



# Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No. 33 • December 2017

A Very Happy Christmas & New Year to all our Members



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

13 December	Keith Baldwin	<i>Who calls himself The Tall Fellow and will entertain us with his Christmas Greetings talk.</i>
10 January	Blue Badge Tourist Guide Graham Horn	<i>Whose talk is entitled 'A Long Walk across England'. In the spring of 2007 he set out on a journey to walk the Macmillan Way from Lincolnshire to Dorset 300 miles in 18 days. His narrative combines pictures showing some of England's most attractive villages, hidden and historic gems, and the pleasure of strolling through the pretty countryside</i>
14 February	Bernie Knill.	<i>The life and times of Disraeli and the story of Hughenden</i>
14 March	Roger Shaw	<i>An illustrated talk of the perils of the people who went through the north - west of America in 1844 on the Oregon Trail</i>



**Wednesday 13 December** – We anticipate an entertaining talk from Keith Baldwin this afternoon. Afterwards we hope you will stay for some tea or coffee and seasonal refreshments in Mary's Café. The Committee thank everyone for their splendid support during this past year and for making Chalfonts U3A such a thriving and energetic organisation. We don't wish to remain complacent and to rest on our laurels, so we do still value your comments, complaints, suggestions etc. Our contact details are on page 4 of this newsletter. You will also find the Suggestion Box on the website (see blue strapline at the top of the home page). Christmas celebrations are just around the corner, and we wish everyone a very happy and peaceful time with friends and family. Our first monthly meeting on 10 January 2018 will soon come around and we look forward to seeing you all then.



## EXCURSIONS

**An overview** ...2017 has been full and varied for the Excursions group. We've visited the Steam Museum/McArthur Glen Designer Outlet in Swindon, The Royal Brighton Pavilion, Hever Castle in Kent, Brooklands Museum (the birthplace of British motorsport & Aviation), Highclere Castle where the popular BBC television series Downton Abbey was filmed, Whitchurch Silk Mill, The Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery and spent a day in Bath to enjoy the Christmas markets and other attractions. Each trip has been great fun, informative and has given us all the chance to make new friendships. If you wish to have your name added to the Excursions Interest group for 2018 please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Next excursion...Thursday 18 January 2018: Morgan Motor Company**

Our next excursion is to the Morgan Motor Company who, for over 100 years have been making exciting sports cars in the beautiful spa town of Malvern, Worcestershire. The cost of the trip is £35 per person to include return coach travel from Chalfont St Peter, driver's gratuity, tea/coffee on arrival, film show, guided tour of the factory and entrance to the Museum. Full details and a booking form will be emailed out to excursion group members the week before Christmas - also available on the Chalfonts U3A website. **Deadline for return of booking forms – Friday 5 January 2018.**

**Creative Writing** -The first meeting was held in November at the Madeira Café in Chalfont St Peter. It was thought likely that U3A members would prefer the group to be one which focused on networking, offering mutual support and encouragement and sharing ideas on writing for pleasure, rather than publishing for profit, though this could be discussed at the next meeting. Occasional guest speakers may come to the group and perhaps the odd outing, e.g to a literary festival. The next meeting will be in January 2018 (date to be confirmed) at 9.30am Madeira Café and Denise Beddows will be the group's convenor so if you would like to join the group please let Denise know [creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**French Intermediate 2** Ray Luker is now the new convenor, replacing Colin Smith who has led the group for the last 2 ½ years – contact: [frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Theatre Group**:- Sixth December saw our first outing to see 42nd Street followed by a carvery meal and a tour of the Christmas lights. Due to a massive response there is a second outing for 42nd Street on the 4 January. This outing is fully booked but we have tickets available to see Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution staged in a unique courtroom setting at County Hall, London on Thursday, 3 May for the matinee performance. The cost of your seat in the courtroom is £42.50. The coach costs will be asked for at a later date when we know the size of the group. All members of Chalfonts U3A are welcome. If you would like further information please email [theatregroups@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatregroups@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) . The theatre require payment before Christmas so please respond promptly.



## NEW GROUPS

**Yoga 2** – We are hoping to start a new Yoga group in January. This will probably run on a Friday at 12noon. If you are interested in joining please contact Pat Lloyd [yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) or see Sue Fisher at the monthly meeting on 13 December

**Pilates** – Hopefully a Pilates group will start in January. If you'd like to join & haven't already done so, please contact Sue Fisher [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



## HELP

I'm 'Enery the 8<sup>th</sup> I am and I'm looking for someone who can tickle the ivories on the old Joanna. If you like Old Time Music Hall or are willing to be converted, we'd love you to join our "laugh-a-minute" group of singers. As the phone hasn't been invented yet, and ask for sackbut, strings and madrigals section.

## RIVIERA HOLIDAYS

We draw your attention to an advertisement on p. 75 of Third Age Matters Autumn 2017 issue - 'Book your holiday with Riviera Travel and we will donate 10% of the total cost to YOUR U3A. Please mention the name of your U3A when you book.'



## THIRD AGE MATTERS MAGAZINE

**Latest News!** - By now you should have received by post the latest copy of the Third Age Matters Magazine. Do take a look at page 81 – The Coast to Coast section. There's a large photo of the Chalfonts U3A New Experiences group who recently went whitewater rafting on the Olympic course and had an amazing time! Congratulations to Angela Cranston, the convenor for this group who has arranged some wonderful "new experiences" – Segway, Shooting, Archery, Knife Throwing and Painting. There are more events planned – Murder Mystery Evening, Sky Diving, Ceramics and so it goes on!!! Also take a look at page 23 which runs an article about the merits of playing table tennis - "We're ahead of our game" says Sue White, convenor for the table tennis group as Chalfonts U3A are already running two groups!! Remember as well our website which is kept up to date and highlights so many of Chalfonts U3A activities. <http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk/>

## SURVEY

Val Smith writes: The Winter 2017 Issue 29 of Third Age Matters is asking for a Reader Survey from members. The survey is very easy to do - [www.u3a.org.uk/survey](http://www.u3a.org.uk/survey) or it can be posted back to them. I've done the survey and am hoping that others will do the same. When we went to the Annual Conference it was clear that TAM is not considered a good or exciting magazine. I tend to agree - not so much the content - but the way it's presented. In my opinion, it needs a very big facelift to a more modern approach.

### MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

	<a href="mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Accessibility Tricia Reeve	<a href="mailto:accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
David Burbidge	<a href="mailto:chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Geoff Glover	<a href="mailto:vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Smith	<a href="mailto:secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Tricia Reeve	<a href="mailto:publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Sue White	<a href="mailto:speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Peter Brady	<a href="mailto:treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Jan Sawyer	<a href="mailto:venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Janice Buchanan	<a href="mailto:newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Smith	<a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Tony Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Nigel Trotman	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Sue Fisher	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Suggestion Box	<a href="mailto:suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Chalfonts U3A Website:	<a href="http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>

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

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