

### DIARY DATES FOR 2018 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

11 April	Monica Weller	<i>who will explain how she solved the case of Dr Helen Davidson who was murdered in Hodgemoor Woods in 1966.</i>
9 May	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>	<i>Followed by a 'Retrospective Filmshow of Chalfonts U3A activities'</i>
14 June	Helen Fry	<i>Will give a power point presentation entitled Latimer House Secret WW2 History.</i>

### FROM THE EDITOR

It has been said that the one topic of conversation which is a certainty amongst British people is the subject of the weather. However whatever the weather, let's look forward to spring – light evenings – new growth in the gardens – birds nesting etc. etc. It would seem that there is a need to concentrate on these things as you will see below with the advent of two new groups – Garden Visits and Bird Watching. Also many of our members are intrepid travellers and find themselves in some of the far flung corners of our wonderful planet to see the wonders on offer – is there a need perhaps for a Travellers Group? Food for thought – what a wonderful choice of groups we have for all to enjoy.

### MEMBERSHIP

It is good news to report that over 85% of our members have renewed for the coming year and a big welcome to all new members. We hope that everyone will make the most of Chalfonts U3A and all the varied interest groups. We shall be taking memberships at the **April meeting** and have a **drop-in session** at the Community Centre on **Wednesday 25 April** from 10am – 12 noon. You can of course renew by **post**. If you would like a membership form these are available on the website [www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk](http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

### EXISTING GROUPS

**Bridge Beginners** - John Edwards wishes to start an intake of new members for the Bridge Beginners Group. The original members have moved on to the Bridge Intermediate Group. Please contact John Edwards for further details at [bridgebeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridgebeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Canal Boat Trips** - Canal Boat Trips will be starting again in May. Those of you in the group watch out for an email from the new convenors, Sue Patey and/or Sue Gillard, who will be assisted by Mike Alderton in arranging the Trips. If you would like to join the group please contact them at [canalboattrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:canalboattrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Computing Group** - Even if you're not a member of the Computing Group but want to improve your knowledge of computing, there are lots of links to videos and documents on the Group's Resources page. Most months they add new material/training after their regular meetings. Go to our website and then locate 'Interest Groups' on the top menu; from there you click on the Computing Group link which takes you to their main page; on that page there are two links to their Resources and Meeting Archive pages. You will find lots of useful information that can help your own learning, from 'How the Internet Works' to more specialist training on software, such as Word/PowerPoint/Excel etc. You can also join the group if you'd like to meet up with other members who are interested in learning more about making the most of their PC/Mac/iPad/Tablet. Currently they meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 2-4pm in the CSP Community Library. There is a link on their page to the Contact Form. Next meeting of the group is on 10 May.

### Creative Writing

Our fledgling Creative Writing group meets at 9.30 am on the 3rd Thursday of each month upstairs in the Chalfont St Peter Community Library, although, on those occasions when we do not have access to the library, the Madeira café opposite is our alternative venue. Group members are interested in all kinds of writing, including fiction, non-fiction, memoir etc., and our aim is to network and offer mutual support and advice on all aspects of writing, book creation

and publishing. Slaughter your darlings and obviate your adverbs with U3A scribblers. If you would like to find out more or to join the group please contact Denise Beddows at [creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Cycling - Short Rides** - The group is not currently active. Now that spring is hopefully just around the corner this would seem a good time to get out and about. Those interested in restarting the group should contact Nigel Trotman at [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Excursions** - Looking ahead ...

**Tour of Clifton Suspension Bridge and day in Bristol – Friday 18 May 2018**

We are just finalising details for this trip so all members of the Excursions Group will be emailed very shortly with the factsheet and booking form. These will also be available on the website and those not on email will receive the information by post.

**Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) – Tuesday 17 July 2018**

This trip proved very popular last year and we have been able to secure a repeat booking for this Summer.

Those on the waiting list (who didn't get a place last time) will be given priority for this trip.

**The State Rooms and Gardens at Buckingham Palace – Tuesday 11 September 2018** Full

details much nearer the time

**Guide Dogs for the Blind, Leamington Spa & British Motor Museum – Thursday 8 Nov. 2018** Full

details much nearer the time

If you are interested in joining the Excursions Group please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) and take time to visit the Chalfonts U3A website [www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk](http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk) – the excursions page is extensive and has a wonderful gallery of previous trips

**Lawn Bowls** - The bowls group will be restarting in May. For further details please contact Michael Alderton at [lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) or Pam Anderson

**New Experiences Group** - has grown from 5 to 90 members since it started a year ago and there are three new events coming up in the next couple of months. We have Go-Karting in Aylesbury on 20 April and the Go Ape High Ropes Course in Black Park on 23 May. Then, for those of you who are not adrenalin junkies, there is Old Amersham Treasure Hunt on 20 June. This just involves a mile or two stroll around Amersham looking for clues and seeing parts of Old Amersham you may not have noticed before. All are welcome even if you are not currently a member of the New Experiences Group. Please contact Angela if you are interested.

**Spanish Intermediate** - The group is not currently active. Is it possible that some members of Spanish Beginners are ready to graduate to Spanish Intermediate, leaving room for new members to join Spanish Beginners. If any members wish to restart Spanish Intermediate and/or act as leader for this group please contact Nigel Trotman at [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Theatre Group** - Our visit to the Mill at Sonning in March included a pre theatre dinner followed by a production of The Hound of the Baskervilles. A typical Sherlock Holmes thriller with a comic twist which was enjoyed by us all. We have tickets for The Jersey Boys at the Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury on Wednesday 4 July details will be distributed shortly. If you would like to join the theatre group please email Sheila Tarrant: [theatre@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## **NEW AND POSSIBLE FUTURE GROUPS**

**Bird Watching** - There will be a meeting of those interested in starting a birdwatching group, after the general meeting on Wednesday 9 May. Please join us if you can. If anyone is interested but unable to be there please contact Sue Fisher at [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Coffee Mornings** - Chris Coteman is hoping to start monthly coffee and croissant morning meetings at The Greyhound in Chalfont St Peter. The group would be open to all members, giving a chance to socialise. There would be a small charge to cover the refreshments and a tip. Please contact Chris Coteman

**Garden Visits** - this new group is beginning to grow. The first outing will be on 17 May to the Wind in the Willows garden in Higher Denham where the group will have a short talk about the history and formation of the garden, a private tour of the seasonal highlights, followed by tea and biscuits. The garden is expected to be at its best by mid May. Visits to gardens near and far are being planned for the rest of the summer. If you would like to join the group please contact Jane Barker at [gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Sailing** - Do we have any members interested in dinghy sailing at a local location? If so please contact Nigel Trotman at [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Sunday Lunch Group** - There are a few people interested in starting a Sunday Lunch Group. If you would like to join them, please contact Sue Fisher at [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) & we'll organise an initial meeting soon.

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:**

	<a href="mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Accessibility	<a href="mailto:accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Tricia Reeve	
David Burbidge	<a href="mailto:chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Geoff Glover	<a href="mailto:vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Val Smith	<a href="mailto:secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Tricia Reeve	<a href="mailto:publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Sue White	<a href="mailto:speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
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Val Smith	<a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Tony Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Nigel Trotman	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Sue Fisher	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Suggestion Box	<a href="mailto:suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Val Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>

Chalfonts U3A Website: <http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk>

National Website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Thames Valley Network Website: [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk)