

1st Anniversary Special

# Uplbeat

Bramhall u3a learn  
laugh  
live

## April

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for all members**

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All you need  
to know**

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## An UPBEAT Happy Birthday to us - we are 1 year old today

It is unbelievable but it was twelve months ago when we issued the first copy of **UPBEAT**. As you will know, a Newsletter has been distributed on a monthly basis for many years, to keep our members up to date with news, events and general Bramhall U3A information.

Because of Covid and the lack of our regular meetings, the Committee agreed that a Magazine was produced to not only keep everyone up to date, but more importantly provide an interesting, funny, vehicle with pictures, quizzes, recipes and stories that would endeavour to keep our membership **UPBEAT** through these difficult times.

Many of the articles and pictures have been provided by our members, for which we are very grateful. Their varied skills have made our job somewhat easier and show what a clever bunch you all are!

We hope that you have all enjoyed the past year's copies of **UPBEAT** plus the future editions until we can return to normality.

With best regards to all our readers **Peter and Helen Webster, Bob Dumbarton** - *The editorial team*

### A Happy Easter to You All

I hope you manage to enjoy the Easter weekend in some way despite the restrictions still in force. The next easing of the rules begins on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month when we can at least get a haircut or a drink out of doors, that is weather permitting, on the latter!

We also have to vote for the AGM this month by mail or via our website [bramhallu3a.org.uk](http://bramhallu3a.org.uk). Please make sure you do to keep us legal. The Committee will finalise it early next month and we can look forward to getting back to normal by July. (AGM details on pages 6 and 7)

In the meantime, be safe and I don't want to boast, but I have to tell you that I went into another room and remembered why I was there! Admittedly it was the bathroom which gave me a clue.

Cheers, **Alaister Macrae**

# Did you know?

**The Romans** gave this month the Latin name *Aprilis* but the derivation of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb *aperire*, "to open", in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open", which is supported by comparison with the modern Greek use of ἀνοιξη (*ánixi*) (opening) for spring. Since some of the Roman months were named in honour of divinities, and as April was sacred to the goddess Venus, her Veneralia being held on the first day, it has been suggested that Aprilis was originally her month **Aphrilis**, from her equivalent Greek goddess name Aphrodite (*Aphros*), or from the Etruscan name *Apru*. Jacob Grimm suggests the name of a hypothetical god or hero, *Aper* or *Aprus*.

April was the second month of the earliest Roman calendar, before *Ianuarius* and *Februarius* were added by King Numa Pompilius about 700 BC. It became the fourth month of the calendar year (the year when twelve months are displayed in order) during the time of the decemvirs about 450 BC, when it also was given 29 days. The 30th day was added during the reform of the calendar undertaken by Julius Caesar in the mid-40s BC, which produced the Julian calendar.

The **Anglo-Saxons** called April *ēastre-monap*. The Venerable Bede says in *The Reckoning of Time* that this month *ēastre* is the root of the word Easter. He further states that the month was named after a goddess *Eostre* whose feast was in that month.

# 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**  
Meetings & Business



**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)

### Subscriptions for 2021

The Bramhall u3a annual subscription for 2021 is held at £10.

### \*\* Bramhall u3a Holidays 2021 \*\*

The u3a holidays planned to go to Kent (April 2020) and Newcastle (September 2020) had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We are hoping to do the Kent holiday from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Members who booked or were on the waiting list for the Kent holiday in 2020 have been contacted. As we have a long waiting list, we will be unable to offer places for anyone who did not book in 2020. Unfortunately we are not able to run the cancelled holiday to Newcastle.

**Mike & Chris Hollingsworth**

### 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 rota sheet distributed by Stockport MBC

**\*\*Green bins are now being collected every week\*\***

[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 are 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 will not be sent out to members.

**Charlie Barker**



# Bramhallu3a needs YOU

## To be part of the team

**Michael Lacey - Website team member stepping down after 8 years of voluntary service.**

Michael has decided to give up his role in helping to maintain our excellent website. He has been an integral member of the website team that keeps it up to date, and will be missed.

**Thank you, Michael**

**Charlie Barker**, who is also stepping down shortly, is now the sole member of the team and, if we are to continue to provide this important method of communication, volunteers with some website experience are urgently required.

**\*We also require an assistant to our Treasurer, Alistair Gardner.\***

The Treasurer is an important post within our U3A and it is imperative that this backup position is filled. If you have accountancy skills and would be willing to help Alistair, email: [communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@bramhallu3a.org.uk)

## Our Groups and other u3a things

### Groups Update

So far this month has been quiet, but in a week's time, from March 29th, outdoor sports such as tennis and golf are allowed. This means some of our groups, such as Pickleball, will also be able to reopen.

The rest of us, while not being able to meet face to face, and having to continue to meet on Zoom, can look forward to some of the government's restrictions being lifted. From April 12th we can enjoy visiting the library, going back to the gym, having our hair and nails done, shopping in non-essential retail outlets and even enjoy a pub or restaurant meal outside. If we wish to go further afield we are allowed to visit the zoo, a theme park or stay at a holiday let. The month ahead looks good as things are slowly getting better. I hope you all enjoy the new freedoms!

**Chris Stubbs Groups Organiser**

### Science for All

The group has met using Zoom since last May. The next two talks are:

**Wednesday April 7 at 2pm Fibre, and how the internet gets to you** Brian Wells, Cirencester u3a

**Friday May 7 at 2pm The quiet revolution in numerical weather prediction** Sam Hatfield,

European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Reading

Like to join the Group? Then please email [groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk) with Science for All in the Subject line.

**Mike Hollingsworth**

### Art Appreciation

The next talk will be at **2pm on Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>** when Frank Vigon will be telling us about **Francis Bacon**.

We will hopefully resume in October.

**Kay Witham**

## North West Region u3a – Tuesday talks

The next talk from the Committee for the North West Region of the U3A:

**Tuesday April 13 10.30am Japanese culture** by Gill Russell

u3a members can book for the talk 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>Wednesday 7 April</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Exploring Roman Worcester</b>	by Carolyn Clark (Worcester u3a)
<b>Thursday 8 April</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Grinling Gibbons: The Michaelangelo of Woodcarving</b>	Film launch
<b>Thursday 8 April</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Staying safe online</b>	by Barry Linton (Thorpe Bay u3a)
<b>Monday 12 April</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Egyptology – Gods &amp; Goddesses</b>	by Neil Stevenson (u3a Subject Adviser for Egyptology)
<b>Tuesday 13 April</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>A Taste of Japan</b>	by Hilary Jones & Derek Bedlow
<b>Wednesday 21 April</b>	<b>2pm</b>	<b>Maths on the back of an envelope</b>	by Rob Eastaway
<b>Thursday 22 April</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Discovering Japan</b>	by Hilary Jones
<b>Thursday 29 April</b>	<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Maths Activities &amp; Games</b>	by David Martin (u3a Subject Adviser for Maths & Stats)
<b>Tuesday 13 April to Tuesday 4 May</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>The Story of Motown</b>	by Lee Wellbrook (Thanet u3a) <b>(A 4-week series of talks)</b>

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

**Mike Hollingsworth**

## Easy No-bake Cheesecake Recipe

from Colleen Worrall

### Ingredients:

- 170 grams digestive biscuits
- 85 grams butter or margarine
- 250 grams full fat cottage cheese
- 200-300 grams full fat crème fraiche
- 50 grams caster sugar

### Method:

Crush the biscuits to a fine crumb.  
Melt the butter or margarine and add the biscuit crumbs, mixing well.  
Press the mixture down well into a flan dish lined with foil, to make the base and chill well in the freezer.

Whisk the cottage cheese and crème fraiche together for a couple of minutes. Stir the sugar into the topping and spread over the base. Chill down again until set.

Turn out the cheesecake when still semi-frozen. When defrosted, serve with a topping of your choice.



## 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 have been 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 to me, by email:

[chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@bramhallu3a.org.uk), or by letter, address below, by **15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

Yours sincerely **Alaister Macrae** Chairman

**Bramhall U3A are unable to hold an AGM meeting this year, with members present, due to the current Covid-19 situation.**

**In order to fulfil our legal requirement to have an AGM, all annual reports, plus the voting form, are available to members via the links shown below.**

### **The Bramhall U3A 2021 Annual Report document** (in PDF)

<http://bramhallu3a.org.uk/members/2021-AGM-Trustees-Annual-report.pdf>

\*Should you wish to ask any questions about the reports, please email Alaister Macrae at :

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

### **The Bramhall U3A 2021 AGM Voting Form**

This can be accessed via the link: <https://forms.gle/oFP8M956mn5kxM5M8>

(Place the cursor/arrow over the link, and left click or press and hold the Ctrl button and then left click on your mouse or touchpad)

**Enter your email address, click the appropriate answers, then click submit.**

**\*Please complete the voting form and submit by 15th April 2021. Thank you\***

**The results of the members' vote will be published in the June version of Upbeat.**

Please note: Any members who we know do not have access to the email/online version of **Upbeat** magazine, are receiving a monthly paper copy by post. They will be getting a paper copy of the Annual Reports and a voting Form along with their April issue.

### AGM 6<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

The Committee currently comprises the following members:

<b>Alaister Macrae</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Peter Webster</b>	<b>Vice Chair/Newsletter</b>
<b>Alistair Gardner</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Kay Witham</b>	<b>Membership /Theatres</b>
<b>Helen Webster</b> (co-opted)	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>Chris Stubbs</b>	<b>Groups Organiser</b>
<b>Bob Dumbarton</b>	<b>Events Organiser/Newsletter</b>
<b>Mike Hollingsworth</b> (co-opted)	<b>Holidays</b>
<b>Meg Rowell</b>	<b>Meetings Secretary</b>
<b>Edward Haynes</b>	<b>External Relations</b>
<b>Dudley Newell</b>	<b>Outings</b>
<b>Frances Bell</b>	<b>Theatre</b>
<b>Jill Rickman</b>	<b>Almoner</b>
<b>Vera Moore</b>	<b>General</b>
<i>(Vacancy)</i>	<i>Business Secretary</i>
<i>(Vacancy)</i>	<i>Equipment Store Keeper</i>
<i>(Vacancy)</i>	<i>Accommodation Hire Organiser</i>

Triumph Mayflower

Whilst some nominations have been received, it would be good to see if any of the newer members would like to share the Committee's load. The remaining members of the Committee have indicated they are willing to stand for this next year.

**Please submit any nominations to the Chairman:**

**Alaister Macrae**, 20, Southpool Close, Bramhall, Stockport, SK7 3PU

**As soon a possible.**

# Quiz Time

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

## April's Quiz

Thanks to the Edinburgh Evening News

1. What is the most common colour of toilet paper in France?
2. If you dug a hole through the centre of Earth starting from Wellington in New Zealand, which European country would you end up in?
3. Henry VIII introduced which tax in England in 1535?
4. What is the correct term for a question mark immediately followed by an exclamation mark?
5. The average person does what thirteen times a day?
6. Coprastastaphobia is the fear of what?
7. What were the first ice hockey pucks made out of?
8. It's illegal in Texas to put what on your neighbour's cow?
9. Which bird is nicknamed The Laughing Jackass?
10. Who entered a contest to find his own look alike and came 3rd?
11. French artist Aquabouse paints cows with what material?
12. In 1978 an Iowa judge dismissed a drink driving charge for what obscure reason?
13. In which country are there six villages called *Silly*, 12 called *Billy*, and two called *Pratt*?
14. Native to the Caribbean, what sort of animal is the Mountain Chicken?
15. The UK's Dyslexia Research Trust is based in which city?
16. What nickname is given to Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* after being over-restored in the 1940s?
17. True or false: You can sneeze in your sleep?
18. Who invented the word vomit?
19. Which European Country has 158 verses to its national anthem?
20. Which country has the most tornadoes by area.
21. The leader of which country has his face on all the yoghurt pots, has named the month January after himself and banned ballet?
22. What is Scooby Doo's full name?
23. What is the collective noun for a group of Unicorns?
24. Where was the Fortune Cookie invented?
25. What is the cross between a donkey and a zebra known as?



A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel

An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel

A REALIST sees a freight train

The TRAIN driver sees 3 idiots standing on the tracks.

Did you wear an Elastic Cord Surgical Mask? In the years 2020 to 2021

You may be Entitled to Compensation.

Babies born on March 31st are the easiest to prank on April Fool's Day.

*They were literally born yesterday!*

If April showers bring May flowers. What do May flowers bring?

*Pilgrims!*

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?

*Phillipe Phillope !*

What's the difference between Covid-19 and Romeo and Juliet?

*One's the Coronavirus and the other is a Verona Crisis!*

What's the best way to avoid touching your Face?

*A glass of wine in each hand!*





# On a lighter note ...

## **I am a Seenager**

I just discovered our age group! I'm a Seenager (Senior teenager). I have everything I wanted as a teenager, only it's 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared?

And I don't have acne. Life is Good! If you're a Seenager, you'll feel much more intelligent after reading this. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. We don't decline mentally with age – it just takes us longer to recall facts because we have more information in our brains.

Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It's NOT a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

**SO THERE!**

## **A Brief History of U3A**

Courtesy of Wikipedia/UK u3a

The **U3A** started in France at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Toulouse in 1973. It was started by Prof. Pierre Vellas. In France, each University of the Third Age University group is mostly associated with a local university. This academic model is used in many other countries, in particular in continental Europe.

In the 1990s the concept was broadened in France to the notion of the University of All Ages (UTA - université tous âges) or University of Free Time (UTL - université du temps libre).

AIUTA (*Association Internationale des Universités du Troisième Age*) (<https://aiu3a.org/>) is the global international organization and network of Universities of the Third Age, including such institutions from most continental European countries, Central and East Europe, China, Russia, Latin America, etc., including Mauritius and other destinations.

## **United Kingdom**

Founded over 35 years ago, the UK u3a movement (based loosely on the French model) aims to encourage groups of people in their third age to come together and continue their enjoyment of learning in subjects of interest to them.

From the start, the guiding principles were to promote lifelong learning through self-help interest groups covering a wide range of topics and activities as chosen by their members.

The 'third age' is defined by a time in your life (not necessarily chronological) where you have the opportunity to undertake learning for its own sake. There is no minimum age, but a focus on people who are no longer in full-time employment or raising a family.

Our founders envisaged a collaborative approach with peers learning from each other. The U3A movement was to be self-funded, with members not working towards qualifications but learning purely for pleasure. There would be no distinction between the learners and the teachers – everyone could take a turn at being both if they wished. From its beginnings in 1981, the movement grew very quickly and by the early 1990s, a U3A was opening every fortnight. U3As grew in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and in 2008 membership was increasing by 11% every year. 2010 saw our membership hitting the quarter million mark.

At the end of 2016 the U3A movement reached the milestone of 1,000 U3As celebrated by a conference with speakers including Eric Midwinter – one of the founders of the U3A movement.

Today, our movement includes over 400,000 U3A members in more than 1,000 U3As and is continuing to grow every day.

# Supporting our nominated charities

St Anne's Hospice: <https://www.sah.org.uk>

The Wellspring: <https://thewellspring.co.uk>



Recently, the Wellspring was informed that they have won the:  
**Manchester Prestige Corporate Live Wire Homeless Charity of the Year Award 2020/21.**

The Judges *'were impressed with the team's personal touch, consistency of reviews and community feel. It's extra special to know the hard work and positivity is paying off and hopefully this is the start of a really successful 2021 for the Wellspring'*.

**We feel that in some significant way Bramhall u3a has contributed to this.**

## We are hoping to help St Ann's Hospice again ...

We have covers for:

<b>Crème Eggs</b>	<b>75p</b> or <b>£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)



## Hello everyone and a very Happy Easter to you all

I am delighted to put in some of our lovely Easter cards this month.

We have finally said "goodbye" to the winter and can now look forward to some sunshine & flowers that is why Easter is such a good time of year. I have chosen some lovely Spring lambs and an Easter duckling also not forgetting the eggs that are such a big part of our Easter celebrations, that I hope many of you will be able to share with your families.

*With our best wishes to you all.*

**Chris D, Avril, Jill & Chris W**

# The Card Group



### 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)



**Here are some of the 2020 Group Reports. More will following in future editions.**

### **Creative Writing - 2020**

Unfortunately, the Creative writers have been unable to meet either physically or virtually. However, we have all continued to write at home and shared our efforts with each other. Most of us have contributed to the impressive U3A magazine as well as volunteering to read our pieces of writing in person to the Stockport Talking Newspaper for the blind. We are all looking forward to more normal times and meeting up as one again! **Pat George**

### **Card Group**

As a card group we have not been meeting but we are all working individually at home. We work on any orders that come through for our cards. We also deliver bags of cards to people so that they can look through them at their leisure, and then we collect & take payment the next day. This has been quite successful as we have raised £482 for "The Wellspring" in 2020.

We are continuing to put in new designs all the time to keep the interest going, but we are all looking forward to returning to our monthly meetings. **Jill Rickman**

### **Photography Group**

The Photography Group has continued to meet throughout 2020, moving to Zoom meetings from March. In addition to the monthly meeting, we also organised a number of external speakers on different topics to ensure we kept in touch with group members. Unfortunately, we were not able to organise the regular outings.

2021 has started under a new co-ordinator as David Pechey steps down after 5 years where the group has grown and gone from strength to strength under his guidance. We regularly have 25 members join the Zoom meetings.

2021 has a full programme of monthly talks, Monthly and Quarterly themes, where members are encouraged to "Get out with their Cameras". Members post these pictures throughout the month on the Group Facebook page for comment and this often leads to debate on how a photograph could be enhanced. Each month members submit their favourite picture and these are collated into a Photowall, links to these are available through the main Bramhall U3A website. New members with an interest in Photograph (at any level) are most welcome to join the group. **Mike Faragher**

### **Some more thoughts about our crazy English language . . .**

How is it that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig? There is no egg in egg-plant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

It seems odd that you can make amends, but not one amend. If you have some odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, did preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Further strangeness: people recite at a play and play at a recital, we ship by lorry and send cargo by ship. We have noses that run and feet that smell. A slim chance and a fat chance can be the same, while a wise man and a wiseguy are opposites. A house can burn up as it burns down, you fill in a form by filling it out and flammable and inflammable mean the same thing.

How can we expect children to learn to spell when cough, rough, through, bough, and thorough are all spelt with '-ough', are pronounced differently, and you can't hear the 'g' in any of them! **Helen Webster**

**Please remember - 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 April 23**

**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 7 May.**

Send us your articles, pictures, quizzes, jokes and, of course, feedback.

**Bramhall u3a UPBEAT magazine is published monthly. Free to members.**

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# The Back Page

## Answers to April's Quiz

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pink                 | 14. Frog                |
| 2. Spain                | 15. Reading             |
| 3. A beard Tax          | 16. The Day Watch       |
| 4. Interrobank          | 17. False               |
| 5. Laughs               | 18. William Shakespeare |
| 6. Constipation         | 19. Greece              |
| 7. Frozen Cow Dung      | 20. England             |
| 8. Grafitti             | 21. Turkmenistan        |
| 9. Kookaburra           | 22. Scoobert Doo        |
| 10. Charlie Chaplin     | 23. A blessing          |
| 11. Cow Dung            | 24. San Francisco       |
| 12. Too drunk to sample | 25. Zeedonk             |
| 13. France              |                         |

## Heavenly Nectar

 A poem by Keith Wright

Capture the sunset in a cup,  
Marking with beauty the ending day.  
Telling the world that the time is now  
To think of sleeping the night away.

Mix in a moonbeam for added taste  
Of night and its eerie sensation.  
Shake the cup gently but do not spill  
These wonderful works of creation.

Add in some stardust to fill the cup.  
Old "Milky" has plenty to spare.  
Leave it to settle until it's time  
To sample this nectar so rare.

Drink the cup slowly, take your time.  
Enjoying the wonders it holds.  
Imbibe God's creation, his wonderful work,  
For as long as your life unfolds.



## And finally ...

### Do you remember Lonnie Donegan ?

Anthony James Donegan, known as 'Lonnie' Donegan, was a British skiffle singer, songwriter and musician, referred to as the "King of Skiffle", who influenced 1960s British pop and rock musicians. Born in Scotland and raised in England, he was Britain's most successful and influential recording artist before the Beatles .

When singer-banjoist Lonnie Donegan stepped out of the rhythm section of Chris Barber's Dixieland (traditional jazz) band to record a hopped-up version of Leadbelly's "Rock Island Line" in 1954, he was unwittingly laying the foundation of the 1960s British music scene. Released as a single in 1956, "Rock Island Line" was purchased by millions, including John Lennon and Paul McCartney, who thereby received their first exposure to African-American popular music. He passed away in November 2002 aged 71.

### Some of Lonnie Donegan's big hits...

- 1955 - Rock Island Line
- 1957 - Cumberland Gap
- 1958 - Tom Dooley
- 1959 - Does your chewing gum lose its flavour  
& The Battle of New Orleans
- 1960 - My old man's a dustman  
& I wanna go home
- 1962 - Pick a bale of cotton



"He was the first person we had heard of from Britain to get to the coveted No. 1 in the charts, and we studied his records avidly. We all bought guitars to be in a skiffle group. He was the man." - **Paul McCartney** (The Beatles/Wings)

"He really was at the very cornerstone of English blues and rock." - **Brian May**. (Queen)

"I wanted to be Elvis Presley when I grew up, I knew that. But the man who really made me feel like I could actually go out and do it was a chap by the name of Lonnie Donegan." - **Roger Daltrey** (The Who)