



Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No. 45 • December 2018



A Very Happy Christmas & New Year to all our Members

MONTHLY MEETING DIARY DATES FOR 2018/19

AT THE CHALFONT ST PETER COMMUNITY CENTRE

(Please Note - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

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| 12 December | Denise Beddows | <i>Will be talking about her adventures when she was working in the immigration service and overseas. Titled – It's no job for a woman.</i> |
| 9 January | Jean Meakin MA | <i>Whose subject will be The Curiosities of the English Language. Jean has had a career of school and university teaching in the UK and abroad and is a highly experienced, qualified teacher.</i> |
| 13 February | Stefan White | <i>Skulduggery in the Shrubbery. Stefan is a professional speaker and he covers the life of John Tradescant and his family who were 17th century plant hunters and also gardeners to royalty. He talks about the plants and other items he brought back to England and the mysteries surrounding his life.</i> |

FROM THE EDITOR

Note to Convenors and Administrators

A big thank you to all Convenors and Administrators who have contributed to this month's newsletter. Due to your excellent response this month, your item may not appear until our January newsletter due to space. Please keep your contributions coming every month.

Recording those attending monthly meetings: This is now a health and safety requirement from the CSP Community Centre and will be carried out at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday 12 December and all following meetings. Members are requested to make sure you wear or bring your membership card with you please. Names will be taken at the door nearest to the stage (not the first door to the hall as you come in). This is to avoid a queue backing up outside the centre. Thank you for your understanding as we comply with this safety directive.

RUG GROUP

This is our **Really Useful Group** which has assisted us in a brilliant way for many months. Would any members consider joining this group who offer help in very practical tasks? We need help in setting up the hall with chairs and equipment, assisting with refreshments and many other jobs. If you are able to help even in doing something small, Bob Borwick will be delighted to hear from you vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

TVN WEBSITE

Members are encouraged to look at the TVN website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk. There are a number of interesting study days/workshops planned for 2019 which you may like to attend.

EXISTING GROUPS

Advanced Italian Conversation - Not really much to report re our little group. Meetings have been rather sporadic during the summer months, but at our last meeting we discussed the possibility of increasing membership of our

group. I have been in touch with one of the convenors of another local U3A Italian group which seems to be flourishing. The result is that at our next meeting on Thursday of this week we hope to welcome a lady who is on the waiting list to join the other group. We will welcome her and hope that she will be willing to join our Group. For more information contact Barbara Lloyd on italianadvancedconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Coffee mornings - Our coffee mornings in The Greyhound pub started in August and it's been great to see so many members come along for a chat and enjoy the refreshments. We try to change the day of the week each month to make it easier for as many as possible to pop along. The next one is on **Tuesday 18 December -10am - 11am**. There is a small charge of £3.50 to cover as much coffee and tea as you can manage and a rather large croissant with jam and butter. Breakfast beforehand not recommended! Added bonus - free car parking at the pub! If you would like to join this group please contact Chris Coteman (Convenor) coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions - In 2018 the group visited The Morgan Motor Company, Chatham Historic Dockyard, Bristol and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Highclere Castle, Buckingham Palace State Rooms and Gardens, The British Motor Museum, The Guide Dogs Training Centre in Leamington and the Christmas event at Waddesdon Manor. Thank you to all members of the group who supported these trips out and made the days so enjoyable and to our webmaster Tony for creating the excursions photo galleries for the Chalfonts U3A website. More excursions are planned for 2019 and of course we welcome any suggestions. Happy Christmas to everyone. Tricia and Val (Joint convenors of the excursions group) excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Intermediate Bridge Group continues to be well supported by its 40 or so regular players but we have room for a few more. Recently joined new members have first come along to a session as observers and then joined once they have seen what a happy and friendly band we are! We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Party on 19 December with seasonal fare and convivial company when some variations to conventional Bridge play will challenge our members in their competition for highly valued prizes. If you want to know more about the group contact bridgeintermediate@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Local Historic Buildings Group sadly is no more. We've run out of places which aren't too far away from Chalfont St Peter where we can arrange a visit which is convenient for the group. There have been lots of good outings to interesting places, in particular St Mary's Church in Langley Marish with its wonderful library and RAF Halton with all its fascinating memorabilia and exhibits. We've very much enjoyed researching and putting together these visits over the last couple of years. Margaret Turner. (*Our thanks go to Margaret for all her efforts in running the group. Ed.*)

London Walks Group - We organised our first London Walk in September 2015 to "Little Venice" and took one group of 28 people. The plan was to organise a walk every other month and vary the days selected in order that as many people as possible can participate. Since then we have run two groups of approximately 30 people and covered large and differing areas of London. The aim is to keep the groups small enough for everyone to hear and benefit from the knowledgeable guides information and for groups to be compact enough so as to move easily through the busy and sometimes small streets we discover. We operate a first come first served basis and while we hope to accommodate as many people as possible we do often have to operate a waiting list, which I am sure you will appreciate then allows groups to operate efficiently and comfortably for everyone. We always look forward to seeing you on these walks and are happy to receive any suggestions you might have. For more information contact Pam Anderson on londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Sailing - Chalfonts U3A Members join up with other U3A members! The U3A National Sailing Groups holiday last year to Greece was so successful that another has been planned for 2019. This time two 42 foot Bavaria sailing boats will leave Split, Croatia at the end of April for a ten day trip. Chalfonts U3A member Colin Smith will again skipper a boat and be joined by fellow CU3A member Norman Gardner and other U3A members from the South of England. It's great news that U3As can join together for such activities!

Spanish Conversation - The group will be useful for all learners of Spanish whose ambition is to, one day, be able to hold a conversation with native Spanish speakers. The meetings will have a theme so that all participants, whatever their level, will have the opportunity beforehand, to learn vocabulary and rehearse things to say. Some of our members are advanced speakers. Listening to them, tunes the ear to spoken Spanish. These advanced speakers do most of the talking but the sessions are not competitive and so far, all members have been supportive of one another and tolerant of mistakes. If you would like to join this group please contact Stuart Hammond spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Sunday Group - The Sunday Group has had an enjoyable year of Sunday outings with several visits to Garden centres, National Trust Properties, a craft fair, a food fair at Knebworth, a couple of cinema visits, music and afternoon tea at Great Missenden, a Snowdrop walk and a Bluebell walk, St Albans, Windsor and a definite favourite – "The Goat Music" a lovely Sunday lunch, whilst listening to Jazz at the Goat Centre. All of our trips include food, often Sunday lunch which saves cooking on a Sunday. We have some vacancies so if you would like to join us in the new year please contact Sue Fisher sundaygroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or Sally Lippiatt.

Wine Appreciation Group 2 – We had our third meeting in November which featured Spanish wines. The group continues to attract new members and we meet on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on 19 December and we will be tasting Australian wines. New members welcome, including those who just want to try it once while considering joining the group on a more regular basis. Contact David Hillis.

Mah Jong Group- Jenny Brooke is standing down as convenor of the group, and we thank her for her efforts. The new convenor will be Sam Patel.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

	<u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Accessibility	<u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
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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