

Welcome to the August Newsletter.

Chalfonts u3a held our AGM on 10th July, and we now have a few new members of the committee. In this newsletter John and Val introduce themselves. Other new committee members will appear in the next newsletter.

I'm glad to say, that your newsletter editor was re-elected unopposed!

Membership cards are being distributed by our co-ordinators at our events. Please remember to add your emergency contact details on the back of the card.

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Our New Chairman and Vice Chair



Vanessa and I joined our U3A a few years ago, initially to join the Wine Group.

We then found we had interests in many more groups, which we thoroughly enjoy.

I have lived in GX for the last 36 years, and have been lucky enough to have been retired for the last 25 years. I also belong to the GX Rotary Club and very much enjoy giving back to our community by belonging.

I'm looking forward to my tenure as Chairman and meeting many more of our members.

Very best wishes to all - John Krushner – Chairman chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



I am delighted to be voted on as Vice Chair having been involved in Chalfonts u3a in a variety of committee positions since its start in 2015.

I look forward to being part of a flourishing u3a with its wide range of interest groups and hope to meet as many members as possible.

Val Smith - Vice Chair vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Members:

A warm welcome to our new members:

Mary Ash, Dalbir Bedi, Maria Branton, Roger Burrows, Susan Connolly, Michael Fretwell, David Harrop, David Hess, Jane Hess, Bipin Karsandas, Eunice Kilvert, Albert May, Ross Moyse, Anne Palmiero, John Giovanni Palmiero, Lynn Peters, Trevor Peters, Phil Salmon, Martine Snowden, Robert Stein, Joan Welch and Anita Wijetunge

Chalfonts U3A Monthly meetings:



14 August 2024 at 2pm – Guide Dogs - Make Every Day Count

Marilyn Fisher and Jeanne Stephen from The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association will join us.

Marilyn will discuss how they breed, train and select partners for their dogs. Jeanne will talk about her visual impairment and the effect her guide dog had on her life and independence.

On a sad note: Jeanne was due to bring her Guide Dog Breck, but he passed away at the beginning of July.

For members unable to attend, a zoom invitation will be sent 48 hours in advance; log in will be from 1.45pm.

11 September 2024 at 2pm – The Falklands Conflict: a first-hand perspective

You may remember that Jim Ellis talked to us about memory in November last year.

He is coming again to see us, to talk about the Falklands conflict. He'll recall some of the key events amidst the wind, rain, mud and cold of a Falklands winter.

9 October 2024 at 2pm – Winter visitors

Redwings, Fieldfares and Whooper Swans are among the many birds that call Britain home in the Winter, arriving from further North to enjoy our milder weather.

Ailsa Claybourne will cover many of our visiting birds, and how to identify Winter migrants in your garden and local area.

All Monthly Meetings are held at CSP Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9QX

News from our Interest Groups

New Experiences Group



This month we adventured onto Taplow Lake to try our hand on the water either in kayaks or canoes.

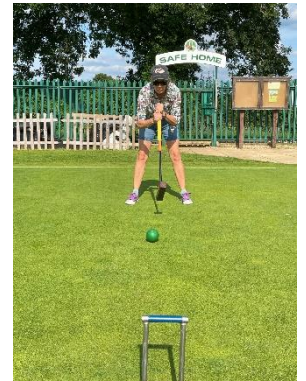
We were soon taught the basics and had the opportunity of being really close to Egyptian geese, Cormorants and beautiful damsel flies.

It was very peaceful (apart from the sound of the mainline trains) and the most unexpected part was that nobody fell in!



We also tried our hand at Croquet at Hazelmere Croquet Club. It revealed the most competitive spirit in some of our most demur members.

Angela Cranston & Sharon Duncan
newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk



Garden Visits Group

Sissinghurst & Scotney Castle – Monday 8th July 2024

The Group set off at 8.30am on a mild morning. Arriving at Sissinghurst Castle at 10.30a.m. the splendor of the 460 acres was plain to see as soon as we disembarked from the coach.

The gardens, created in the 1930's by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson, are now maintained by the National Trust. They are divided into several rooms, all with a different and vibrant colour scheme. Deep brimming borders and depth of planting for impactful displays is a theme throughout the gardens, and the flora was in full bloom. The main house and surrounding buildings date back to the 16th Century and are steeped in history.



After a delightful lunch and a quick stroll around the shops we departed for Scotney Castle. Dating back as early as 1378, Scotney Castle was developed by the Darrell and Hussey families into the 780-acre exquisite estate it is today. Both the Old & New Castle exist side by side in the rolling hills of the estate. With large lakes and ancient trees, the history of the castle has been maintained and the flora left to merge and grow from the ancient stonework.



Old Scotney Castle (1378)



New Scotney Castle (1837)

Science: Earth and Space group



The Science: Earth and Space group enjoyed a visit to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in London on 2nd July. The exhibition is an annual showcase of cutting-edge science and



technology where you can engage with passionate scientists about their work.

It was a real treat for the group to hear directly from scientists about their ground-breaking research including recent discoveries made with the aid of the James Webb Space Telescope, how stem cells are revealing secrets of the embryo and unlocking the past using real ice cores from Antarctica.



Our July meeting featured a fascinating session about 'Minerals and Man' including a practical discovery session, led by Science group member Owen Bavinton when the group had the opportunity to handle 20 critical minerals needed to maintain our modern society.

Our next meeting will be a talk from Prof DA Brodie, Emeritus Professor of Cardiovascular Health, on a broad review of factors contributing to healthy old age, especially those based on good science. This will take place as usual in the Mary Smithells room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 3pm on Friday 2nd August.

For the following meeting on September 6th, we will be welcoming Dr Christine Sutton, formally at Oxford University, to tell us about her work in particle physics at the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator CERN.

If you are not already a member of the group and would like to attend future meetings please email the co-convenors Karen-Anne Devoil and Tony Micallef science@chalfontsU3a.org.uk

Excursions

Stratfield Saye



Our visit on the 23 July to the private home of the Duke of Wellington went extremely well with excellent guides.

In small groups we were able to visit the house and the very impressive funeral carriage of Wellington.

There was time to stroll around the grounds, enjoy the refreshments and view the resting place of “Copenhagen” the Duke’s loyal horse. The day ended with a stop at the Duke of Wellington Farm shop.

Due to popular demand we plan to repeat this visit.



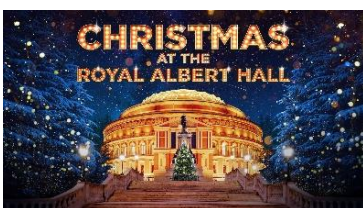
Waverley Paddle Steamer trip – 29 and 30 September



This one-way evening cruise from Southend up the River Thames to see Tower Bridge lit up as it opens for the Waverley Paddle Steamer is now running over two days.

Places have been secured but if you wish to join the waiting list please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Royal Albert Hall Carol Concert – 23 December



Tickets have already been allocated as they had to be obtained early this year. If you would like your name added to the waiting list do email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Future Excursions

Thank you to those members who have taken the trouble to give us ideas where the Excursions Group might go. We follow up on all suggestions to check if groups are welcome and what is on offer. Please do continue to give us ideas – it’s a great help!

Val Smith & Kate Trotman - Joint convenors of the Excursions group

excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Walking Cricket Group



In July, 11 members from our walking cricket group went up to Lords to watch England women play New Zealand in a T20 match. We had lovely weather and a good view of play with England winning by 20 runs.

There was a lovely atmosphere to enjoy and of course food and drinks which we had taken.

We are planning a friendly match against Holyport next month, so we will post details as you may want to come and support us!

We are still playing on Tuesday mornings from 10 till 11 at Chalfont St Peter Cricket Club and welcome anyone wanting to give it a go!

Contact Eileen Powell convenor. Mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group

This month was one without any theatre trips. However, next month there is the Chichester trip with a theatre visit to Oliver as well as time to explore the town.

We also have two trips to Hello Dolly to look forward to.

Thank you all for supporting our group which allows us all to enjoy various theatre trips.

Hope you all have a great summer. Howard Dawson and Angela Windsor
theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Textiles & Crafts Group



On 18th July Sandra Dawson led a fascinating and enjoyable workshop, for the Textiles & Crafts Group, to make fabric embroidered chickens.

Here are some photos of 8 members of our group hard at work on their chickens whilst 4 others worked on other projects.

A happy time was had by all.

Pamela Walker textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Mah-jong Group

The Mah-jong group has been running for some time and we are pleased to announce that a number of places have become available. Contrary to popular belief, we do not have a waiting list. So, if you are interested and wish to learn how to play this intriguing game, please let me know.

Places will be offered on a first come basis. Two sessions will be offered before you commit, as this will give you the opportunity to get the basics and meet the rest of the group.

We meet every Wednesday at 10.30 am in the Tony Graham Room at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre.

There is a charge to cover hire costs and refreshments.

Whether you are a complete novice, an expert or somewhere in between and would like to join us please send me an email. We predominately follow the British rules, but have made some tweaks to improve our experience.

Sam Patel mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Amersham in Bloom - Butterflies!

You may remember that Andy Honour came to our February monthly meeting to talk about the sculptures that he and his team had created to help Amersham win the Britain in Bloom award.

Well - they've now created three different metal butterflies to add more beautiful pieces outside the new Lifestyle Centre!



The smallest is the gatekeeper, the next is the marbled white and finally the peacock.



Regional u3a Zoom events:

Details at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk>

Wednesday 11th September – Two Neils at 10.30

A presentation by Clive Aronson playing the music of Neil Diamond and Neil Sedaka

Monday 23rd September – A virtual tour of the CERN Facility at 10.30

To receive notification of forthcoming TVN events as soon as they are published, please email events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk



Did you know?

As well as the 70 Interest groups that we have in our own Chalfonts u3a, there are many more that are available to us online.

Interest Groups Online (abbreviated as IGO) is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home.

The activities are run by members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement.

It costs £12 annually to join, and there's 140 groups to choose from!

Details: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups>



Riviera Travel Holidays

Riviera Holidays - Provider of holidays including cruises and signature tours. Unbeatable value for money & honest pricing, backed by price match guarantee. Which recommended.

Book with Riviera Travel, tell them that you belong to Chalfonts u3a and your u3a will receive a payment from Riviera which helps support our activities.

See the advertisement in Third Age Matters magazine for further details. www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquiries about interest groups please contact Lesley Bedford – Interest Groups Co-ordinator - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Telephone: 07970 848617

Or, if you know which group/s you wish to join please contact the convenor direct. You can find a list of all our Interest Groups on the next pages or here:

<https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/interest-groups/>

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Percy	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Laura Fordrey	ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Birdwatching	Tony Micallef	birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 1	Carol Lyons	bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 2	Marsha Partridge	bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 3	Marsha Partridge	bookclub3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge	Sue Fisher	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cake Decorating	Jane Douglas	cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Gary Tomlin	computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Coffee Mornings	Chris Coteman	coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cribbage	David Burbidge	cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cricket- Mixed Walking	Eileen Powell	mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Creative Writing	David Brodie	creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Crochet	Jeanette Galletly	crochet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords	Bob Leven	crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords Too	Val Darbyshire	crypticcrosswordstoo@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Current Affairs	Val Hadfield	currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings	Val Smith Kate Trotman	excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History	Jan Sawyer Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History2	Linda Kedge	familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Flower Arranging	Awaiting new convenor	flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Advanced	Heather Glasgow	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Jane Barker Jacqui Greenham Kate Trotman	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar	Clyde Perkins	guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
History	Trish Hart	history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
iPad User Group	Awaiting new convenor	ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Margaret Turner/Les Klein	italianbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners Plus	Lesley Bedford	italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Lawn Bowls	Mike Alderton	lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Lawn Bowls Beginners	Sharon Duncan	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
London Walks	John Hardwick Caroline Ashcroft Susan Mills	londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin and Les Klein	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mindfulness	Ruth Ryan Olwyn Davison Oakley	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences	Angela Cranston Sharon Duncan	newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Member Coffee Mornings	Eileen Powell	NewMembersCoffeeMorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Old Time Musical Hall Singing	Bob Leven	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Rob Robinson	philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography	Vince Barker	photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickle Ball	Richard Cranston	pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickle Ball 2	Diane Eaton	Pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Pilates all groups	Lesley Bedford	pilates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Poetry & Literature	David Burbidge	poetry&literature@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Quizzing	Margaret Turner	quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
RUG Really Useful Group	Sharon Duncan	rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Rummikub	Georgina Cane	rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Anne Higson	scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Science & Technology	Karen-Anne Devoil Tony Micallef	science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing for Pleasure	Brenda O’Gorman	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Conversation	David Hillis	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Beginners 2	Peter Shaw	spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Improvers 1	Margaret Burbidge	spanishimprovers1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 1	Sue White	tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 2	Eileen Powell	tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 3	Gio Pedalino	tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi All Groups	Lesley Bedford Lyn Tatnell	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Textiles and Craft	Paula Walker Sandra Dawson	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Visits	Howard Dawson Angela Windsor	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ukulele	James O’Flynn	ukelele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wagner Group	John Deacon	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg Sally Buckley	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking less than 6 miles	Frances Byrne	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking Strollers	Kate Trotman	strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Weekend Group	Sue Fisher	weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation	Grace Hunter	wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation 2	David Hillis	wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga	Geoff Clegg	yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga Friday pm	Helen Hall	yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Zumba	Sharon Duncan/Jane Barker	zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A Committee (at the time of going to press)

Chair	John Krushner	chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Val Smith	vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Chris Hardwick	secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Treasurer/Finance	Chris White	treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Finance Officer	Christine Hillis	financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Vince Barker	beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Interest Group Co-ordinator	Lyn Cameron	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Maureen Green	membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Publicity	David Powell	newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Speaker	Geoff Clegg	speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	Les Klein	webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Committee Member	Sharon Duncan	
	Chalfonts U3A general enquiries	contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	Chalfonts U3A suggestion box	suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	Chalfonts U3A website	www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	U3A National website	www.u3a.org.uk
	Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk