

July

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Bramhall

U3A

Established 2010

Chairman's bit

The ancient Chinese had a curse they reserved for the worst of their enemies: 'May you live in interesting times'. Well, I'm not sure what we did to deserve it, but we are most certainly suffering from 'interesting times' at the moment. Our thoughts go to those who have suffered so badly from injury and bereavement recently and applaud the spirit which keeps so many afloat when you feel they may sink. Undoubtedly the co-operation and help offered so generously by so many has been an inspiration and a beacon of hope.

The summer has given us its usual mix – we have been either boiling in tropical temperatures or wrapping ourselves up in unseasonal jumpers. Trust the Great British weather to keep us guessing. Anyway, the nights are drawing in now

Having a personal interest in the Real Railway Group gives me the privilege of boasting that, along with all our interest groups, we represent the true spirit of U3A. On a recent excursion, a mix of men and women (more of the latter!) spent a wonderful day travelling to and across Windermere on conventional trains, buses, boats and steam trains – and then turning round and doing it all in reverse. The chat was non-stop, fun and occasionally well-informed; the coffees, teas, sandwiches and cakes kept on coming and as we bid each other farewell, all agreed it had been a lovely day. This is what we do so well as a whole club – socialise, learn a little, enjoy a lot.

With so many of us going away for holidays during the summer, some groups take a break. This gives an opportunity to re-charge batteries and make ready to start with renewed energy and ideas in the Autumn. By the time I am writing again, it will be September and most will be back on course, so enjoy the break, Co-ordinators, if that is your plan. In the meantime, I sincerely hope we all enjoy a happy, peaceful summer.

Peter Webster Chairman



36 members enjoyed the delights of beautiful Dorset, a county which is used as a setting for many TV shows. Poole was our first choice and we visited the famous Poole Pottery and were given a demonstration. Poole has Europe's largest natural harbour and we sailed around the islands and beautiful beaches contained within this magnificent harbour cruising close to Brownsea island and its castle, also Sandbanks, with its large impressive houses. Corfe Castle, a survivor of the English Civil war standing high on a hill overlooking its beautiful quaint village. From here we took a Steam Train to Swanage, a pretty seaside resort to enjoy an ice cream and sit on the beach ! We went to a local market and visited the pretty gardens of Mapperton House, the home of The Earl and Countess of Sandwich. In Dorchester we visited the local museum with its contemporary inside space of new galleries and then on to Portland Bill for a tour of the island and a cream tea at the Lobster Pot Cafe. We ended our holiday by visiting Sherborne, a beautiful town with a Saxon Abbey where we had a tour.

Did you know? Judi Robinson, our almoner and member of the Singing for Fun group, recently appeared on BBC Points of View making comments on the programme Pitch Battle, a competition for choirs

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
Community: Alaister Macrae

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 ...

August 17

An Adventure on Wheels - Part 2
Matt & Ivonne
A year driving around the USA

September 21

Mercy Ships
Frances King
Hospital ships delivering life enhancing surgery on
the West Coast of Africa.

October 19

The History of Arighi Bianchi
Paul and Nick Bianchi

New Group The Real Ale Appreciation Group

The primary aim of this group will be to expand members knowl-
edge of the brewing process through visits and talks; to
investigate the spectacular growth in micro pubs/breweries; to
experience the phenomenal range of beer products and to have
the opportunity to socialise with like-minded members.

It is envisaged that that visits to breweries, unique pubs, and beer
festivals would be on a monthly basis.

This is an all-inclusive group and so any Bramhall U3A member will
be very welcome to join.

To register your interest please email groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

BEGINNERS PILATES - A CHANCE FOR YOU TO TRY IT!

Following numerous requests from people interested in Pilates,
there will be a one-off short course for Beginners so you can see if
it's for you and to learn some of the basics.

This is a 3 week course taking place at 09.15 on Mondays 31st July,
7th August and 14th August at Bramhall Village Club.

Places are limited so please register your interest by emailing
groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk and using 'Beginner Pilates' in the
subject box. You will be sent full details and a Health Question-
naire so you can book your place.

& Walks

Wednesday 26 July

Astbury Mere 5.5m EASY+
Pam Rhodes

Thursday 10 August

Lantern Pike 6.0m HARD
Ray Atkinson

Wednesday 23 August

Lindow Common 5.0m EASY
Elaine Hitchinson

Thursday 14 September

Redesmere 5.0m EASY
Bob Dumbarton

Community

Alaister Macrae

Stockport Together Listening Event

An event designed to help you to

understand the main issues we're facing in our health and care system. You
will be given the opportunity to have your say about your experiences & what
matters to you.

27th July 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm Bramhall Methodist Church – Centre Point Hall

Or

24th July 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm Cheadle Village Hall, 1 Brook Rd, Cheadle

To book – email stoccg.stockport-together@nhs.net or phone 0161 426 5011

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 +)



Outings

Co-ordinators: Chris Hollingsworth
& Val Graham

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 | Outings - Events open for booking | Price |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Thurs 12 Oct | M & S Archive and Hepworth Art Gallery | £19 (with carvery), £12 (no meal) |
| Tues 14 Nov | Xmas Show-Party – theme ABBA – Mamma Mia | £36 |
| | Outings – Events on Waiting list | |
| Sund 30 July | Eaton Hall Gardens & Sunday lunch | £38 |
| Frid 11 – Sat 12 Aug | Prince Charles's Gardens at Highgrove | £189 p.p. |
| Sun 3 – Tues 5 Sept | Coast, Cathedral & Coal Visiting Whitby, Durham and Beamish | £245 p.p. |
| Thurs 14 Sept | BBC MediaCityUK | £9.45 |

The events for July to September are on waiting list. It is always worthwhile to put your name on the waiting list as we regularly have cancellations.

On sale this month is our visit to the Marks & Spencer Archive in Leeds with a talk from an M&S Archivist followed by a tour of the Marks in Time exhibition. Then we are off to lunch in Oulton and the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield. The Gallery is winner of the Art Fund Museum of the Year.

Also on sale is the Xmas Show-Party, a combination of good company, good entertainment and good food. We will be using a different venue from last year's trip but it will be just as enjoyable. The theme this year is Mamma Mia, that wonderful ABBA music with the Party being held at The Mercure Hotel, Dunkenhalgh, Blackburn.

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

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 20 Sep | Aladdin Ballet, Lowry Theatre (evening) | 27 th July | £48 |
| | Full but with a waiting list | | |
| Wed 25 Oct | Sunset Boulevard, Palace Theatre (matinee) | | £47 |

Aladdin Ballet

Currently the bookings received for Aladdin are insufficient for the trip to go ahead. If you want to go please book by the 27th July as otherwise the trip may be cancelled.

Cancellation, Refund and Guest Policies

A full refund will be made if a booking with payment is cancelled by telephone within 7 days of the booking being made. In other circumstances, a full or partial refund will be made if there is a sufficient number of members on the trip to cover the costs. A refund of ticket costs can only be made where either the ticket has not yet been purchased or the ticket is sold to another member. Refunds - All refunds will be made after the theatre event/outing has taken place. Guest policy - Non-members can come on a theatre event/outing as a guest of a member on one occasion only.

Other Aspects

The costs for theatre events/outings include transport, driver's tip and, where appropriate, tickets. The dates for future outings, for which bookings are not yet being taken, are posted on the website under *Dates for your Diary*.

The Wellspring always are always in need of sealed foodstuffs, such as pasta, pasta sauce, tins of soup, coffee and tea. They also use new/unused toiletries and clothing in good condition. Many people who fall on hard times depend on our continuing, most generous contributions.

Obituary - We are sorry to announce the death of Judith Jones.

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 | Chris Stubbs | 2nd + 4th Wednesday 10am - noon |
| Badminton | Carolyn Johnson | Tuesday 1.45-3.45pm |
| Bird Watching | Diana Oldfield | Usually 4th Wednesday @ 9.15am |
| Books | Dudley Newell | 4th Thursday |
| Bridge Beginners | Peter Levy | Tuesdays 2 - 4pm |
| Improvers | Ray Lee | Wednesdays 10am - noon |
| Café book club | Kay Witham | Monthly. Tuesday PM |
| Canasta | Sue Young | 3rd Monday 2pm |
| Card making | Dorothy Chesterman | Alt. Mondays 2 - 4pm |
| Computers | Paul Ramsden | 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 - 4th week of each month |
| Discussion | Jan Boys | 4th Monday 2pm |
| | Dina Levy | 3rd Friday 2pm |
| | Pat Wright | 2nd Thursday 10am -12noon |
| Embroidery | Dorothy Chesterman | Monthly - Wednesday 2pm |
| Family History | Diane Bright | Monthly - Wednesday 2pm |
| | Mary Hambleton | First Thursday 1-3pm |
| | Brian Turner | 4th Wednesday 10.30am |
| Film & discussion | Pamela Roth | Mondays 9.45 - 10.30 |
| Fitness & flexibility | Vikki Radford | Alternate Mondays @ 2pm |
| French | Kay Witham | 4th Thursday |
| Gardening | Marilyn Hughes | 2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 10.30am |
| German - Intermediate | Alison Davids | Alt Thurs 10 - noon |
| History | Angela Devaney | Alt Thurs 10 - noon |
| | Margaret France | Contact for details |
| History Visits | Glenys Steedman | Thursdays 10am |
| Italian Improvers | Helen Webster | 1st Tuesday 2pm |
| Knitting A | Sheila Porter | 1st Thursday 2pm |
| Knitting B | Shelagh Lord | Wednesday 1.30 - 3.30pm |
| Line Dancing | Chris Chapman | 3rd Monday 2pm |
| Mapping Bramhall | Val Murray | 3rd Friday 10.30am |
| Music for Pleasure | Jackie Harmer | 3rd Monday @ 2pm |
| Photography | David Pechey | See website for details |
| Pilates | Wendy Litchfield | 1st Thursday 10am |
| Play reading | Olga Hampson | 2nd Monday 2pm |
| Poetry | Lynn Whyte | Monthly first Thursday 8.30 for 9.00pm |
| Pub Quiz | Frances Bell | Contact for details |
| Real Railway Group | Peter Webster | 1st Wednesday 2 - 4pm |
| Science for All | Mike Hollingsworth | Alt Fridays 1.30 - 3pm |
| Scottish country dance | Sheila Bruce-Smith | 2nd Monday 2 - 4.30 |
| Scrabble | Val Barker | 1st & 3rd Mondays 10 to 12 |
| Singing for fun | Gillian Rowe | Thursdays 2 - 4pm |
| Spanish - Intermediate | Diana Blaney | Tuesdays 10 -11.30am |
| Spanish - Upper Inter. | Gaye Huddart | 1st Wednesday 2pm |
| Spanish - Self Help | Pat George | 1st, 2nd + 3rd Wed 10.00-12.00 |
| Table Tennis: Fun for All | Liz Pennington | 4th Wednesday 10.30-11.30am |
| Competitive Singles | Liz Pennington | 1st + 3rd Tuesday 2pm |
| Ukulele | Joyce Kilgour | Alternate Fridays at 2pm |
| | Ann Gray | See schedule on website |
| Video & Film Making | Alaister Macrae | TBA |
| Walking | Bob Dumbarton | Bi-monthly - contact for detail |
| Walking Football | TBA | |
| Wine Tasting | Jenny Richmond | |
| <i>Holidays</i> | <i>Gill Moorhouse</i> | <i>See newsletter and/or website</i> |