

May

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Bramhall

U3A
Established 2010

Notes from the chair ...

Our April meeting was excellent. Our speaker was Penny Dean OBE, who is a dwarf I have seen and heard many times. She, her husband and their family have achieved so much and helped so many. Penny is full of life and enthusiasm for her cause; I personally find her inspirational.

Being on the Queen's actual 90th birthday, we all stood up and sang our National Anthem and wished Her Majesty a very happy birthday. I will admit to being a Royalist and one of my gripes is when I attend our St. George's Day Parade at church and sing the National Anthem, I look around and see many of our uniformed organisations (Scouts, Guides etc..) who do not know the words and I might add, this also includes many of the adults, which I think is very sad. However, such is life; it must be my age; I must be old fashioned - end of gripe!

Joy Armstrong

Network Music Study Day, 7 April 2016 - Nearly 90 people enjoyed the Music Study Day. In the morning Dr Gareth Curtis introduced us to ways of Listening to Classical Music – starting off with a minute of complete silence (when I was panicking that our system had broken down). Using excerpts from a range of classical music, he helped us to understand that we can listen looking for technicalities or we can experience the emotion of the music.

After a lovely lunch provided by Gina Gibson, we completely changed the mood. The afternoon was led by Yvonne Pinder and Matt Chaffer and introduced us to the ukulele, mandolin and banjo, with descriptions of how the instruments were made and the history of the songs. Matt then encouraged us to sing along with him. The 2 sessions made a good contrast for a very successful day.

Study days have become a tradition for the network now and we are looking for suggestions for next year. Literature, poetry, local archaeology and history have been suggested but I would welcome any other ideas

Dorothy Chesterman



The BU3A Science group at Stockport Hydroelectric in Marple



KEEN to LEARN SPANISH? A number of you, including myself, have expressed an interest in learning Spanish, not for examination purposes, but to acquire a useful conversational skill when travelling abroad.

Unfortunately, the current U3A groups are now 'advanced' and are no longer accepting beginners. We have tried to find someone willing to co-ordinate a new group but with little success.

If any of you would be interested in forming a self-help Spanish beginners' group, I am prepared to be the co-ordinator. The idea is we individually follow a programme on the internet. I have personally sampled and enjoyed 'Duolingo'. We would meet up once a month to share our experiences of learning on line, to try out and practise some of our newly learned conversational skills. It may be possible to entice a Spanish 'expert' to come along to a few of the meetings!

Interested? Then please contact me or groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Pat George

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 ...

June 16
 An adventure on wheels
 A year around the USA
Matt & Yvonne

July 21
 A Photograph can change your
 life - discoveries on a Mellor
 hilltop
Ann Hearle

August 18
 Folklore and Traditions of the
 North West
John Doughty

Groups

DINING GROUP - On 27th April, 30 members of the Dining Group went to sample the delights of the Peking Garden at Fiveways in Hazel Grove. We used to go when it was in a tiny place in Bramhall and always enjoyed good food. However, now they had moved to their much larger premises, incorporating slightly higher prices, so we decided to give it a try. We had an excellent evening enjoying a Chinese Banquet. By the end of the evening everyone was very full and could not eat another morsel. The restaurant had a nice ambience, service was good and food was plentiful. I have to say the 'toffee' bananas and apple were wonderful. Banana fritters, I find, are usually a conventional batter-covered banana, but these were literally covered with a crisp toffee which was absolutely delightful. When I commented to the owner how much I had enjoyed them, he replied, "Well we are professionals and make them as they should be done!" I would certainly go again.

Joy Armstrong

& Walks

Wednesday May 25
 Plumley
 5.5 miles EASY
 David Pechey

Thursday June 9
 Buxworth
 6 miles MODERATE/HARD
 Liz Cresswell

Wednesday June 22
 Prestbury
 6 miles EASY
 Tricia Canning

The BADMINTON group has gone from strength to strength since it moved to its new venue at Bramhall Village Club every Tuesday, 1pm until 3 pm. We are a sociable group and you are guaranteed some exercise! If you would like to join us, please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk



CARD MAKING - Special Occasion cards - If you would like a card made for a special event, then please contact me and discuss it at any monthly meeting.

Grandparents - Special cards for special little ones - I am also able to make cards of "Peppa Pig" and "In The Night Garden" for those grandparents whose young grandchildren may be a fan of either of these TV shows. I am certain that you can not buy cards in the shops for these shows, so please put your order in if you would **like one made. I can add the child's age and names if wanted.**

There are always cards suitable for small children and teenagers available at every monthly Meetings.

GRANDPARENTS - A-level students & University Leavers - We will be making cards soon for those of you who will have grandchildren finishing A-levels or University this summer. If you would like a special card made with their name on, please come & put your order in now. Order early to avoid disappointment.

All money raised goes The Wellspring.

EASY: A flat walk with no hills or ascents.
EASY+: Flat with a few very short ascents and descents.
MODERATE: Generally a flat walk with the occasional ascent or descents which will not be severe
MOD/HARD: A walk with a number of ascents and descents, some of which may be long (15 mins+)
HARD: A walk with one or more ascents and descents which will be severe and long in duration (30 mins+)

Jill Rickman

If you have any questions about your membership please contact:
 Kay Witham via enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk

The History group have, over the past year, visited The Victoria Baths, Manchester; Paradise Mill, Macclesfield; Remembrance poppies in Liverpool; Manchester Town Hall; Clayton Hall, Manchester and had a hard hat tour of Bramall Hall during the renovations. Anyone is welcome to join us; there is no upper limit for numbers, just email me at glenyssteman761@gmail.com to receive emails advising you of the next visit. Glenys Steedman

Can you help? As our foreign language groups progress, it becomes impossible for beginners to join in. We really need to form **beginners' groups in French, Italian and Spanish.** Are you a linguist? Or do you know someone who may be able to give a little time? We would also like to start new Knitting, Scrabble and Book groups, as these have proved very popular. Our very successful Ukulele group has also progressed, leaving a gap for a **beginners' group.** This all proves how much we enjoy our interest groups and how valuable they are to our U3A. For further information or support, contact Ann Smith, Pat George or Helen Webster or email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

CYCLING GROUP - We are in the process of trying to reinstate the Cycling Group this spring. If you would like more information, please contact groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

COMPUTER HELP - If you have a problem using your IT equipment: phone, tablet, laptop, PC etc., or simply want to keep up with your grandchildren, perhaps we can help. A small group of IT specialists will be running a drop-in surgery before and after the June and July monthly meetings. No appointment is necessary. We shall be at the back of the hall in St Michaels from 13:30- 14.00 and 15.00- 15:30, so bring your IT questions, ideally with your device(s), to us. Please email us at helpit@bramhallu3a.org.uk Michael Lacey

URGENT - Storage Space needed - Please can you help? We urgently need a secure, dry storage space about the size of two old telephone kiosks, with reasonable access, in order 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 annual fee for the service. If you think you can help, please contact the Treasurer, Alistair Gardner as soon as possible. email: communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Community A PhD student at Manchester University is seeking volunteers for a project investigating why some adults over 65 years choose to do activities involving sitting or lying down for long periods of the day. The research will involve a 1 hour interview either in your own home or at the University, with travel expenses paid. For more details go to www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html or contact Mike Hollingsworth.

Outings Co-ordinators: Chris Hollingsworth & Val Graham	Date	Events open for booking	Price
	Tues 14 June	Bridgnorth & Dudmaston Hall (N.T.)	£17 (N.T. mem) or £24.60 (non-member)
	Wed 24 Aug	Stonyhurst College & Haworth (includes guide, entrances to the College and The Parsonage museum plus lunch)	£38
	Thu 24 Nov	Christmas lunch & entertainment, Chester	£34

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Sun 10 – Mon 11 July	Downton Abbey and Cotswolds locations (incl. overnight stop)	£124 (£26 s/s)
Fri 7 – Sun 9 Oct	A Royal Escape (includes: Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, a boat trip and Kew Gardens)	£275 (£42s/s) Dep. £50

All outings and theatre trips can be booked, either at monthly meetings or via the U3A website: bramhallu3a.org.uk

Theatre Co -ordinator: Wendy Burton	Date	Events open for booking	Price
	Thurs 13 Oct	Pride and Prejudice, Lowry theatre (matinee)	£35
	Wed 16 Nov	Blood Brothers, Lowry theatre (matinee)	£40

Cancellation, refund 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/.
 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	Jackie Harmer	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