

## DIARY DATES FOR 2017 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

- 9 August** David Ramsay who is from our local - Services Sound And Vision. *David will be giving a talk on BFBS working for and company broadcasting to the military in conflict zones.*
- 13 September** Denise Beddows  
Local author and U3A member *A Wistful Eye on the Titanic – Denise’s great grandfather’s role in the building of the ship and unique images record of the harsh living and working conditions of the Belfast shipwrights. Talk will include her discovery of her great grandmother’s brutal murder in 1910*
- 11 October** John Fieldsend *Recalls his own personal experiences of Kindertransport and how his life was saved because he was on the next to last train from Prague to London in 1939*

## FROM THE EDITOR

The month of August always seems to be one of those in-between times – signs of the end of summer and thoughts start turning towards the autumn and changes in the season. However, let’s not wish our lives away! *Carpe Diem* – seize the day! What good advice. At the life-stage most of us have reached, we are fully aware that you never know what is round the next corner, so make the most of the present. If you have unachieved ambitions, why not make a promise to yourself to go for it. You will probably wonder why it took you so long to take that step. Our New Experiences Group might be an obvious place to start, or maybe you could convene a new group.

## EXISTING GROUPS

**Flower Arranging** - I am the new convenor for the Flower Arranging Group and would like to let you know of our next meeting: Thursday 18 August at 2.30 in member's home. We have a florist coming to demonstrate hand-held bouquets and then we will then make our own versions. Angela Kemps: [flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Excursions

**Whitchurch Silk Mill & Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, Hampshire – Tues 12 September 2017** If you would like to go on the waiting list for this trip please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org). Full details available on the Chalfonts website - Excursions page.

The Excursions Group continues to flourish and is well supported, and we hope that all those who have been on trips have enjoyed the days out as much as we have. So far this year we have visited Hever Castle, The Swindon Steam Museum and Retail Park, The Royal Brighton Pavilion, Brooklands Motor Museum, and Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) and been blessed with good weather every time. Still to come in the autumn is a truly different day out when we shall be at The Whitworth Silk Mill and The Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery in Hampshire. If you would like to add your name to the Excursions Group please visit the website [www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk](http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk) or email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Quizzing Group** - Now formed with approximately 40 members. We have entered U3A teams into several externally organised quizzes – and have been rewarded for our efforts with one Wooden Spoon! That said, all participants have enjoyed the atmosphere. Plans for autumn – publish a timetable detailing regular pub quizzes and continue to support charity fundraising quizzes.

**Discovering Art Group** - Our Group Leader, Pam Degan, has had a successful operation and is now recovering well. Since May, we have our monthly meetings, with talks and presentations on the Picture Postcard and the following artists: Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Joaquin Sorolla, Emily Shanks and Piet Mondrian. External visits to art galleries have included a trip to see the Paul Nash exhibition in Tate Britain and forthcoming trips are planned to see the Impressionists in London at Tate Britain and Dalí/Duchamp at the Royal Academy this autumn/winter.

**Textile Group** - Is thriving and we have enjoyed several Workshops over the last few months on topics ranging from Ribbon Embroidery (when we created Funky Chickens!), Crazy Patchwork and Japanese Patchwork. In July, we took ourselves on an outing to the Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury, to see The Beautiful Stitch Exhibition ....well worth the visit and the cream tea afterwards was pretty good too!

**Advanced Italian Conversation** - We continue to meet in either members' homes or chosen venues, not quite so frequently in the present holiday season. We hope to visit the Italian Food and Beverage Fair in London in October which promises to be an interesting day out.

**Book Group 1** - Members have now read and discussed 25 books ranging from Classics such as "The History of Mr Polly" by HG Wells (surprisingly funny and enjoyable) to autobiographies, travel books and novels of many different genres. After discussion we score each book - some poor authors only get 5 out of 10 for their efforts, but our favourites score 8 or 9! We've had a few "marmite" reads where opinion has been sharply divided, most notably on "The Secret History" by Donna Tart. The two outstanding books we recommend for an engrossing and thought provoking read are "The Narrow Road to the Deep North" by Richard Flanagan (Booker prize winner set in Australia and Burma during the war) and "The Nightingale" by Kirstin Hannah, a story of women's contribution to the French resistance during the war and a reflection on love in its many forms.

**Local History** - Group events have included monthly talks by historians such as Julian Hunt (The Romance of the A413), and Claire de Carle (on local herbalist Maude Grieve) who also gave us a guided walk around the once grand gardens of Chalfont Park. We made a visit to St Mary's Amersham (including the Drake Chapel, normally closed to the public) and a CSP Graveyard Walk & Talk. Our own members researched and spoke on the history of The Chalfonts & GX Cottage Hospital; Captain Mayne-Reid (the Gerrards Cross Cowboy), and the handwriting of local celebrities. On Tues 1 August we met outside The Bull in GX at 2 pm for 'Lady Charlotte's Walk'. This 1 ½ hour walk on easy terrain follows the story and Orchehill estate of Lady Charlotte, daughter of the Duke of Somerset. For route, see: <http://www.gx2006.co.uk/pages/walk.html>.

**French Conversation Intermediate Group 2** - Meets twice a month, 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 10:15am at a members house. We use a magazine each time but only after a lengthy period of conversation on any topic by any member. We are trying to engage more native French speakers to our sessions. We will be reviewing our membership shortly since one or two seem to have dropped out. Hence we may be looking for new members.

**Cryptic Crossword Group** - Our member John Baillie entered the Daily Telegraph Saturday crossword competition recently and won the first prize—a Telegraph fountain pen! He has since bought a bottle of ink!

### **CHALFONTS U3A CLARIFICATION OF POLICY ON ACCESSIBILITY**

This Accessibility statement is also available on the Chalfonts U3A website [www.chalfontsu3.org.uk](http://www.chalfontsu3.org.uk)

As mentioned in our February 2017 Newsletter we have a system in place should a member become unwell and need assistance at our monthly meetings. A designated committee member will telephone the emergency services should they be required. Please also note that our request for emergency contact details on the back of your membership card is extremely important – this system will only work if you have your membership card with you at all U3A functions.

We also advise that members are covered by our group insurance. But please note that this insurance cover extends only to liability for damage caused to third parties i.e. public liability cover. There is no cover for the costs of emergency medical treatment or transport for members suffering illness or injury while involved in U3A activity unless Chalfonts U3A is at fault. Nevertheless everything will be done to assist any member in difficulty.

We want to be known as a caring group which has the best interests of all its members at the forefront, but we do not have extensive resources and so make the following provisions.

Issues arise from time to time regarding mobility and we want to ensure that any member wishing to participate in U3A activities is able to do so with certain provisos. In the case of limited mobility, we would ask that member to arrange to be accompanied by an able-bodied responsible person who can assist them during the meeting or outing. Convenors of groups are not able to take responsibility to offer assistance as their remit is to look after the group as a whole, and not one particular member.

A carer or responsible person will be covered by our group insurance for a limited number of occasions – details will need to be submitted to the Secretary.

We are aware that we are a third-age group of people and many of our members although willing to help, are themselves frail. Therefore we do reiterate the need for an able-bodied person to be available to help those who have difficulties.

A further issue arises for those members who no longer drive and have problems in getting to monthly meetings or interest groups. The committee is unable to provide lifts for members, so can we suggest that if you know of someone who lives nearby and doesn't drive, you might be prepared to assist. Please contact a committee member or group convenor if you can help in this way. Chilterns Dial-a-Ride covers the South Bucks area and can be contacted on 01494 766123.

We are anxious to enable access to all our activities for all our members and hope you will understand our reasons for the above provisos.

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

	<a href="mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Accessibility	<a href="mailto:accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
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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)