

## DIARY DATES FOR 2017 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

11 January 2017	David Keen	<i>will speak about the Dambusters Raid (our speaker and guide at RAF Hendon)</i>
8 February 2017	Ken and June Brazier	<i>Will give a joint presentation on Mercy Ships which started in 1978 with a mission to provide 'Hope and Healing' to some of the poorest countries in the world. The charity operates mainly in West Africa and especially in Sierra Leone.</i>
8 March 2017	Steve Capel Davies	<i>Life on the Thames. An illustrated talk on the history of the Thames</i>

## FORWARD INTO 2017

We look forward to seeing you in 2017 at our regular monthly meetings which we hope you continue to find varied and stimulating. Interest groups are thriving thanks to our stalwart convenors and we trust that there is something for everyone – more groups are in the pipeline. We anticipate a good year in 2017 following the many surprises of 2016 – the Brexit vote and the appointment of Donald Trump as President Elect of the USA to name but two. The Olympic Games were a sporting highlight for Great Britain and I'm sure we were all inspired by our athletes and their medal successes. We also had the Paralympics – maybe one day we will see the Third Age Olympics!

We would like to reassure members, that in the case of an emergency during a monthly meeting, a designated committee member will contact the relevant services immediately, and others will be on hand to offer assistance where necessary.

## NEW GROUPS

**Bus Pass Adventures** – One of the benefits of being older is that you can get a bus pass! We thought it might be a nice idea to set up a group for members who would like to make full use of their bus passes and have some adventures using them! Following the announcement of this new group in the last Newsletter, there has been a good response from members showing interest. There will be a short get together after our monthly meeting on the 11 January to pursue setting up the group. Please contact Nigel Trotman on [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Extreme Activities!** – Are you the type of person who would like to 'have a go' at all sorts of adventurous activities. We have a prospective convenor for this group who suggests that exciting, but not over strenuous activities could be carried out, and not requiring a high level of fitness. If this sounds a little less daunting than 'extreme', please contact Nigel Trotman on [groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Quizzing** – We are thinking of setting up a quizzing group so that we can enter a Chalfonts U3A team into any local quizzes. If there is enough interest this could also be a regular group so get your thinking caps on and decide if you would like to take part. If you are interested in joining with the fun, please contact Helen Whitlum on [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**This newsletter is also available in large print if needed. Please allow two days' notice.**

**Contact Val Smith - email: [contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)**

## **EXISTING GROUPS**

**Bridge (Intermediate)** - Since its inception at the commencement of our Chalfonts U3A, the Bridge Group has gone from strength to strength culminating in a wonderful Christmas Party which was attended by a packed out membership. The club played eight tables, which was a first for the group. Everyone enjoyed a drink or three and tucking into a festive spread worthy of a Grand Slam. We played Bridge, but not as we know it Jim. Rules and conventions were thrown out with the empty wine bottles and the members enjoyed barmy, madcap and off the wall new ways of playing Bridge. Laughter, fun and an abundance of prizes were the only conventions allowed. This is one of the most friendly and good natured groups of people you could wish to meet. All play to a good standard, but no one takes themselves too seriously. If you are thinking of joining, do not delay as we are fast approaching maximum numbers and unless we take over the O2 arena each Wednesday afternoon, we will run out of space very soon. If you wish to join contact Bob Borwick or Mike Lawson for more information and book your place for our next Christmas party - [bridgeintermediate@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:bridgeintermediate@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## **Excursions**

**Wednesday 22 February Steam Swindon** – private tour of Great Western Railway Museum and chance to visit McArthur Glen Designer Outlet **Monday 20 March 2017 Brooklands Museum**  
An action packed day full of motoring and aviation race experiences.

**Wednesday 24 May Royal Brighton Pavilion** – private tour of Pavilion, lunch and free time to wander around Brighton

Further information on above excursions will be released nearer the dates.

Excursion photographs - If you took any photographs whilst on the trips to Beaulieu, The Queen's Gallery/Royal Mews, the BMW-Mini Factory, the Houses of Parliament/Westminster Abbey and the RAF Hendon Museum please could you email these to Tony Darbyshire, [webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk). Tony will add them to the photo galleries for the excursions group.

**Historic Buildings - Interest Group Planning Meetings** – Our group recently held a planning meeting in a local hotel to give members an opportunity to air their views on how they felt the group was going and to plan future meetings. The group enjoyed tea and mince pies and the different setting helped to stimulate discussion as well as providing an opportunity to socialise. Perhaps other groups might like to consider doing something similar? It is a good idea to occasionally take stock and review how things are going in your group.

**Theatre Group** - To date we have three outings planned for 2017. **Gaslight** on the 19 January at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury, followed by **School of Rock** on the 6 February at the New London Theatre and **An American in Paris** which is on the 7 August. These outings are fully booked. However, we are planning additional outings which will be circulated to theatre group members and full details will be on the website. If you would like to be included on the circulation list for theatre outings, please email: [theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Wine Appreciation** - We all enjoy our wine appreciation evenings when we taste three red wines and three whites. However, we had a real treat for our December meeting when we had food and wine. The food was from a variety of Asian cuisines and each was accompanied by a specially chosen wine to complement the food. It was a real eye opener to find such a variety of wines which went well with spicy foods. David and Linda Liston had cooked all the dishes and gone to a lot of trouble to research the wines. It was an evening which will remain long in the memory and the group were very appreciative of the food, wine and the effort put in by David and Linda. The group has become very popular and is now at its comfortable capacity. If any more U3A members are interested in wine appreciation then a second group could be set up. Grace Hunter would be happy to share any advice with its convenor. [wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**THAMES VALLEY NETWORK STUDY DAY - Glimpses of the Social History of the Thames Valley** The TVN Network is holding this Study Day on Wednesday 22 March 2017. The location is at The River & Rowing

Museum, Henley-on-Thames. The intention of the study day is to shed light on different aspects of the lives of people in past centuries, in the towns and villages of the Thames Valley. The panel of speakers are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They will open these windows on the landscape of the past for those that attend the day. If any member is interested in attending then we advise you book your place early. From experience we know that TVN events get filled up pretty quickly [u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

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

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

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

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