

# Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No.47 • February 2019

## MONTHLY MEETING DIARY DATES FOR 2019 AT THE CHALFONT ST PETER COMMUNITY CENTRE (Please Note - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

13 February	<b>Stefan White</b>	<i><b>Skulduggery in the Shrubbery.</b> 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>
13 March	<b>Peter Ellis</b>	<i><b>Climbing Everest from Tibet and a climb to Vinson Massif in Antarctica</b> - a large mountain massif 21 km long and 13 km wide lying within the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains overlooking the Ronnie Ice Shelf near the base of the Antarctic Peninsula located about 1,200 km from the South Pole.</i>
10 April	<b>Alan Copeland</b>	<i>This month we welcome the return of Alan Copeland speaking on <b>Eccentric London</b>. Alan was the very first speaker we had at Chalfonts U3A.</i>

**FROM THE EDITOR** – After the disruption of last week's snow, we are now seeing signs of spring if we take the trouble to look carefully. Tiny shoots of bulbs are appearing and in some cases crocuses and daffs have already bloomed in the weak winter sunshine. Also lots to look forward to in U3A – we now have 62 interest groups covering 49 subjects. Indeed, something for everyone.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Chalfonts U3A membership runs from 1 April – 31 March each year. This means all memberships are due for renewal at the end of March 2019 and members have been emailed a Membership Renewal form for completion. You will be able to renew and collect your 2019-2020 card from **1pm at the monthly meetings**, or at **drop in sessions from 10am – 12 noon on Tuesday 26 February, Tuesday 26 March, Wednesday 17 April 2019** in the Chalfonts Community Centre. Membership forms will be available and for those not on email you will have received your form by post with the February newsletter.

We do hope that you will renew and continue to be part of our thriving Chalfonts U3A. If you have any questions or would like to know more please email [membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) or contact Val Smith on 01494 872467 or visit the website <http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk/membership/> - you can of course renew or join **by post** – all details on the membership form.

**Gift Aid** – If you are a taxpayer, please ensure that you tick the Gift Aid box when you complete your 2019-2020 renewal form. Chalfonts U3A derives considerable benefit from tax reclaimed every year.

### EXISTING GROUPS

**Chess Group** - Just to let you know that the Chess Group has had its first meeting. Tony Micallef has agreed to be convenor. The plan is to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at members' houses as well as meeting up for a game of chess on other occasions.

**Discovering Art Group** hope to organise a trip to Tate Modern to see the exhibition "Pierre Bonnard: The Colour of Memory". The proposed date is Thursday 4 April 2019 and the probable cost of entry would be £16 (£8.50 for Art Pass holders). The cost of the coach would be around £250 for a 19 seater coach. At present the trip is undersubscribed so we would welcome any other members of Chalfonts U3A who would like to join us for this event.

## Excursions

We are still finalising the trips for 2019 with a varied range of places to go. If you would like to join the excursions group please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### **The Baps Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple, Neasden & buffet lunch at the Shayona Restaurant – Friday 15 February 2019**

This trip is now full with a waiting list. As so many of you have been interested in this excursion we are hoping to arrange another visit later in the year. Those on the waiting list will be given priority for a place.

### **The BMW-Mini Plant, Cowley, Oxford with lunch – Tuesday 19 March 2019.**

Members of the excursion interest group have been contacted with details of this guided tour. If you are interested in coming along please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

*We did run this trip in 2016 when it was over-subscribed and our members described it as "simply amazing and very interesting" – not to be missed and highly recommended.*

### **A day in Oxford: Guided Walking Tour of Oxford Colleges and City followed by a visit to the Ashmolean Museum with private highlights tour– Thursday 11 April 2019** Full

details will be issued soon.

**New Experiences Group** - 28 members of the group tried something a bit different in January. We went to the Learn to Dance school in Burnham for a jiving lesson. A very lovely young man was very patient with us all, guiding us through each step at a time until we could manage spins and hip bumps with various degrees of competence. Both partners trying to spin at the same time tested even the most co-ordinated and it was more luck than judgement whether we ended up facing each other at the end of the move. However, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had a very good workout. There are painting classes and a barn dance coming up in March - both full I'm afraid and details have been sent out about a circus skills workshop. So if you are interested in joining the group please contact Angela Cranston.

**Old Time Music Hall group** - If you have an elderly relative living in a local retirement home, we would like to know. You can contact me directly or put me in touch with the relevant Activities Organiser. Meanwhile, we are in need of another male voice. If you like the genre and can, possibly, sing, we'd like to meet you!

**Wine Appreciation Group 2** - The new year started with the January tasting of French wines. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on 20 February, and we will be tasting Chilean wines. After that March 20 with Portuguese wines. A welcoming group to help you recover from dry January.

## 2019 HOLIDAYS

Some of you may be thinking about your holidays for 2019.... CU3A can benefit! Remember that if booking with **Riveria Holidays** they will donate 10% of the total cost of your trip to YOUR U3A. Please mention the name of Chalfonts U3A when you book. We have already received welcome revenue from this scheme during the financial year.

CU3A has now become a partner with RWH Travel Limited whose holidays include **Ramblers Walking Holidays, Ramblers Cruise & Walk, and Adagio**. In order to qualify for a contribution to CU3A the person travelling must nominate their U3A before they travel. The company gives £10 per person for UK holidays, £20 for short haul holidays and £30 for long haul holidays.

## THAMES VALLEY NETWORK

Members are encouraged to look on the TVN website [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk) for upcoming events, two of which are mentioned below:

**The Interaction of Medicine, Science and Art Study Day** on 30 April repeated due to popular demand.

**History on Film** - (Harlots or Heroines? Women in the 18th Century on Film and TV), Yolande

Paterson Theatre, St Helen's & St Katherine's school, Faringdon Road, Abingdon OX14 1BE  
Tuesday 28 May 2019

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

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

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

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