

DIARY DATES FOR 2016 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

10 August	Tony Eaton	<i>The Curious Disappearance of Major Glen Miller. An Illustrated talk</i>
14 September	Andrew Willis	<i>The History of Harefield Hospital including old photos and Powerpoint presentation</i>
12 October	Alistair Lack	<i>Travels with Auntie – An illustrated talk on the BBC</i>
9 November	Alan Copeland	<i>will give a presentation on Pubs and the way pub sign writers introduce their sense of humour into their work</i>
14 December	Sue Benwell	<i>who will be speaking on the Life of Sir Norman Wisdom</i>

TWO FASCINATING STUDY DAYS

As mentioned at the AGM in May the Thames Valley Network of local U3As has two particularly interesting and ambitious Study Days coming up which are open to all Chalfonts U3A members. Details of both are on u3atvnetwork.org.uk or contact your Vice Chairman Geoff Glover who would be interested to hear from anyone intending to apply for either or both.

First, on Saturday 24 September the Oxford University Press is hosting at its headquarters a Study Day on 'The Joy of Children's Literature' with 4 distinguished authors and storytellers as speakers.

Second, on Wednesday 23 November there is an inter-generational Study Day at Oxford Brookes' campus at Headington, Oxford, entitled 'Robotics is the Future?' Again this will have distinguished speakers and the 300 places will be split 50/50 between youngsters at the University and U3A members. An eye-opener for those who were fascinated by the robots at the Mini factory! The Robot Day is expected to be heavily oversubscribed so anyone interested should apply quickly.

NEW GROUPS

Languages - Portuguese and Others! – We already have thriving French, Italian and Spanish groups but would anyone like to learn Portuguese? We already have one person interested so if you would like to join them please contact Geoff Glover on Geoff Glover. If you are interested in learning any other languages – German, Dutch, Russian, Latin or any other please let us know.

Dine in with Friends - Would you like to share a meal regularly with friends new and old? "Dine in with Friends" is a proposed new group to do this, possibly starting in the autumn. Many other U3A groups have "Dining Clubs"; some visit the same restaurant regularly, some different ones in the area and others organise meals at their homes. Stephen Sharples would like to sound you out on this, He will send a survey to see how this could be organised. If you are interested, please e-mail him at dinewfchalfont@virginmedia.com

Sailing (Rickmansworth Sailing Club) – A number of local U3A groups make use of the dinghy sailing facilities at Rickmansworth Sailing Club's Troy Lake. U3A sessions take place twice a month from May to October (in the water) and once a month in the winter for theory sessions and talks. U3A sessions are from 1:00-5:00pm on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of each month. Members pay £7 per session attended plus the cost of tea and cake or any other refreshments. Most members have some previous sailing experience but a few have started from scratch. The sessions are not part of a recognised sailing school but members have many years of experience between them. Would you like to join this new group? We also need

someone to volunteer to be a contact point for our group. Please contact Helen Whitlum if you are interested in joining the group or can help in running it.

Spanish – Absolute Beginners – We are planning to start a new Spanish conversation group for absolute beginners. So far we have around six people interested. There will be a short meeting at 3:30pm on Wednesday 10 August (after the monthly meeting) in the Mary Smithells Room. Margaret Burbidge, who runs the existing Spanish Beginners group, and Helen Whitlum, the Groups Coordinator, will be present to answer any questions and we hope to decide a suitable day and time for the group. Please come along if you are interested in joining the group or contact Helen Whitlum with details of the days and times that you are free.

EXISTING GROUPS UPDATE

Advanced Italian Conversation - Five of us were invited to join a couple of small informal "coffee gettogethers" in a garden centre in Windsor during June, organised by a Neapolitan lady called Emelia who teaches in Iver. We benefited from the conversation, puzzles and games set by Emelia, and enjoyed meeting and sharing experiences with other people whose Italian was of a similar level. We have subsequently been invited to two Italian open house days in the autumn near Bracknell. On July 21 we had a day out together at the British Museum to visit the Sicilian Exhibition.

Book Club 1 – The group marked its first anniversary with a visit to Missenden Abbey for afternoon tea on a typical summer's day (it was pouring with rain). The group has been very successful and over its first year has read a variety of novels - from psychological thrillers and romances to serious literature and classics, travel journals and biographies. We meet in each others' homes and share our thoughts through discussion about the book we have read. Each month we score the book out of 10; the highest scores so far have been for "The Narrow Road to the Deep North" by Richard Flannagan and, to our surprise, "The History of Mr Polly" by HG Wells. In May some of the group members went to the Chalfont St Giles Literary festival - Wendy Cope was very popular with those of us who attended. The group is currently full with 10 members, all actively engaged in expanding their reading base and choosing books for the group to read! A quote from one of our members - "I love hearing other people's views on a book I have just read...they shed a completely different light on the book according to their own experiences".

Bridge - Intermediate - The Intermediate Bridge Group has run for a year and attracts between four tables in the summer, and seven in the winter. We meet in the Members room of the Community Centre in Chalfont St Peter. The cost is £2 per member, with the additional pound over room costs going into tea/coffee/biscuits and consumables with some contribution to the tables we borrow. The group has settled down to enjoy the bridge and each other's company. We are not too strict and although you must have experience playing bridge, you are encouraged to ask what bids mean and if there is time at the end of each hand discuss the bidding and play. We send a reminder email prior to each session held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and look for a reply so we can organise the tables and pair up singles. The sessions are friendly, relaxed enjoyable. Please contact Mike Lawson if you would like more information or are interested in joining us.

Computer Group – New Convenor Wanted! – Richard Fenton has decided to stand down from running the Computer group due to other commitments. Many thanks to Richard for running the group so successfully for the past 18 months. We are now looking for a new convenor for the group. If you can help please email Helen Whitlum

Cycling – Shorter and Longer Routes – There are now two cycling groups, the shorter routes are up to 12 miles and the longer ones 12 plus miles. David Burry who organises the shorter routes is looking for members who enjoy being on two wheels to join his group. Please contact David if you are interested in joining his group. If you are feeling energetic and would like to do longer distances please contact Dave Duckworth.

Excursions Programme

Tuesday 13 September 2016 - Eltham Palace & Gardens

(Details already sent out to members of the excursion group)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 11 October 2016 - Tours of Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey

Wednesday 7 December 2016 – Christmas at Waddesdon Manor with High Tea

Monday 20 March 2017 – Brooklands Museum – celebrating 25 years of British motor sport & aviation

At the members' meeting on the 10 August after the speaker we will gather to discuss future excursions.

History – The History group will not meet in August, but on 22 September will discuss James II as King and exile, and his descendants the Old and the Young Pretenders. Please contact Peter Degen, the convenor for more information or to join the group.

Textile Group - We meet on the third Thursday of each month from 2.00-4.00pm in the Mary Smithell's Room at the Chalfont. St Peter Community Centre. At the moment, we have around 10 members with a varying range of skills - from knitting, embroidery and applique to beadwork. Usually we bring along our latest project and enjoy a natter, a cup of coffee and an exchange of ideas. We have recently had a very enjoyable workshop on ribbon embroidery and this speaker is due to return later in the year due to popular demand. We have also organised a workshop on Japanese patchwork and we hope to be able to continue to invite interesting speakers in the future.....so do come and join us Please contact Sally Dinning if you would like more information or would like to join the group.

Theatre Group - Members are currently booking to visit the Globe Theatre on Friday, 4 November. This will include a tour of the theatre, an exhibition and an Elizabethan dress demonstration. Full details can be found on the website. It is our intention to arrange an outing to see a production at the Globe in 2017. Members will be seeing Funny Girl on the 30 August and our Christmas outing is to see Kinky Boots followed by dinner on the 30 November. A waiting list is in place for Kinky Boots. If you wish to join the theatre group please contact either Sheila Tarrant or Maureen Huxtable

Yoga – The Yoga group has got off to a very good start and has been up and running for over two months with around 10-12 committed members. Two new members recently joined the group. There is room in the group for about 18 so if you would like to join the group it is not too late and you will be made very welcome. Please contact Jane Earle or Pat Lloyd for further details.

Membership enquiries only: Valerie Darbyshire, Membership Secretary:

membership.chalfontsU3A@gmail.com

Please remember to bring your membership card to every monthly meeting and all interest groups.

Website: Google – Chalfonts U3A – visit Events, Groups, Gallery etc.

Newsletter: newschalfontsu3a@btinternet.com

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk