u3a Bramhall learn, laugh, live

November 2026

www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Group Leader Vacancies

**** Art Appreciation ****

**** Science for all ****

Leaders needed urgently

Mancunian Wordsmith Johanne Lee Inspires Bramhall u3a Poetry Group



At the October meeting the group welcomed Johanne Lee (top of table in pink; insert) who is a published author and poet of children's and adult books, and a proud Mancunian. Her talk included how she became a writer. She also read out several of her humorous poems.
Johanne gave us many tips on creative writing and poetry.
The group thoroughly enjoyed her engaging experiences.

Valerie Greenwood

Science Group Talk - December

The next Science Group talk will be on **Wednesday December 2nd at 2pm** when the talk will be given by **Mrs Helen Beaumont** who will be speaking on how her husband's death from the disease inspired her career in **Alzheimer's Research.**

As usual the talk will be in the Village Club on Lumb lane and the fee will be £1. The capacity of the room is limited to 65 and parking is currently very limited.

Art Appreciation - December

The next **Art Appreciation** talk will be at 2pm on **Wednesday December 9th** at the Village Club on Lumb Lane.

Frank Vigon will be giving a talk on **Artists in Summer: artists' approach to the seasons.**

Everyone is welcome to attend and there is a charge of £3. Talks are on either Wednesday or Friday so please check in advance.

What's my line?

Family History 2 welcomes new members.

This group is for people with a range of abilities and includes complete beginners, people who have made some progress with their family tree, but left it on the shelf, and those who have made significant progress, but reached an impasse in their research.
Members will have access to Ancestry UK, monthly family history magazines, quarterly society publications, and a number of specialist family history books.

Interested? Please contact Brian Turner using the detail in the Newsletter.

*****December meeting - Thursday December 10th*****

That's (Christmas) Entertainment *by* Sue Holden

This popular speaker returns with a look back at how we entertained ourselves or have been entertained over this festive period.

Mince pies and cake will be served with tea/coffee, after the meeting . . . Yum.

Unwrap the Spirit of Christmas

The Wellspring
Building Futures Beyond Homelessness
Celebrating 35 years

https://www.thewellspring.co.uk/

The Wellspring, Harvey St, Stockport, SK1 1YD,

Our nominated charity

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

No one should feel forgotten on Christmas Day, which is why every year we are open, not just so the service users can access support, but so they can experience the joy of Christmas too.

With your help, we can make sure someone, who would otherwise go without, has a Christmas Dinner, a gift, and the knowledge that they deserve to celebrate Christmas too.

Anything you can give now will carry a legacy beyond Christmas Day and into the following year. It provides them with the foundation to keep going, to keep helping, to build futures beyond homelessness.

To donate, go to https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/xmasdinnerappeal26

Help Provide Essential Items

The idea of this project is simple; we aim to provide essential items for as many people experiencing homelessness as possible during the winter months. And it's your donations that help us make this a possibility and have an instant, positive impact.

Suggested items for this Christmas Appeal

Rucksacks are always welcome

They also need these to put into rucksacks:
sleeping bags, roll mats, torches, flasks, warm hats, gloves, wet wipes, male/female underwear and socks.

It is not necessary to provide a rucksack. Any of the items listed can be donated separately.

Urgent items:

Joggers, Jeans, winter coats, T-shirts (sizes M/L), and Trainers (sizes 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)



Science for All - November meeting

This month's speaker was **Dr Thomas McDonnell** from **Medical Research UK** which is a charity that funds research into neglected health conditions, which are known as orphan diseases.

They affect a small percentage of the population and receive little commercial investment because developing treatments may not be seen as profitable.

Protect yourself and avoid fraud

Remember: If something doesn't look, feel or sound right, it probably isn't.

Never be rushed into doing something
Take your time to review everything

Never give any personal details
to anyone you do not know.

Never give out your passwords
or any other security information.

Use strong passwords,
Use three random words that mean something to only you.

Add two-factor authentication
to your online accounts.

You get an unknown/unexpected caller
Stop, Hang Up, and Check

Guidance taken from Cheshire Police website

October monthly meeting

There must have been close to a full house at the October monthly meeting when **Peter Webb** gave a talk about **earthquakes**. When thanking Peter, Helen Webster, having experienced a severe (6.8) earthquake herself, said it was exactly as described in the presentation and is grateful to know all about p-waves and s-waves, so she can better appreciate the effects during the next one.

Information about future presentations can be found on the link below:

https://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/news/monthly-meetings

Date	THEATRE - Events open for booking *Theatre contacts: Frances Bell & Kay Witham*	Price
Nov 16 - 21	**Players Theatre New Season - Rope** by Patrick Hamilton	£14
Dec 7	**The Muppet Christmas Carol** **The Halle Orchestra + Film at the Bridgewater Hall** - coach	£69
	2027	
March 11 - 13	**Shrek the Musical** **Romiley Operatic Society** at the **Plaza theatre**	£20
May 1	**The Best of Motown** **Halle Orchestra with vocalists at the Bridgewater Hall** - coach	£54
August 7th	**Iolanthe - Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Co** **Buxton Opera House** - Coach	£50 app

Go on, surprise yourself
Learn something new in 2027

Groups email: groups@bramhallu3a.org.uk

What	*Leader*	*When*
Art 1	Toni Stern	2nd+4th Wed 10 - 12
Art 2	Alison Hunt	2nd+4th Monday 2 - 4pm
Art Appreciation	*VACANCY*	*2nd Wednesday 2pm*
Badminton	Dave Pennington	Tuesday 1.45pm to 3.45
Bird Watching	Robert Mantle	3rd/4th Thurs 9.15am
Board Games	Phillipa Fitzpatrick	4th Wednesday 2pm
Book Club 1	Dudley Newell	4th Thursday
Book Club 2	Steve Normansell	3rd Thursday 10am - 12
Book Club 3	Patricia Vermes	1st Tuesday 10am
Bowling Crown Green	G & R Kempster	Contact for details
Bridge Beginners	Angela Harding	Wednesday 2pm
Bridge Duplicate	Ray Lee	Wednesdays 10am - 12
Bridge contract	Judi Cooke	2nd/4th Thurs 2pm
Café book club 1	Olga Hampson	2nd Monday 10.30am
Café book club 2	Kay Witham	2nd Tuesday 1pm
Café book club 3	Sharon Turner	2nd Wednesday 2pm
Canasta A	Veronica Dean	1st/3rd Monday 2pm
Canasta B	Judi Cooke	2nd/4th Tuesday 2pm
Card making	Jill Rickman	Closed Group
Computers	Neil Rackham	4th Tuesday 10am
Creative writing	Pat George	2nd Wednesday 2pm

Cribbage	Val Graham	1st Thursday - 7.30
Cycling	Steve Hughes	Various days
Dining	Vera Moore	Tues or Wed - 4th week
Diners early evening 1	Walter Fitzpatrick	3rd Thursday
Diners early evening 2	Hilary Lightfoot	2nd Tuesday - 6.15
Diners Monday lunch	Philippa Fitzpatrick	1st Monday 12.00
Discussion 1	Dina Levy	4th Monday 2.30
Discussion 2	Brian Dougal	4th Tuesday 2pm
Family History 1	Mary Hambleton	Monthly Wed 2pm
Family History 2	Brian Turner	2nd Thursday 1 - 3pm
Fitness & flexibility	Vikki Radford	Mondays 9.30 - 10.15
French	Kay Witham	Alternate Mon 2pm
French Conversation	Julia Bell	1st+3rd Mon 10.30 - 12
French Pot Pourri	Hilary Lightfoot	1st Monday 10.30
Gardening A	Doreen Donnan	2nd Monday 2pm
Gardening B	Nancy Comerford	2nd Monday 2pm
German Intermediate	Jean Cox	2nd+4th Tues 10.30
German Conversation	Susan Brayzier	3rd Wednesday 2.30
History 1	Angela Devaney	Alt Thurs 10 - 12
History 2	Olga Hampson	1st Thurs 10 - 12
Holidays	Jennefer Richmond	At least one per year
Italian Beginners	Steve Goodall	2nd + 4th Tuesday 10
Italian Improvers	Helen Webster	Alt Wed 10 - 11
Knitting A	Sheila Porter	3rd Tuesday 2pm
Knitting B	Shelagh Lord	1st Thursday 2pm
Local Amateur Theatre	Hilary Lightfoot	Various days
*Mac group	Barry Richards	*2nd Thursday 10am
Mapping Bramhall	Val Murray	3rd Monday 2pm
Photography	Neil Rackham	2nd Tuesday 10am
Pickleball	***Julie Suckling***	***FULL - Waiting list***
Pilates	Vikki Radford	Monday 10.30 + 11.40
Poetry 1	Valerie Greenwood	2nd Monday 1pm
Poetry 2	David Greenfield	2nd Friday 10.30am
Pub Quiz	Cathie Kay	1st Thurs 8.30pm for 9
Quiz at home	Neil Rackham	Alt. Thursdays 11am
*****Science for All*****	*****VACANCY*****	***1st Wednesday 2 - 4pm***
Singing For Fun	Vera McWhirter	1st + 3rd Monday 10am
Spanish Intermediate 1	Diana Blaney	Alt. Thursdays 2pm
Spanish Intermediate 2	Janet Smith	Tuesdays 10 - 11.30am
Spanish Conversation	Hilary Lightfoot	Alt Thursday 2pm
Table Tennis: Fun for All	Liz Pennington	1st/2nd/3rd Wed 10 - 12
Comp Singles	Liz Pennington	4th Wed 10.30 - 12
This is my life	Rae Lomas	Contact for details
THRIVE 1	Carol Wilson	Contact for details
Ukulele	Jackie Harmer	2nd and 4th Tues @ 2pm
Video & Film Making	Alaister Macrae	Monthly - contact
Walkers 1	Viv Grimshaw	2nd Thurs. + 4th Wed.
Walkers 2	John McAnally	4th Wednesday
Strollers 1	Ann Barker	1st Tues + 3rd Wed
Strollers 2	John McAnally	2nd Wednesday 10.15
Wine Tasting	Judy Godsell	Bi-monthly