

## Chairman's bit

Happy New Year to all our members, I hope it is a healthy, peaceful year with plenty of fun and laughter thrown in. I do not wish to be political but I think 2017 will be an interesting year just watching the goings-on in the USA and seeing how it all pans out!!

As next month's Newsletter is a short one, this is my last 'Chairman's Bit', as I have come to the end of my three years in office and stand down at our February AGM, to be succeeded by Peter Webster. I am sure Peter will be an excellent Chairman and probably will not waffle as much as me! I certainly hope he will enjoy his position as much as I have.

The very first time I had to stand up and address you all, I literally shook like a jelly. I was frightened to death! Just what I was frightened about I now have no idea. I got used to speaking in front of an audience and now it does not bother me at all, although I still have to write my notes otherwise I get lost and then waffle!!

I have enjoyed my seven years on the committee. They are a good crowd and much laughter has been shared over the years. For anyone thinking about going onto the committee, please do not think you have to be on as long as some of us have been – we were the first committee, formed when Bramhall U3A first started and once we got up and running and found out what we were supposed to do, we just sort of stayed, but you can be a committee member for just a year, or more if you wish. All I can say is a really big thank you to everyone who has been on the committee. We have all worked together and enjoyed much laughter and many jokes (often at our own expense) and I shall miss our monthly committee meeting and the camaraderie. A special thank you to Dorothy for always hosting the meetings; she has the largest lounge to accommodate us all!

I hope you are all enjoying the groups you are in and are also making friends - Bramhall U3A has certainly been the source of many new friendships for me. I intend to join a group or two and I will certainly enjoy the main monthly meetings from the other side of the table.

Joy Armstrong Chairman

**Creative Writing: 'A Box Full of Memories'** I am sorry to report that there was a printing error in the Creative Writing Group's recent publication, 'A Box Full of Memories'. A couple of pages were omitted from 'Memories of an Old Sailor', pages 27 – 32. If the story was spoilt for you as a result and you would like to read the complete story, please contact Pat George or Peter Webster for a special reprint of the complete story. Many apologies for the error and in particular to the author, Keith Wright.

*We need your expertise and ideas.* A number of our committee members, who have been involved since our formation, are now at the end of their tenure. We really need you to join our active committee. *Interested in being part of the team?* Excellent, then please give your details to either Joy Armstrong, Peter Webster, Alistair Gardner or Dorothy Chesterman.

Thanks to the generosity of our membership, in 2016 we raised £1186.15 for our designated charities. £765.15 went to The Wellspring, the Stockport charity which supports the homeless and disadvantaged, and £421 to St Ann's Hospice. A special mention must go to the members of our Card-making Group and our Knitting Group, who contributed so much to this total by the sale of their products. The ever-popular Christmas Tombola raised £321, once again as a result of the good will of our members in donating prizes, this year in truly impressive numbers. As always the money raised was received with most grateful thanks by our charities.

Although we are no longer running the Bric-a-Brac stall in aid of The Wellspring, donations of books, sealed foodstuffs, new/unused toiletries and warm clothing in good condition, will still be most gratefully received.

Membership renewals are due by the end of January. Please include an S.A.E. for postage of your membership paperwork. Any questions about your membership? Contact Kay Witham at meetings or via enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk

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](http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk)  
 Groups Information:  
[groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto: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 ...

February 16  
 The Last Laugh of the Railway  
 King  
*Geoff Scargill*

March 16  
 Radical Women in  
 Manchester - and others.  
*Jean Bailo*

April 20  
 World War 1 to Saddam  
 Hussain  
*Bob Kermeen*

May 18  
 Music Through the Ages  
*Jean Braddock*

In response to requests from members,  
**from March The 'Talks' list will include a**  
 brief explanation of each topic.



## & Walks

Thursday 9 Feb  
 Alderley Edge 4.5m MOD  
 Bob Dumbarton

Wednesday 22 Feb  
 Bollington 5m MOD  
 Viv Grimshaw

Thursday 9 March  
 Macc. Forest 4.5m MOD  
 David Pechey

*EASY: A flat walk with no hills or ascents/descents*  
*EASY+: Flat with a few very short ascents and descents.*  
*MOD: Generally a flat walk with the occasional ascent or descent which will not be severe.*  
*MOD+: 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 (30mins +)*

## Community

U3A National Office is organising 3 Summer Schools:  
 17 – 20 July, Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire  
 14 – 17 August, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester  
 11 – 14 September, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester  
 Details will appear soon at <http://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area/summer-schools.html>. You will need to register on the first occasion you use the Members' section of this website.

The X57 bus will change to the 42B from January 29. It is likely that it will no longer be an express service. A new timetable should be available soon at: [http://www.tfgm.com/journey\\_planning/Pages/bus\\_times\\_leaflet\\_library.aspx](http://www.tfgm.com/journey_planning/Pages/bus_times_leaflet_library.aspx).

The N W Region of U3As Residential Summer School will be held in Penrith 29th August - 1st September. The topics are: About Beauty, Architecture: the ABC of cities, Digital Digging for Armchair Archaeologists, Geology of Lakeland Landscapes, Painting with stitches, Medicine in the 21st century, Recorder playing, Russian and Soviet culture, Science is for Everyone, Ukulele for beginners. For details of this Summer School or any topics of Community Information, go to <http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html> Mike Hollingsworth

Walking Football- The idea has been launched that a Walking Football Group be formed. If you are interested, please contact [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk). We will gather members' names and if there is sufficient interest, we can arrange a meeting to discuss.

Our interest groups are the life-blood and strength of our U3A. We are fortunate in having such a diverse array of groups and so many talented, committed members prepared to give up time in running them. In order to thank them on your behalf, we will be holding our annual **'Thank You' Lunch on Friday March 3rd**. All Group Co-ordinators are invited to share ideas and experiences, offer ideas for future development and enjoy a well-deserved buffet lunch together.

**Outings**  
Co-ordinators: Chris Hollingsworth & Val Graham

**Christmas 'Swinging 60s Show Party'.**  
Christmas started early with good food and excellent entertainment culminating in a "conga" around the hotel. A good time was had by all.



Our winners in the best dressed 1960's outfit

Date	Outings - Events open for booking	Price
Mon 27 Feb	Manchester Cathedral plus tea & scone (40 places)	£10
Fri 24 Mar	Oswaldtwistle Mills & Haworth Art Gallery (Tiffany Glass Museum), incl. lunch & Cream tea	£26
Thurs 27 Apr	Ludlow	£20 incl. tour £17 no tour
Sun 3 to Tues 5 Sept	Coast, Cathedral & Coal (mini-break) Visiting Whitby, Durham and Beamish	£245 p.p. £50 sing/supp

Our February outing is a guided tour of Manchester Cathedral, which has a fascinating history. The tour will be followed by a Cream tea at Propertea, which is a minute's walk away.

Our March outing will be to Oswaldtwistle Mill and the Haworth Art Gallery (the largest collection of Tiffany Glass in the UK). There will be time to shop in the morning and then off to the Haworth Art Gallery around 1.45pm. This trip includes morning tea/coffee, lunch and a Cream tea.

Coming up for April is a trip to Ludlow, a lovely market town in the heart of the Marches. Discover the history of this medieval gem on our optional guided tour. There will be tea and biscuits on arrival.

Our mini-break this year starts with a visit to Whitby and the Yorkshire coast. We will then drive to the delightful city of Durham to our 4\* hotel. The following day there is a guided tour of Durham Cathedral followed by lunch and a chance to explore this compact and charming city. Our final day takes us to Beamish where you can see life as it was in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century. There is traditional transport on trams and buses to take you around this huge site. We bid our farewells mid-afternoon for our journey home.

Events can be booked at monthly meetings and via the U3A website <http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk>. It is always worthwhile to put your name on the waiting list as we regularly have cancellations.

**Theatre** Co-ordinator: Wendy Burton

Gaslight – Information for Theatregoers  
**The coach will leave St. Michael's car park at 1pm.** The Coliseum Theatre does not serve food other than sweets and crisps. Given this, and the shortage of nearby cafes, theatregoers are strongly recommended to have lunch before getting on the coach.

Date	Events open for booking	Price
Wed 8 Feb	Gaslight, Oldham Coliseum (matinee) 1 ticket left	£25
Thu 2 Mar	Cinderella Ballet, Lowry theatre (matinee) 1 ticket left	£40
Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Wed 12 Apr	Jane Eyre, Lowry theatre (matinee)	£35

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/](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.

# Interesting Groups

Group	Co-ordinator	Days/times
Art	TBA	TBA
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	3rd Monday 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	1st Thursday 7.30pm
Crown green bowling	Ann Smith	April to October - Mondays 11am
Cycling	TBA	TBA
Dining	Vera Moore	Tuesday or Wednesday evenings -
	Jan Boys	4th week of each month
Discussion	Dina Levy	4th Monday 2pm
	Pat Wright	3rd Friday 2pm
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd Thursday 10am -12noon
Family History	Diane Bright	Monthly - Wednesday 2pm
	Mary Hambleton	Monthly - Wednesday 2pm
	Brian Turner	First Thursday 1-3pm
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
Fitness & flexibility	Vikki Radford	TBA
French	Kay Witham	Alternate Mondays @ 2pm
Gardening	Marilyn Hughes	4th Thursday
German - Intermediate	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 10.30am
History	Angela Devaney	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
	Margaret France	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
History Visits	Glenys Steedman	Contact for details
Italian Improvers	Helen Webster	Thursdays 10am
Knitting A	Sheila Porter	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 Pleasure	Jackie Harmer	3rd Friday 10.30am
Photography	David Pechey	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	Frances Bell	Monthly first Thursday 8.30 for 9.00pm
Real Railway Group	Peter Webster	Contact for details
Science for All	Mike Hollingsworth	1st Wednesday 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 to 12
Spanish - Intermediate	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2 - 4pm
Spanish - Upper Inter.	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10 -11.30am
Spanish - Self Help	Pat George	1st Wednesday 2pm
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	1st + 3rd Tuesday
	Ann Gray	2pm
Video & Film Making	Mike Waterhouse	Alternate Fridays at 2pm
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See schedule on website
Walking Football	TBA	TBA
Wine Tasting	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly - contact for details
<i>Outings</i>	<i>Chris Hollingsworth</i>	<i>See newsletter and/or website</i>
	<i>Val Graham</i>	
<i>Theatre</i>	<i>Wendy Burton</i>	<i>See newsletter and/or website</i>
<i>Holidays</i>	<i>Gill Moorhouse</i>	<i>See newsletter and/or website</i>