

Bramhall u3a learn,  
laugh,  
live

# Uppbeat Spring



Photograph courtesy of Louise Pennie

March



# Did you know?

The name of **March** comes from **Martius**, the first month of the earliest Roman calendar. It was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and an ancestor of the Roman people through his sons Romulus and Remus. His month, Martius, was the beginning of the season for warfare, and the festivals held in his honour during the month were mirrored by others in October, when the season for these activities came to a close. Martius remained the first month of the Roman calendar year perhaps as late as 153 BC, and several religious observances in the first half of the month were originally new year's celebrations. Even in late antiquity, Roman mosaics picturing the months sometimes still placed March first.

**March** is the third month of the year. It is the second of seven months to have a length of 31 days. In the Northern Hemisphere, the meteorological beginning of spring occurs on the first day of March. The March equinox, on the 20 or 21, marks the astronomical beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, where September is the seasonal equivalent of the Northern Hemisphere's March. March begins on the same day of the week as November and ends on the same day of the week as June every year. March birthstones are aquamarine and bloodstone. These stones symbolize courage. Its birth flower is the daffodil. **By the way ... March is also National Umbrella Month.**

## Its not long now until Easter

**Here it is, March already**, and still life isn't back to normal. We've endured a rather odd year of restrictions and so on, but we're still smiling. At least I am and I hope you are too. I keep thinking of all the old jokes that are doing the rounds by email, Whatsapp and Zoom such as: *"Question: What kind of lights did Noah use on his Ark?" "Answer: Floodlights!"* The cornier, the better, in my book.

We will get a chance to vote in our AGM this month and we'll be ready for another year of whatever is destined for us. Please participate, by email or by post, by the middle of the month to help the Committee to finalise the AGM. It's all in a good cause.

It's not long now until Easter, so it'll be interesting to see what we can get up to by then. As far as I can see, groups of no more than six can meet outdoors from the 29th of this month. Also, by the 29th, outdoor sports like tennis will be allowed, but again restricted to groups of six at a time. I don't know if that will help our Pickleball Group. We've then got to wait until the 17th May before the next set of relaxations come about, when up to 30 people at a time can meet outdoors, but the rule of six will still apply to indoor gatherings. Roll on the 21st June when, if all goes well, we will be back to normal. That should enable us to have our first monthly meeting, in over 18 months, in July. Put the 15th July into your diary!

In the meantime, take care and keep following the various rules in force as the months progress.

Cheers, **Alaister Macrae**

### A Laughing Chorus

Oh, such a commotion under the ground  
When March called, "Ho, there! ho!"  
Such spreading of rootlets far and wide,  
Such whispering to and fro;  
And, "Are you ready?" the Snowdrop asked,

"Tis time to start, you know."  
"Almost, my dear," the Scilla replied  
"I'll follow as soon as you go."  
Then, "Ha! ha! ha!" a chorus came  
Of laughter soft and low,  
From the millions of flowers under the ground  
Yes - millions - beginning to grow. **Anon**

# Bramhall u3a Information



**Alaister Macrae**  
Chairman



**Peter Webster**  
Vice-Chair,  
Newsletter & Magazine



**Alistair Gardner**  
Treasurer



**Chris Stubbs**  
Groups



**Mike Hollingsworth**  
Holidays



**Bob Dumbarton**  
Events, Newsletter  
& Magazine



**Meg Rowell**  
Minutes & Business  
Secretary



**Helen Webster**  
Speakers & Charities



**Dudley Newall**  
Outings



**Edward Haynes**  
Community



**Frances Bell**  
Theatre

Along with: **Kay Witham** Membership

**Jill Rickman** Almoner



**YOU can support the members**

There are three Vacancies

**Assistant Treasurer**

**Equipment manager**

**Groups Accommodation**

Contact Alaister Macrae:

[chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**Bramhall u3a - Your Committee**

## \*Contact information\*

Our website address, for everything u3a you need to know: [www.bramhallu3a.org.uk](http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**Group enquiries:** [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**General enquiries:** [enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**Charity items:** [charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

**Upbeat Magazine:** [magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

## Annual Renewals

We are now in the process of sending out renewals for this year, but would like to apologise if we have sent them to people who are no longer members, or have passed away. Our monthly meetings were forced to stop during our renewal period last year, so we have included members from 2019 and 2020 in the renewal.

I would like to thank Frances Bell, Chris Hartley, Anne Lee, Shelagh Lord and Maria Mant for their help in distributing the letters.

**Kay Witham**

## Bramhall u3a - Subscriptions for 2021

**The Committee unanimously agreed that the annual subscription for 2021 will be held at £10.**

\*\* The membership fee has remained at £10 since Bramhall u3a started in 2010 \*\*

**Stockport Council website:**

[www.stockport.gov.uk](http://www.stockport.gov.uk)

or Telephone: **0161 480 4949**

**Coronavirus helpline**

Our dedicated coronavirus helpline is for the most vulnerable people in Stockport:

**0161 217 6046:**

**Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm**

**Friday from 9am to 4:30pm**

If you need urgent help when our helpline is closed, you can contact: **0161 718 2118.**

If you're deaf or have difficulty hearing, you can contact us on **07860 022 876.**

**\*\*\*Check your bin collection days\*\*\***

**Please refer to the sheet recently distributed by Stockport MBC**

**or go to ...**

[www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-collection-day](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/find-your-collection-day)

**Please put your bins out by 7am**

# Please share your Upbeat

If you can, please send your magazine on to a friend or 'buddy' who has not yet seen it. Or contact them to chat about it or give them your copy. If you can, print parts of it yourself and post it or give it to them to enjoy. **Its always worth being UPBEAT with others**



# Our Brilliant IT team is retiring

The current website team is retiring so we are **urgently** looking for, ideally, three people to look after the maintenance and make improvements to the website. Anybody who is familiar with creating or maintaining websites or computer programming should be able to adapt to the 'have a good look at what is there and use common sense to modify its approach!

If you are interested in supporting the members, please email:

[communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

If we do not get any volunteers there is a real possibility of the website no longer being kept up to date and the magazines and emails not sent.

**Charlie Barker**

**Bramhallu3a**  
needs **YOU**

Be part of the team – we all need you

## Our Groups and other u3a things

Sadly Boris and 'Lifting Lockdown' has changed nothing for our groups this March. However the group coordinators have been writing their annual reports and, so that ideas can be shared, we will be publishing some of these over the next few months. Many groups are using 'Zoom' and if you would like to know more please remember there are people who are willing to help set this up and give support.

**Chris Stubbs**

### Theatre

The performance by **Romiley Operatic Society** of **7 Brides for 7 Brothers** which should have been at the Plaza in March of this year has been postponed again. The show will now be going ahead on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 and the existing tickets will be valid.

**Kay Witham**

### Art Appreciation

We will be having our next Zoom meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> when the subject will be Barbara Hepworth, and have arranged an additional April meeting when the talk will be about Francis Bacon.

**Kay Witham**

### Science for All

The Science for All group has met using Zoom for 10 talks since it recommenced in May. Talks are on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 2pm. The talks programme for the beginning of 2021 is:

**7 April**                      *Fibre and how the internet gets to you*                      by Brian Wells

**7 May (Friday)**    **The quiet revolution in numerical weather prediction** by Sam Hatfield

If you would like to join the Group, please email [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk) with Science for All in the Subject line.

**Mike Hollingsworth**

### u3a National Office Newsletter

Do you want to know what is happening in other u3a's across the country? Perhaps new ideas for the group(s) that you are involved with?

You can sign up for the **free monthly Newsletter** from **u3a National Office** to be emailed to you - see <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>. Past Newsletters can be seen at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter>.

### North West Regional Committee

The **NW Committee** have asked that we bring to your attention the 'Tonight' programme to be shown on **ITV 11 March - 7.30 to 8pm**. Title: **How to Age Well?** The programme is presented by Martin Kemp.

## North West Region u3a

## Tuesday talks

The next talks from the Committee for the North West Region of the U3A are

**Tuesday 9 March 10.30am Happy ever after?**

by Catherine Stevenson. This presentation maps the history of fairy stories through art and literature

**Tuesday 13 April 10.30am Japanese culture**

by Gill Russell. u3a members can book for the talks by going to <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

Gill Russell (Hoylake, west Kirby and District u3a) is currently running a **Basic Japanese Language** short course, which is full. If there is sufficient interest, Gill will run another free course using Zoom after Easter.

**If you are interested, email: [gillruss71@gmail.com](mailto:gillruss71@gmail.com).**

## Events from u3a National Office

u3a National Office have organised a series of **free** online events including:

<b>Monday 8 March</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Leonarda da Vinci: Would he have made a good u3a member?</b> by Catherine Stevenson (Newcastle u3a)
<b>Monday 8 March</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Egyptology: Women in Ancient Egypt</b> by Neil Stevenson (Subject Adviser for Egyptology)
<b>Wednesday 17 March</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>FIRE! – A century of the volunteer fire brigade</b> by Jo Livingston (Subject Adviser for Living History)
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>The Paradigm of Plate Tectonics – a lesson in Geology</b> by Martin Eales (Sutton u3a)
<b>Wednesday 31 March</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Where did our favourite plants come from?</b> by Marion Dale (Crewkerne u3a)

There is also a talk “**Turner & Mythology with the National Gallery**” on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 11am** for which the charge is £5.50.

For details and booking, go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

**Mike Hollingsworth**

## Magic Lemon Pudding from Colleen Worrall

### Ingredients:

60g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing  
Grated zest and juice of 1 large lemon  
90g caster sugar  
2 eggs separated.  
30g self-raising flour  
175ml milk  
lemon or lime slices to decorate



### Method:

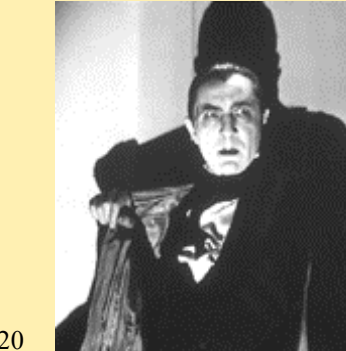
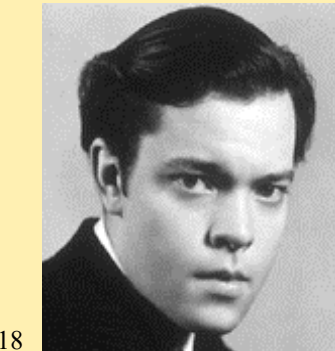
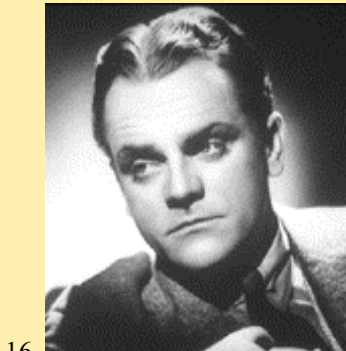
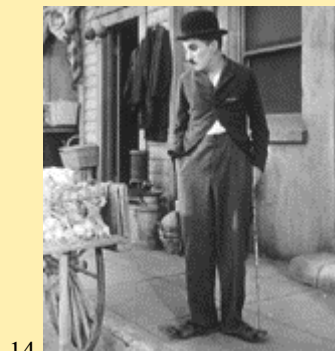
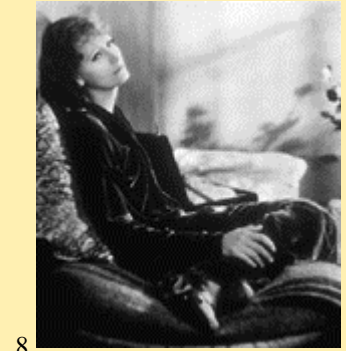
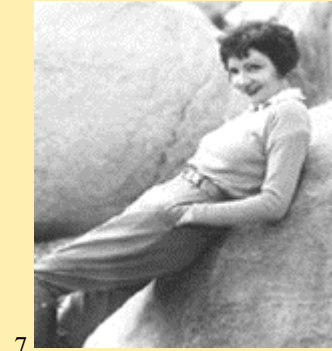
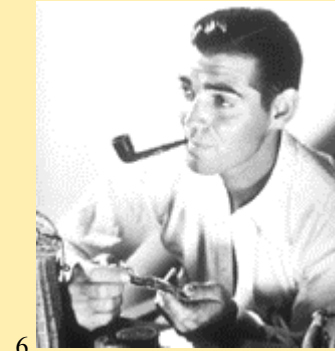
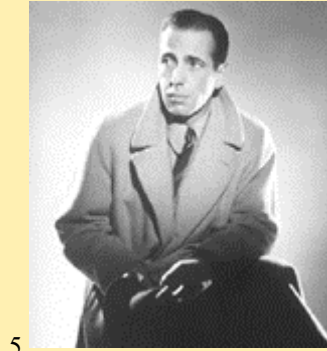
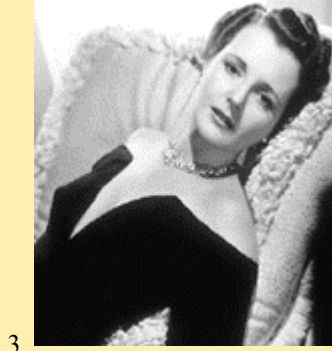
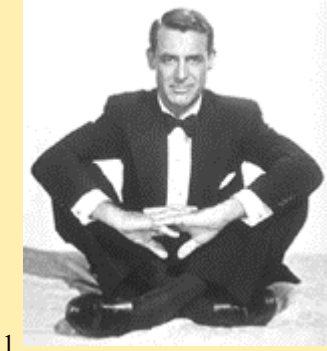
Lightly grease a shallow ovenproof dish or 4-6 ramekins.  
Beat together the butter, lemon zest and sugar in a mixing bowl.  
Add the egg yolks, flour and lemon juice, stirring to combine.  
Gradually stir in the milk until evenly mixed.  
Whisk the egg whites until stiff but not dry, then gradually fold into the lemon mixture.  
Pour the mixture into the greased dish or ramekins and place in a roasting tin.  
Add enough hot water to come almost to the rim of the dish or ramekins, thereby making a bain-marie.  
Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160°C/gas mark 3 for up to 40 minutes or until the sponge feels springy.  
Serve hot, decorated with lemon or lime slices and a dollop of crème fraiche.  
Serves 4-6

*\*This is a very light pudding (after all our recent indulgence!) which tastes equally good when cold.*

# Quiz Time

Answers to all questions are on the back page, but no cheating ...

Can you name these Film Stars from the Golden Years of the Hollywood Studios ?



# On a lighter note ...

People say that drinking milk makes you stronger.

Drink 5 glasses of milk and try to move a wall.  
Can't?

Now drink 5 glasses of wine. The wall moves all by itself!



If you place the numbers 1 to 6 in a row, the total for the row is 21. Can you place the number 1 to 6 in five more rows so that each column and both diagonals also add up to 21?

								Total
								21
								21
								21
								21
								21
								21
21								21
	21	21	21	21	21	21		

## Some reasons to be grateful ...

### ... if you grew up speaking English:

We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one can be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.  
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
Though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim

.....  
The bandage was wound around the wound.  
The farm was used to produce produce.  
The tip was so full it had to refuse more refuse.  
We must polish the Polish furniture.  
The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.  
Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.  
At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a base drum.  
I did not object to the object.  
The insurance was invalid for the invalid.  
There was a row amongst the oarsmen about how to row.  
They were too close to the door to close it.  
The buck does funny things when the does are present.



I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them.  
It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.

I told my carpenter I didn't want carpeted steps. He gave me a blank stair.

## Another Stockport Suffragette - Elsie Plant

The fourth of our splendid local ladies to be commemorated in Suffragette Square in Stockport is Elsie Plant. Elsie was born Gertrude Elsie Furlong in Ashton-on-Mersey in 1890, but lived most of her life in Woodsmoor on the outskirts of Stockport. At an early age, she rebelled against her father's Conservative political views and became a suffragette. She joined the Women's Social and Political Union and joined in the mass suffragette marches in the early years of the twentieth century. It was at this time that she met and was almost certainly influenced by Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst, the notable leader of the movement for equality of opportunity for women.

Elsie married Walter Plant, a member of a well-known hatting family in Stockport. Walter's particular role was in making hat-blocks for the firm, particularly the blocks for military headwear. The 1939 census records him as being a 'wood hat helmet and army block manufacturer' and Elsie as a 'bookkeeper'. It is worth a note that their work forms part of an important exhibition in the Stockport Hatting Museum. There is also an interesting little fact that, upon the coronation of our Queen, the Queen of Tonga had the Plant family make her a hat for the occasion.

During most of their marriage, they lived on Moorland Road in Woodsmoor, where they produced three daughters. One of the daughters was Aileen Plant, who died at the age of 100 in 2014, having been a teacher all her life, and for many years headteacher at Reddish Vale Nursery.

Elsie and Walter became staunch and active members of the Labour Party Fellowship in Stockport. They organised visiting lectures, some at the Armory on Greek Street, by nationally known figures such as Tom Mann, speaking on the General Strike in 1923 and, later, representatives of the Dockers' Union. It was also in 1923 that Elsie contacted Marie Stopes, who founded the first birth control clinic in Britain, and arranged for her to speak on the subject in Stockport. She continued to work with Marie, organising speaking engagements in subsequent years.

Unfortunately, Elsie and Walter's birth control campaign did not have the support of the local Labour Party, whose leadership feared the loss of the votes of Roman Catholics. However, they persevered in their fight for the rights of women to make their own choices and after World War II, Elsie formed the Stockport Family Planning Association, in which she served as treasurer. The FPA eventually won a victory in the local council who in 1955 gave them use of municipal premises and later provided a purpose-built clinic. Elsie's fight for these rights had lasted three decades.

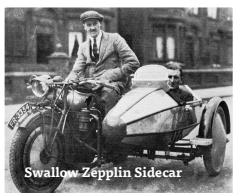
Elsie died in 1982, leaving evidence of her very active political life in minute books and saved memorabilia. Her daughter Aileen was proud to continue the family involvement in political activism, continuing the work started by her remarkable parents.

**Helen Webster**

**A Triumph of Automotive History** Ever since I saw my first Triumph Mayflower car with razor-sharp edges in the 1950s, that became the marque to which I aspired. Names like Dolomite, Toledo, Stag and 2000 still conjure up images that inspired me. Not that I ever had any of them nor did I ever own a Jaguar which this story is really about.



Last year I read a poster on the station platform produced by Woodsmoor Station



Friends in association with assistance from Transport for Greater Manchester. This is an extract of that poster, which describes a business involved with Swallow Sidecars also known as Stockport Zeppelin. It's about William Walmsley (1862-1961) who returned after serving in the First world War and started to build these motor cycle sidecars in Woodsmoor and latterly in Heaviley.

When the family moved to Blackpool, he formed a partnership with William Lyons and they diversified into bespoke coachworks including the Standard Swallow.

The next stage was a move to Coventry as SS Cars. Walmsley moved back to Blackpool and designed and built caravans and trailers. In 1945, Lyons renamed the company Jaguar and went on to great success.

I don't know if the poster is still on display but I hope this tells you a little fact I never knew before.

**Edward Haynes**





## Supporting our nominated charities

**St Ann's Hospice** and **The Wellspring** are still operating but are struggling with funding as normal sources of income have all but dried up. Donations are now more important than ever and can be made, directly to them, via their websites: **St Anne's Hospice:** <https://www.sah.org.uk> **The Wellspring:** <https://thewellspring.co.uk>

**Many thanks to all who bought our Christmas Knitted novelties. Your generosity helped us to raise £300 for St Ann's Hospice.**

## Knitting Group A

We are hoping to help St Ann's Hospice again but this time we are selling **Easter novelties**.

*We have covers for:*

<b>Crème Eggs</b>	<b>75p or £1</b> (depending on design)
<b>Smarties Tube</b>	<b>£1</b>
<b>Chocolate Oranges</b>	<b>£2.50</b>
<b>Small Gift Bags</b>	<b>£1.50</b>

All are supplied without chocolate.

**We also have some lavender filled chicks and rabbits - £1**



If you would like any of the above please contact **Sheila Porter** via [charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

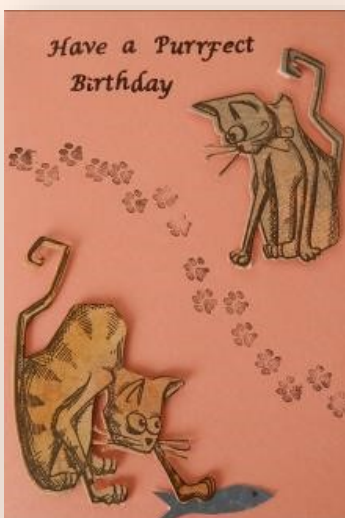
## The Card Group

**Spring is on its way**, I have the first daffodils in my garden. So for this month I have chosen some flower cards for you. A lovely pink poppy and a beautiful flower card with bees on, just so you can think back to last summer and how we all enjoyed the good weather and the lovely flowers in our garden.

Easter will be with us in just a few weeks and we have a large selection of cards for both adults and children. It's so good to have a card with wishes in it, when we have all been going through such a difficult time.

So I look forward to hearing from you, it's only a phone call away. **Enjoy the Spring**

**From the Card Girls Chris D, Avril, Jill, Chris W.**



### Card delivery service.

We are so grateful to all those who have ordered cards from us, as it means we can continue to support our nominated charity, **The Wellspring**.

This is now a regular service, so that people can still benefit from our hand-made cards.

Many thanks to you all. **Jill Rickman - Card Making** [charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:charities@bramhallu3a.org.uk)





## Alice and the Andromeda Galaxy Part 2

A story by Keith Wright

*Part 1 was in last month's edition of  
UPBEAT magazine*

**Elbin** went over to a line of several air taxis, which were similar in size to Earth's small mountain cable cars and hovered about a meter above the ground. He pulled one down and they all clambered into it, Alice seated next to Nogla against the rear wall. She was surprised to see that the family were alone in the taxi.

Elbin then fished a card out of the voluminous pocket on his green smock and fed it into a slot located on the taxi wall. The vehicle was suddenly full of light. He then pressed some buttons on the front panel and grabbed the steering control wheel as they

hurtled into the vivid blue sky, scattering a flock of small pterodactyls.

"That card is used for all our purchases," Elbin explained. "In an air taxi it automatically takes money from me after we have left the ground, then stops working when we land. We've only had air taxis for about 70 Oz years, but almost everyone is able to operate them. Before then the roads were becoming really congested by the increasing number of motor vehicles."

Alice stared eagerly out of the window next to her seat. Soon they were flying over what looked like large cultivated fields. Some of the crops were several meters tall.

"On Oz we eat only vegetables, and our planet grows enough for everyone, with some to spare," Nogla smiled, "We graze animals similar to your cows. They provide a liquid called glub, which I believe is like your milk. Eventually the animals simply die of old age. Elbin will now fly across one of our diamond mines. There are several round here. Then we'll be over the ocean. Like Earth, four-fifths of our planet is covered by water."

The diamond mine, with its enormous drilling equipment, seemed to flash past her window. They were then hovering over a large expanse of blue-green water. Below her she could see huge ships, seven or eight decks high.

"The majority of our trade with the other lands on Oz is done across our oceans, and there are also hundreds of pleasure ships," Elbin said, and then glanced at the timepiece on his arm. "It's a pity we can't show you so much more, but your time on Oz is limited. I hope you are impressed by our planet. You can see how advanced we are compared with planet Earth. Our communication systems not only ensure that everyone on Oz has an equal share of the planet's wealth, but also allows us access to other life-supporting planets within Andromeda. In addition, for the last ten Oz years we've also been able to monitor Earth, the only planet in your Milky Way which can support life. That's how we learnt your language, by intercepting your radio waves."

Whilst most of what Elbin was saying went over Alice's head, she was nevertheless deeply moved by everything she had seen. The inhabitants of Oz seemed so peaceful and friendly. She wondered if there had ever been any wars between the different lands around the planet. During her short stay she had not seen any military installations and no-one in her welcoming party had been carrying weapons of any kind. Indeed, everyone seemed to be too content with their lives to ever think of fighting one another.

As if he had been reading her thoughts Elbin pressed another, larger, button on the front panel and then turned a dial, explaining that doing so would put the air taxi into automatic mode, selected to take them back to their departure point. He then turned to face her.

"We are very happy on our planet, Alice. One reason is that we believe in the same God as you do on Earth, but unlike the people on Earth we all abide by the same rules and worship in the same way. We would never start conflicts because of religious differences. God gave us everything we have and we should let everyone enjoy his gifts equally. It seems incredible to us that the people on Earth cannot do the same." Elbin smiled happily, clearly enjoying himself, and then continued in the same vein. "A few years ago our astronauts went to another inhabited planet in the Andromeda Galaxy, a planet we call Maleda. It's only three light years away and our space ships travel at just below the speed of light, so it took a little over three years to get there. The inhabitants of Maleda are much bigger than we are and their bodies are covered in hair. They are not as advanced as the people on our planet, but our astronauts were able to communicate with them and give them advice on subjects such as agriculture and science. The space ship stayed there for several years and we were regularly sent back reports and pictures showing us how the people of Maleda lived. Like the people of Oz they also believe in God, and the nation states there have also never fought one another."

All too soon the taxi flew back to its starting point. Elbin retrieved his card and they all alighted.

“Right, Alice, unfortunately its time to take you back home now. We’ve really enjoyed your company. Now just close your eyes. We’ll be back on Planet Earth in no time. Incidentally, you will notice when you get back that some things about you have changed because of your visit to Oz.”

Once again Alice had the sensation of being hurtled through space at a tremendous speed. When she re-opened her eyes she was again seated in front of her computer screen. With a start, she noticed that Elbin and his family were standing behind her, grinning from ear to ear. Then, to her amazement, they seemed to drift towards the screen, waving as they went, and silently vanished into its interior. Alice sighed wistfully. It seemed to have been a very long day, and the wizards had taught her so much. She wondered if her grandchildren would believe that such a magical thing could happen, and whether some years into the future something similar might happen to them.

A few days later Paul brought the children to see how their granny was getting on. As she greeted them his eyes almost came out of their sockets. His mother looked twenty years younger than when he had last seen her. Describing it as a miracle, Alice told him that she no longer had any pain in her knees, had joined the local gym and was planning to run in the next London Marathon. She then took them upstairs to the spare bedroom and, to their astonishment, proceeded to navigate around the computer as if she had been doing it all her life. She was, however, careful not to go anywhere near the “Set-up Wizard” icon, just in case she pressed it too quickly and her whole family were transported to the planet of Oz. That was something she hoped they would be able to experience later in their lives.

### The Temple of Heaven

If you’ve been to Beijing, you must have visited the Temple of Heaven.

The Hall of Prayer is where Emperors went to worship their God, to offer sacrifices and to pray for bumper harvests. Started in 1406, it took 14 years to complete. It was built during the Ming Dynasty<sub>2</sub> by the Yonkle Emperor. He also built the Forbidden City in China’s capital.

Its circular, three-tiered roof is supported by 28 large pillars. It survived occupation by the Anglo-French alliance during the second opium war and the Boxer rebellion in 1900.

In 1914, the then President of the Chinese Republic held a Ming Prayer Ceremony in the temple in an attempt to have himself regarded as Emperor of China. Four years later it was opened to the public for the first time and is now a UNESCO World heritage Site.

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**Alaister Macrae**



*What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? ‘Suture self.’*

*A raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16.*

*It means that the difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.*

**This is your magazine. Help us to keep it UPBEAT for everyone.**

**All submissions to [magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:magazine@bramhallu3a.org.uk) by 22 March**

**The Upbeat Magazine team ...**

**Bob Dumbarton** (Content Editor); **Peter Webster** (Layout & Graphics) & **Helen Webster** (Production Assistant)

**The next edition will be available on the Friday 2 April.**

We would really welcome your articles, pictures, quizzes, jokes and, of course, feedback.

# The Back Page

## Film Stars - The Answers

- 1 Cary Grant
- 2 Carmen Miranda
- 3 Mary Astor
- 4 Jean Harlow
- 5 Humphrey Bogart
- 6 Clark Gable
- 7 Claudette Colbert
- 8 Greta Garbo
- 9 Mae West
- 10 Lauren Bacall
- 11 Bette Davis
- 12 Vivien Leigh
- 13 Ingrid Bergman
- 14 Charlie Chaplin
- 15 W C Fields
- 16 James Cagney
- 17 James Stewart
- 18 Orson Welles
- 19 Marlene Dietrich
- 20 Bela Lugosi

## 1 to 6 in a row - The Answer is ...

							Total
	4	1	6	5	2	3	21
	3	2	5	6	1	4	21
	5	4	1	2	3	6	21
	1	6	4	3	5	2	21
	2	5	3	4	6	1	21
	6	3	2	1	4	5	21
21							21
	21	21	21	21	21	21	



**Flowers**

Water lilies float serene,  
Roses breathe the scented air  
With velvet petals, furred and fair,  
While vine-flowers offer fragrant screen.

Bluebells mist the woodland scene,  
Violets hide in grassy lair,  
Daisies crown the May-time queen  
And ferns will trail their maiden hair.

Ladies' mantle flowers green,  
Snowdrops hang heads in despair  
Then smile again in sun's pale glare.  
While we bemoan the might-have-been,  
Let us keep our senses keen,  
So flowers may wash our spirits clean.

**Helen Webster**



## And finally ...

### A reminder of our Annual General Meeting on 6 May 2021

The next AGM will be held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at 2.00 pm using the same format as last year, due to the uncertainties surrounding the impact of the Covid-19 restrictions. As in previous years, all members will be sent the annual reports and voting forms, by email or post, at the beginning of April. **Please do vote.**

Not all the existing committee members are willing to continue serving, so we have some vacancies for which we need volunteers. Get involved and help us to keep Bramhall U3A going. We are sure that there are many members, possibly new ones, who could offer a valuable and worthwhile contribution to the running of our U3A. It can be fun!

Under our Constitution, my role as Chairman should officially come to an end this year. However, as there have been no physical meetings in the last year, the Committee agree that unless there are any nominations for a replacement, they are prepared to let me stand again for a further year. Nominations for a replacement for me would be welcome, though.

The vacant posts are **Groups Accommodation Organiser** and **Equipment Manager**. The latter is a job for someone fairly strong as some of our gear is heavy and or bulky. The remainder of the current committee is detailed in the letter sent to you with your renewal application form, along with other contact details.

Whilst we do have a few volunteers for some of the vacancies, they need assistants. If you wish to volunteer, please tell an existing committee member and they will arrange for you to be nominated appropriately. Should you want to nominate someone else, please forward The nomination form by email to me, by email to: [chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk), or by letter, by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Yours sincerely **Alaister Macrae** Chairman