



BRAMHALL



U3A CHRISTMAS 2011

NEWSLETTER

Chairman's message

On behalf of your committee, can I wish you all A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

When I moved to Bridle Road, I was surprised how many of the houses decorated the outside for Christmas – the beautiful coloured lights really help you get in the mood for Christmas and last year we had the added bonus of the snow.

At a time when the days are short and the weather is bleak not to mention the dark economic climate, Christmas brings those rays of hope and once the New Year turns we can start to think of spring.

You should by now have received your membership renewal forms. We are

keeping the annual subscription at £10 for 2012. Please remember to send a SAE with your cheque.

Kay Witham (membership secretary) will not be sending out the cards until after Christmas so they don't go astray with the Christmas post. You should have also received your nomination form for next year's committee which will be elected at the February meeting.

My thanks to everyone who has helped with the Christmas party – especially to Joy and David Armstrong, who have organised getting all the food – and everyone who has contributed to the entertainment.

Dorothy M Chesterman
Chairman

Dates for your Diary

January 19 2012	Rick Benton	British Woodlands
February 16 (AGM)	Robby Robson	Test Pilot at Woodford
March 15	Michael Clarke	The True History of Real Chocolate
April 19	David Piercy	Confessions of a Coach Driver
May 17	Peter Rhodes	A Birdwatcher's Tales

Your Committee

Chairman	Dorothy Chesterman
Vice-chairman/secretary	Joy Armstrong
Treasurer	Alistair Gardner
Groups co-ordinator	Sue Bosworth
Membership secretary	Kay Witham
Speakers secretary	Jane Hind
External Relations secretary	Michael Hollingsworth

Theatre and Outings

Our trip to Oswaldtwistle Mills was a great success with plenty of Xmas shopping completed. The guided tour of the surrounding countryside was absolutely enthralling.

Twenty-eight members thoroughly enjoyed a matinee performance of Strictly Gershwin at the Palace Theatre on October 13. The show combined the timeless music of Gershwin with a whole range of dance including Tango, Salsa and Charleston performed with passion by the English National Ballet. Visually stunning!

Twenty-five members were delighted by an evening performance of South Pacific at the Palace Theatre on November 1. The beautiful sets, costumes and classic score provided a perfect escape on an autumn evening.

Event date	Event	Price
Thursday Feb 16	Manchester Town Hall & afternoon tea at the Midland Hotel	£14.50
Tuesday Feb 28	Taking Steps, Oldham Coliseum (evening)	£27.00
Tuesday June 19	I Dreamed a Dream, Palace theatre (evening)	£40
Sat/Sun Sep 29/30	Two days sightseeing in London*	From £170

A second trip to Manchester Town Hall has been arranged for February as demand was so high for the trip in January.

*The London trip includes Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and a guided tour of the Olympic site. Bookings will be taken with a £25 deposit. We will be going with McCarthys Coaches who supply travel insurance for any age if required. The cost of each event includes transport, driver's tip and tickets.

These events can be booked at monthly meetings and booking forms are online (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/>).

Community Information

Two new articles have been added to the Community Information page of the Bramhall U3A website (<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/other/community.html>):

- Stockport FLAG, which offers advice and guidance to health and adult social care in the Stockport area.
 - Community Transport. Communicare is a Bramhall & Woodford charity that offers transport to medical services in the area for people who cannot access public transport. Communicare is in real need of volunteer drivers and telephonists. Ring and Ride offers transport for people who cannot use public transport for all purposes in the Stockport and wider Greater Manchester area.
- Mike Hollingsworth, External Relations secretary.

Group News

BIRD WATCHING: Diana Oldfield is co-ordinating our latest group. Her contact details are on the back page with, hopefully, monthly meetings to be arranged in the new year.

BOOKS: Dudley Newell is prepared to start up another group, if there is enough interest, probably on the third or fourth Wednesday of each month.

BRIDGE: Volunteers are needed to co-ordinate a new group for experienced players now that the former arrangement of meeting in each other's homes has ended. The beginner and intermediate group meet at Lumb Lane and this is one possibility for the experienced group. Groups co-ordinator Sue Bosworth, now an enthusiastic bridge player herself, is the person to cont(r)act.

COMPUTERS: January's course is basic word processing at Queensgate Primary School on Tuesday (4-5.45pm) cost £10. Contact Charlie Barker.

PILATES: This activity has proved so popular that there are now four sessions, two on Mondays and two on Thursdays. Once again, Sue Bosworth is the person to contact.

WALKING GROUP: The appeal for Walk Leaders in last month's Newsletter Update proved successful with six walks (listed below) already arranged. More Leaders are still required to complete the schedule for the year. Please contact Bob Dumbarton if you would like to help.

Date	Leader	Location	Length; grade
Thur Jan 12	Bob Dumbarton	Alderley Edge	4miles;easy
Wed Feb 22	Ann Green	Tatton Pk (sandwiches; café lunch)	5 miles; easy
Thur Mar 8	Rodney Inglesfield	Wincle	4½miles; mod
Wed Mar 28	Derek Draper	High Lane	7miles; easy
Wed Apr 25	Mike Hayward	Whaley Bridge	6miles; mod
Thur May 10	Marjorie Davies		

HOLIDAYS: There are still a few vacancies for the holiday to Cornwall by private coach from May 3-8. The holiday will include visits to the Eden Project, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and Lanhydrock (NT).

The party will stay at the Best Western hotel in Lostwithiel on a dinner /bed and breakfast basis. The cost is £465 per person sharing a twin/double room with a single supplement of £50. Entry fees are included. Please note that the number of single rooms is limited and have nearly all been taken. Further details can be found on the Bramhall U3A website or from Peter Rhodes to whom a completed booking form should be returned with a deposit of £40.

■ The monthly meetings at St Michael's Church start at 2pm (doors open at 1.30pm) with a guest speaker and tea/coffee. Entrance fee is £1, payable at the door.

U3A Easter School in Preston

The NW region of U3A is again running an Easter School at Myerscough College near Preston. It will be from Tuesday April 3 to Thursday April 5 with the all-inclusive price of £185. You can choose between courses on Archaeology, Creative Writing, Geology, Golf, Ancient Egypt, Novelists and Philosophers and the Physical Sciences. In addition there will be a guided walk, a general interest talk and a social evening. Details and booking form can be obtained from Mike Hollingsworth, External Relations secretary or found at

<http://nwu3a.web.officelive.com/MyerscoughEasterSchool2012.aspx>.

Register...Register...Register

Interest	Co-ordinator	Meeting dates
Archaeology	Peter Levy	Outings usually on Fridays
Art	Peter Richardson	Alt Mondays 1-3pm (restarts Jan 9)
Beginners Bridge	Rodney Inglesfield	Wednesdays 10am-noon
Bird Watching	Diana Oldfield	Monthly; to be arranged
Book group	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Card making	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt Mondays (restarts Jan 16)
Choir	Chris Hollingsworth	2nd and 4th Tues 10am-noon
Church history	Dorothy Chesterman	Alt Weds 10am-noon
Computers	Charlie Barker	Tuesdays Jan 10-31 4-5.45pm
Cycling	Ann Green	Tuesdays
Digital Photography	Harry Bosworth	Mondays 2-4pm
Dining	Janet McMurray/ Joy Armstrong	Monthly, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings
Discussion group A	Dina Levy	4th Monday 2pm
Discussion group B	Pat Wright	3rd Friday 2pm
Discussion group C	Renee Emmott	2nd Wednesday 2-4pm
Embroidery	Dorothy Chesterman	2nd Thursday 10am-12noon
Family History A	Diane Bright	Tuesdays 2pm
Family History B	Mary Hambleton	Wednesdays 2-4pm
Family History C	Brian Turner	First Thursday 1-3pm
Film & discussion	Pamela Roth	4th Wednesday 10.30am
French	Kay Witham	2nd Monday 2pm
Gardening	Ron Butler	Thursdays 2pm
German beginners	Alison Davids	2nd and 4th Tuesdays
German advanced	Evelyn Ingram	
History	Tom Fanning	Alt Thurs 10am-12noon
Italian	Helen Webster	Alt Tuesdays 10am
Knitting	Mary Flynn	1st Tuesday 2pm
Mapping Bramhall	Val Murray	3rd Monday 2pm
Music (for leisure)	Joanne Haigh	3rd Friday 10.30am
Norwegian	Joan Mobbs	Tuesdays 10.30am
Personal Image	Catherine Jones	Thursdays 10am-noon
Pilates	Sue Bosworth	Mon 11.30am-12.30pm, Thurs 10-11am
Poetry	Jean Budd	2nd Monday 2pm
Pub Quiz	Sheila Porter	Sunday evenings
Scottish country dance	Sheila Bruce-Smith	Alt Fridays 1.30-3pm. Jan 13,27; Feb 10, 24; Mar 9, 23; Apr 6
Science for All	Michael Hollingsworth	4 th Tuesday (2-4pm)
Scrabble	Val Barker	2nd Monday
Spanish	Gaye Huddart	Tuesdays 10-11.30am
Spanish (beginners)	Diana Blaney	Thursdays 2-4pm
Swimming	Jo Critchley	Mon 7pm; Thur 9.30am Hazel Grove pool
Table Tennis	Liz Pennington	2nd Wed and 4th Friday 10.30-11.30am
Walking	Bob Dumbarton	See newsletters and website
Theatre/outings	Judith Fell; Chris Hollingsworth Val Graham	See newsletters and website
Holidays	Peter Rhodes	See newsletters and website