  
A Photograph can change your life - discoveries on a Mellor hilltop  
*Ann Hearle*

## Groups

**COMPUTER COURSE**  
Our next course will be on the 4 Thursdays starting 21st April. For more details contact [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**CYCLING**  
We are in the process of reinstating the Cycling Group this spring. For more information please contact [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**CROWN GREEN BOWLING**  
The new season started on Monday 7th March. If you are interested in joining then please contact [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**BIRDWATCHING**  
The birdwatching group meets once per month, usually on a Wednesday. These are outdoor meetings when we visit nature reserves and other birdwatching sites. We usually vary the trips with some local sites, such as Chorlton Water Park or Reddish Country Park. Moor Nature Reserve, Pennington Flash Country Park and **Neumanns' Flash/ Marbury Country Park are visited at least once a year.** A visit to the Goyt valley is a must in the spring. Looking further afield, we have visited North Lancashire, Burton Mere on the Wirral and Anglesey within the last 12 months or so.

**We meet at St Michael's church car park usually at 9.15am for car sharing.** The local trips last the morning, with a return about 2pm. Further trips require more or less the full day, but we are back by 4pm.

**So far this year we have been to Neumann's Flash and Gayton Sands/New Brighton on the Wirral.** The Gayton trip was a spectacular sight, being timed for one of the highest tides of the year. Large numbers of waders and ducks were driven close to the shore by the incoming tide and we saw Peregrines and Short-eared Owl hunting over the marshes.

Our next trip is on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>. The venue is yet to be confirmed and will depend on reports of bird migration. If you would like to join us please contact Diana Oldfield or the Groups Organisers.  
Email: [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)



## & Walks

EASY - flat walk with no hills/ascents  
Easy+ - flat with a few very short uphill sections  
MODERATE - generally flat walk with the occasional ascent/descents which will not be severe  
MOD/HARD - a walk that includes a larger number of ascents/descents, some of which may be of long duration (15 mins+)  
HARD - a walk which contains one or more ascents/descents which will be severe and long in duration (30 mins+)

- 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
- Thursday 12 May  
Little Bollington  
6 miles Easy  
Bob Dumbarton
- Wednesday 25 May  
TBA  
David Pechey
- Thursday 9 June  
Buxworth  
6 miles Moderate/Hard  
Liz Cresswell
- Wednesday 22 June  
Prestbury  
6 miles Easy  
Tricia Canning

## 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.

To find out more about the coordinators' roles please contact [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

## WINE GROUP HOLIDAY - LOIRE 2016

The Wine Group have organised a holiday to the Loire in September 2016. This trip is available to any member of Bramhall U3A. If you are interested please go to [www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/groups/holidays](http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/groups/holidays)

## Outings Co-ordinator: Chris Hollingsworth

Our guided tour of **Robinson's Brewery**, telling us about its history as well as the future, was very interesting and was followed by a delightful afternoon tea. Our Salford visit to two very different places was fascinating. The Museum **guides were excellent; the Victorian "street" and the stories they told gave us a real insight into the area.** We had a couple of recitals, tea and biscuits and a singsong at the Organ Museum. The place was amazing and their adaptations to the Theatre Organs were mind-boggling – a real gem.



Salford Art Gallery

Afternoon tea at Robinson's Brewery



Date	OUTINGS - BOOKING NOW	Price
Thurs 28 April	Harewood House	£22
Wed 18 May	Ullswater & Kirby Lonsdale (includes lunch & steamer)	£37
Sun 10 – Mon 11 July	Downton Abbey and Cotswolds locations (including overnight stop)	£124 (£26 single supp.; deposit £50)

Date	OUTINGS - FULL with WAITING LIST	Price
Fri 7 – Sun 9 Oct	A Royal Escape (Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, Boat trip & Kew Gardens)	£275 (£42 single supp.; deposit £50)

Our next event is the magnificent Harewood House in Yorkshire. The house shows two hundred and fifty years of history, art and architecture where only the best would do. Furniture is by Chippendale, ceilings are by Robert Adam and the gardens and grounds are by Capability Brown. The May trip is to the Lake District (now recovered from the floods), which includes a steamer cruise on Lake Ullswater.

There are still vacancies on our Downton Abbey and Cotswolds Locations trip for fans of the TV series.

## Theatre Co-ordinator: Wendy Burton

We would like to warmly welcome Wendy Brown to the team. She has kindly volunteered to organize and coordinate all forthcoming Theatre and Concert trips. If you would like to let Wendy know your thoughts on potential ideas for future theatre and/or concert trips, then please email [outings@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

All events can be booked, either at monthly meetings or via the U3A website [www.bramhallu3a.org.uk](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.

Most events that are full will have waiting list. Please ask for details.

The costs for all outings include transport, driver's tip and entry tickets.

Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via our website: [www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/](http://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	Angela Devaney Margaret France	Alt Thurs 10 - noon Alt Thurs 10 - noon
History Visits	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
Outings	Chris Hollingsworth	See newsletter and website
Theatre	Wendy Burton	See newsletter and website
Holidays	Gill Moorhouse	See newsletter and website