

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

8 August	Roger Shaw	<i>1421 and the Ming Dynasty. Admiral Zheng and 100,000 sailors in four fleets went round the world and found America 70 years before Columbus who had a Chinese map. A fascinating tale of how this was achieved.</i>
12 September	Tom Way	<i>A wildlife photographer who is based in Buckinghamshire. He will be showing us exciting wildlife photos from around the world</i>
10 October	Malcolm Nelson	<i>Who will tell us of how during his work he has spent 40 years catching smugglers</i>

EXISTING GROUPS

Coffee Mornings Group - This is a nice way to meet other members of the U3A and enjoy a coffee & croissant. The next coffee morning will be on Tuesday 28 August at 10am in the Greyhound CSP. For more information please contact Chris Coteman coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Computing Group - Next meeting is on Thursday 9 August in the CSP Community Library from 2-4pm. Main topics will be the importance of backing up your files using a simple method of automation on either of the two most popular operating systems, i.e. Windows and Mac OSX and those attending will be shown the process on both. Other topics may be covered depending on the time available. As usual we take a break in the middle for tea/coffee/biscuits. We are delighted to announce that we now have two other members who are convening the group, Phil Larman and Gary Tomlin who will both be helping with exploring a variety of topics in the coming months. We have sent out a reminder to members of our August meeting via email already, but if you wish to join the group and attend please go to our website and click on 'Interest Groups' menu and find the Contact Form which is on the Computing Group Main Page. Please note NO meeting in September - also in October there will be a slight change to the normal schedule and we will meet on Thursday 25 October in the usual slot of 2-4pm, in the CSP Community Library. Availability of the library on this day not yet confirmed, so it is subject to change, but members will be kept informed.

Excursions -

The State Rooms and Gardens at Buckingham Palace –Tuesday 7 August 2018

This year's excursion has proved to be a popular choice and is full.

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Leamington Spa & British Motor Museum – Thursday 8 November 2018

Full details nearer the time.

If you have ideas/requests for future excursions we are always very pleased to receive them. Email: excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. We look at all suggestions and report back to the sender.

New Experiences – The Group tried their hand at paddle boarding last month. It was a sweltering day so no-one minded falling in. However, most of us were surprised to find that it wasn't as hard as we expected and we were soon paddling our way around the lake. Then, less strenuously, we held a treasure hunt in Old Amersham. There were 50 clues to answer and most people discovered parts of Old Amersham they had never seen before. Coming up on August 7 is our Orienteering and Scavenger Hunt in Black Park. We have also arranged paintballing and a Murder Mystery Dinner later in the year.

Photography Group - The next event we have in our diary is to go to the Gerrards Cross Classic Car Show on Wednesday 8 August. Members of the group will be attending the event from midday. If you would like to join the group then please use the Contact Form on the Photography Group Main Page to contact the convenor.

Singing for Pleasure - Following the sad (but happy for her) news that Janice Holmes is moving to Hampshire to be with her daughter, we are now looking for another choir master/leader/pianist extraordinaire to run our weekly sessions on a Thursday 10.30am-12noon. We currently meet at Janice's house, where she has a piano, but realize that we have been extremely fortunate and are open to any suggestions or offers of help in order to keep the choir going. If anyone is interested please email singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Tai Chi – This is a very relaxed friendly group. We are all improving with the moves. Tai Chi is not a competitive exercise – meaning we only work to our own ability. The aim of Tai Chi is to Increase flexibility, enhance balance, memory, relaxation and many other attributes to our wellbeing. Anyone can do it. All that is required is soft flat shoes and comfortable clothing. We did have to succumb to a little meditation during the very hot weather. This of course meant sitting on chairs. Margaret Rutter taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

NEW GROUPS

Sunday Lunch Group - We are hoping to start a group who would meet for Sunday Lunch. If you would like to join please contact Sue Fisher groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Spanish Conversation - This new group held their first inaugural meeting on 24 July. The founders of the group are as follows: Myra Hingis, Brenda O’Gorman, John Bailie, Stuart Hammond and David Hillis. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 3-4.30pm. A small room has been booked at the Community Centre for the next meeting, which will be on Wednesday 8 August 2018. Stuart has kindly agreed to be the group convenor. Although small in number, the five members are most committed and driven to make it successful. A big thank you to Margaret for initiating this group and valued help and guidance at the meeting today.

Wine Appreciation 2 - As the wine appreciation group is full we think the time is right to start a second group, especially as David Hillis has offered to be its convenor. Several U3A members have expressed an interest in joining a second group. There will be a joint meeting on Wednesday 5 September at 7.30pm. We will be tasting three white wines and three red wines. The cost is £10 per person per evening. If you wish to join the group please say if you are able to attend the joint meeting. The new group will decide when and where they wish to meet. For details please contact David Hillis

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE David Burbidge has posted his Chairman's message on the website and members can see the changes there will be on the committee.

WEBSITE BUILDING DAY - BENSON COMMUNITY CENTRE - WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2018

Our webmaster, Tony Darbyshire, is running a Study Day on how to build a website without any knowledge of the underlying code that websites use. Tony is doing this event with Chris Moss, the webmaster for Bourne End U3A. Between them they will demonstrate the ease with which anyone can have their own website. If you go to our own website you will find a link to both the application form and more details of the day on a flyer, on our Noticeboard. (Scroll down the page to find it as it is no longer at the top as other news/notices have been posted).

There are only 120 places available and they are likely to be taken up quickly because notice of the event has been sent to all subscribing members of the Thames Valley Network (TVN) which has in excess of 20+ U3As. If you are interested in attending then please apply quickly. If places are no longer available Tony and Chris may hold a further study day in the first half of 2019, so please register your interest if this study day is something you would like to attend.

Chiltern U3A Ballroom Dancing

Chiltern U3A in Amersham have let us know that this group is now quite low on numbers and are asking other local U3As if any of their members would be interested in joining us in September. This is by way of a declaration of interest at the moment. We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at the Drake Hall Amersham from 2-4pm. There is a practice session and then a teacher comes at 2.30 after tea and biscuits! There is a £6 charge per couple (and people need to bring a partner). Contact Sheila Bulpett

Thank you to Convenors

We held a Convenors and Helpers Social on Thursday 26 July, which was attended and enjoyed by over 40 of our convenors. It was an opportunity for us all to meet up, to talk about our successes and discuss any problems. The gathering also provided a chance to express our thanks to the convenors for their hard work on behalf of all our members.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

	<u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Accessibility	<u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Tricia Reeve	
David Burbidge	<u>chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Bob Borwick	<u>vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Val Smith	<u>secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Peter Brady	<u>treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Jan Sawyer	<u>venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Sue White	<u>speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Janice Buchanan	<u>newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Val Smith	<u>membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Tony Darbyshire	<u>webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Nigel Trotman	<u>groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Sue Fisher	<u>groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Suggestion Box	<u>suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Val Darbyshire	<u>beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>

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

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Thames Valley Network Website: u3atvnetwork.org.uk