

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

February 10	Colin Oakes	<i>Will talk about Amersham through the ages.</i>
March 9	Denise Beddows	<i>Magnificence and Scandal on our doorstep - Bulstrode House</i>
April 13	John Ambrose	<i>An amusing and informative talk entitled: Tax, Care and Toy Boys</i>
May 11	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	

500 Members!

Astonishingly, we have just signed up our 500th member of Chalfonts U3A. This is a remarkable indication of the ongoing interest in our activities and we thank all members who have encouraged their friends to come along and join us since our inaugural meeting a year ago. Our appreciation also goes to Pam Jones (now National Chairman) who offered amazing support through the early stages of planning and organising. Good news for members, from 1st April charges for hire of venues will be capped at £1 per member per session.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual membership for 2016-17 will remain at £22 – for your convenience and to spread the membership secretary's workload, you can renew from now onwards. The membership year of Chalfonts U3A is 1 April to 31 March. Forms are available from Val Darbyshire or on our website. Members are asked to complete a new form for the 2016-17 year and also to complete the Gift Aid Declaration if you are a taxpayer. Email membership.chalfontsU3A@gmail.com

WEBSITE INFORMATION

You may be interested to know that the Chalfonts U3A website has received over 26,000 hits to date. This is considered to be a sizeable statistic given that we are a newly formed group.

NATIONAL EVENTS – SPRING 2016 - (OPEN TO ALL U3A MEMBERS)

- Thursday 3 March – U3A West End Sing Out, Savoy Theatre, London
- Wednesday 9 March – Dr Jenner Museum, Berkeley, Glos (stimulating medical talks)
- Tuesday 15 March – “The Importance of Being Earnest”, Odeon cinema, London
- Thursday 17 March – RiSpring meeting in Mayfair (fascinating science talks)
- Monday 11 April – “Search for the universe”, Birbeck University, London
- Wednesday 27 April – 2-4pm Spring Concert Mozart Requiem, St Clement Danes, Strand, London
- National Summer Schools – Wide range of topics covered – August – Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

Booking forms for all the above available from U3A National Office. Check the U3A National Website www.u3a.org.uk for full details and to book your place. You will need to create a username and password for the Members' area.

National U3A Resource Centre – Did you know that the National U3A has a huge resource centre containing hundreds of course materials for every subject under the sun? Just create a member's login to browse through what is available. This may inspire you to learn a new subject by starting up a new group. You do NOT have to know anything about a subject to start a group. Have a look and be inspired!

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK EVENTS – SPRING 2016 (OPEN TO ALL U3A MEMBERS)

Please remember that there are many exciting and interesting events organised by Thames Valley Network. See www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk.

- Study Day: The Civil War Revisited at Henley River & Rowing Museum, Wed. 11 May.

Online Chess - Steve Lawer of East Suffolk U3A is running an online chess league for U3A members. Matches are played between members of a division, which consists of five players. For more information contact Steve

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Book Club 1—Group currently has a vacancy. If you are interested in joining contact Jane Barker

Book Club 2 - This group had their first meeting on Thursday 28 January and chose "The Green Road by Anne Enright. Meetings will now take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 4pm on a rota basis in members' homes. There are 8 members in this group but if you would like to know more or place your name on a waiting list please contact Alyson Klein, Convenor.

Excursions - BMW/Mini Factory tour - 3 March - This trip is now full

RAF Hendon/Battle of Britain - 23 March - This trip is now confirmed and those who expressed an interest have been emailed with the booking form for completion and payment.

BBC Tour - 21 April - date for your diary. Details to be announced nearer the time.

Theatre Visits - we plan to visit Windsor Theatre on Saturday 21 May at 4.45 to see "Lottie's War". This is prior to a West End run. It is based on a true story set in the WW2 enemy-occupied Channel Islands. In mid-August we hope to go to "Funny Girl" at the Savoy. At present tickets are very difficult to obtain. An interesting aside is that "Motown" is so popular the cheapest seats are now £145. Contact: Maureen Huxtable

Wine Appreciation - The next meeting is on Wednesday 2 March at 7.30pm when we will be tasting wines from various European countries. We taste three white wines and three red wines. Between us we try to organise lifts so we avoid drinking and driving. If you wish to try us out do come along. Details from Grace Hunter

Cheese and Wine Lunch - Saturday 2 April, 12:00 – 2:00pm - The Wine Appreciation group will be holding a cheese and wine lunch in the Members Room at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. The invitation is open to all members of Chalfonts U3A. The room size means that the number of tickets is limited to 30. To reserve a ticket please email Grace Hunter on a first come basis. Tickets will cost £5. We aim to have a good quality selection of cheeses, biscuits and bread, together with a dessert. There will be red and white wines and water to drink with the cheeses. The wines will be donated and therefore do not need to be included in the ticket price.

TIMETABLE OF GROUPS – To help you know which interest groups run on which days, please go to the Chalfonts U3A website. Click on "Groups", then scroll down past the "Group List" and right at the bottom of the page you will see the "Timetable Summary". Hopefully this will help you plan your membership of the various groups.

NEW GROUPS

Historic Buildings - The first group visit was on 4 February to the Parish Church of Chalfont St Giles guided by Roy Woodall, a Chalfonts U3A member and an expert on the church's history. Further visits to local buildings of special historic or architectural interest are planned. New members are welcome. Geoff Glover

Lawn Bowls – The Lawn Bowls group will be starting up for the summer season in May meeting at Chalfont St Giles Bowls Club. If you are interested in joining please email Michael Alderton. There will be a meeting and a sign up sheet for those interested in joining the group on 9 March after the speaker meeting.

Philosophy – We now have a convenor and enough people to start a small group, but ideally we would like a few more people in the group. If you are interested in joining contact groupscoord1@chalfonts-u3a.org.uk

Nordic Walking – Karoline Lamb is offering to run another four-week course of Nordic Walking lessons providing that there are at least five people interested. The course would start on 29 February either from 9-10am or from 3-4pm. With spring coming, Nordic Walking is a fantastic way to exercise outdoors and get fitter. People do appreciate the benefit after a few weeks. Karoline has walking groups on Thursdays and Sundays with some really lovely people taking part. If you are interested contact Karoline

Whisky Tasting – Following the success of the Wine Appreciation group, Grace Hunter, convenor, is willing to start a Whisky Tasting group if there is enough interest. Contact Grace Hunter.

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.

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Janice Buchanan – newschalfontsu3a@btinternet.com