

Chairman's bit

Spring is sprung! Time for new beginnings, including mine as Chair of Bramhall U3A. I have a very hard act to follow, after three years with Joy as our Chair. Her leadership, common sense and humour have helped so much in making our club the friendly, inclusive, welcoming group it is. We also say a big thank you to those committee members who are standing down after, in some cases, years of loyal service. Mike Hollingsworth, Ann Smith and Pat George, thank you so much.

In tune with the theme of new beginnings, we welcome your new Committee members, Alaister Macrae, who is taking on Community Relations, Chris Stubbs, who has taken on the vital role of Groups Organiser and Vera Moore.

Within a few days of taking on my new role, I had the great pleasure of helping with our annual 'Thank You' lunch. This event celebrates and, we hope, goes some way towards saying a huge thank you to our 58 Group Co-ordinators who are the life-blood of our organisation. These are the people who give up time to run our impressive range of Interesting Groups, which are the envy of many of our colleagues in other U3As.

Finally, a very warm welcome to the 40+ new members who have joined recently. We know you will be very happy with us.

Well, here goes . . . Let's see what the year brings. Should be good! Kind regards, *Peter Webster - Chairman*



Co-ordinators thank you lunch 2017



Bramhall U3A Committee

Chair: Peter Webster
Vice-chair: *Vacancy*
Business: Dorothy Chesterman
Treasurer: Alistair Gardner
Groups: Chris Stubbs
Pat George
Membership: Kay Witham
Speakers: Doreen Neil

Website:
www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Groups Information:
groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

Bramhall U3A meetings:
Bramhall URC, Robins Lane,
Bramhall. Third Thursday
each month at 2pm.

Entrance: £1
with membership card

Meetings, Talks ...

April 20

Iraq - World War 1 to Saddam Hussain
Bob Kermeen

May 18

The Gilt on the Gingerbread
Janet Bradshaw

Cooking methods at the medieval Tatton Hall

June 15

Music Through the Ages
Jean Braddock - Pianist

July 20

The Rowley Project
Stephen Rowley

Educational Projects in Africa

Community

Alaister Macrae

The 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 soon at: 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 NW Region - U3A Residential Summer School. 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>

Special offer for U3A members

You can now purchase a 3-month National Art Pass for just £10. Visit www.artfund.org/u3a for more information.

But hurry, you have until 20th March 2017 to take advantage of this offer. Additionally, use the discount code U3A2017 for 10% off all services at www.my-history.co.uk.

& Walks

Wednesday 22 March

New Mills 5m MOD+
Elaine Hitchinson

Thursday 13 April

Gee Cross 5m MOD
Tricia Canning

Wednesday 26 April

Tatton Park 5.5m EASY
Keith Mant

Thursday 11 May

Prestbury 4.5m EASY
Alan Davidson

Outings

Co-ordinators: Chris Hollingsworth
& Val Graham

In February 40 members enjoyed a guided tour around Manchester Cathedral from very knowledgeable guides, followed by a Cream tea.



Manchester Cathedral

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 +)

Enjoying a cream tea in 'Proper Tea'



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.

Date	Outings - Events open for booking	Price
Fri 24 Mar 2017	Oswaldtwistle Mills & Haworth Art Gallery (Tiffany Glass Museum)	£26
Fri 12 May	Staffordshire Hoard & National Memorial Arboretum	£19
Fri 11 – Sat 12 Aug	Prince Charles's Gardens at Highgrove	£189 p.p. £30 single suppl.
Sun 3 – Tue 5 Sept	Coast, Cathedral & Coal (mini-break) Visiting Whitby, Durham and Beamish	£245 p.p. £50 single suppl.

There are a few places left on our March outing to Oswaldtwistle Mill and the Haworth Art Gallery (the largest collection of Tiffany Glass in the UK). There will be time to shop/browse 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 in the afternoon.

New this month is our May outing to the Potteries Museum in Stoke-on-Trent primarily to see the Staffordshire Hoard. We shall also have refreshments of tea and cake. From here we will travel to the National Memorial Arboretum, which is now complete. The Arboretum is home to over 330 memorials covering both military and civilian associations. It features 30,000 trees and a variety of flora and fauna. A land train with commentary runs around the grounds.

Prince Charles's Gardens at Highgrove

We are also pleased to put on sale this month a trip principally to **Prince Charles's Gardens at Highgrove** (including lunch). This involves an overnight stop at a De Vere hotel and we shall also be visiting Berkeley Castle. We have a limited number of single rooms.

There are 3 twin/double rooms left for our mini-break (Coast, Cathedral & Coal). The 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 restored trams and buses to take you around this huge site.

A reminder that deposits for this mini-break should be with Chris Hollingsworth by the end of March.

Date	Outings – Event on waiting list	Price
Thurs 27 Apr	Ludlow	£20 (with tour) £17 (without tour)

Theatre

Co-ordinators: Wendy Burton
& Ann Lee

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

Date	Events open for booking	Bookings must be made by	Price
Wed 17 May	Lost in Yonkers, Players Theatre, evening	13 th April	£8
Wed 7 June	The Play That Goes Wrong, Lowry theatre (matinee)	22 nd March	£24
Wed 20 Sep	Aladdin Ballet, Lowry Theatre (evening)	27 th July	£48
Wed 25 Oct	Sunset Boulevard, Palace Theatre (matinee)	13 th April	£47

Date	Full but with a waiting list	Price
Wed 12 Apr	Jane Eyre, Lowry theatre (matinee)	£35

Jane Eyre – Reminder for Theatregoers.

The coach will leave St. Michael's car park at 12 o'clock.

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.

Interesting Groups

Group	Co-ordinator	Days/times
Art	Ray Brooker	2nd + 4th Wednesday 10 - 12
Badminton	Carolyn Johnson	Tuesday 1.45-3.45pm
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	Usually 4th Wednesday
	Paul Carter	@ 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
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	Dave Rowell	Typically, one ride per fortnight.
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
	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
Film & discussion	Vikki Radford	TBA
Fitness & flexibility	Kay Witham	Alternate Mondays @ 2pm
French	Marilyn Hughes	4th Thursday
Gardening	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 10.30am
German - Intermediate	Angela Devaney	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
History	Margaret France	Alt Thurs 10 - noon
	Glenys Steedman	Contact for details
History Visits	Helen Webster	Thursdays 10am
Italian Improvers	Sheila Porter	1st Tuesday 2pm
Knitting A	Shelagh Lord	1st Thursday 2pm
Knitting B	Chris Chapman	Wednesday 1.30 - 3.30pm
Line Dancing	Val Murray	3rd Monday 2pm
Mapping Bramhall	Jackie Harmer	3rd Friday 10.30am
Music for Pleasure	David Pechey	3rd Monday @ 2pm
Photography	Wendy Litchfield	See website for details
Pilates	Olga Hampson	1st Thursday 10am
Play reading	Lynn Whyte	2nd Monday 2pm
Poetry	Frances Bell	Monthly first Thursday 8.30 for 9.00pm
Pub Quiz	Peter Webster	Contact for details
Real Railway Group	Mike Hollingsworth	1st Wednesday 2 - 4pm
Science for All	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm
Scottish country dance	Val Barker	2nd Monday 2 - 4.30
Scrabble	Gillian Rowe	1st & 3rd Mondays 10 to 12
Singing for fun	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2 - 4pm
Spanish - Intermediate	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10 -11.30am
Spanish - Upper Inter.	Pat George	1st Wednesday 2pm
Spanish - Self Help	Liz Pennington	1st, 2nd + 3rd Wed 10.00-12.00
Table Tennis: Fun for All	Liz Pennington	4th Wednesday 10.30-11.30am
	Joyce Kilgour	1st + 3rd Tuesday
Ukulele	Ann Gray	2pm
	Mike Waterhouse	Alternate Fridays at 2pm
Video & Film Making	Bob Dumbarton	See schedule on website
Walking	TBA	TBA
Walking Football	Jenny Richmond	Bi-monthly - contact for detail
Wine Tasting		
<i>Holidays</i>	<i>Gill Moorhouse</i>	<i>See newsletter and/or website</i>