

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

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>
11 April	Monica Weller	<i>who will explain about how she solved the case of the murder of Dr Helen Davidson who was murdered in Hodgemoor woods in 1966.</i>

FROM THE EDITOR

Looking at the Diary Dates above for this New Year we can look forward to yet more stimulating talks from our speakers with varied subjects appealing to all interests. Groups continue to offer a huge variety of subjects and challenges and we anticipate that more new groups will appear during the year. From time to time Convenors will change, so do ensure that you check the latest version of Interest Groups on pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter for the latest information. Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served as usual in Mary's Café after our monthly meeting on 10 January. Do stop for a chat and a chance to meet other members.

Bridge Intermediate - Christmas came early on 20 December for the Intermediate Bridge Group members when the now traditional Mad Hat Competition with Lunch for the 30 or so players was followed by Bridge with a Difference. David our Chairman, kindly judged the competition. Photos are on the website. This was also Bob Borwick's and Mike Lawson's convenor retirement party and everyone joined in thanking both for running the group so successfully since its early days.

Excursions

Thursday 18 January 2018

Excursion to Morgan Motor Factory and Museum, Malvern

There are a few places available on this trip and open to all Chalfonts U3A members. We have a special tour arranged and will see the wonderful Morgan cars, famous the world over, for their unique blend of quality materials, craftsmanship and performance and visit the workshops and view the vehicles as they are handmade from start to finish. The cost of the trip is £35 pp to include Coach, Special Guided Tour of Factory, Museum visit and coffee/tea/biscuits on arrival. If interested please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or telephone Tricia or Val Smith

Local History - Our next group meeting is on Tuesday 6 February at 2pm when Paul Croft will share with us his interesting studies. He will talk on Leisure & trains as he has widely researched trains & holidays. Paul has lived in the Chalfont St Peter area for 53 years & will link the talk to the Chalfonts. We look forward to what promises to be an interesting presentation, and hopefully there will be a good turnout to support it.

New Experiences Group – we held two events in December. Early in the month a group spent a couple of hours in “Unique Like You” in Chalfont St Peter painting Christmas themed ceramics. We emerged with unique plates, snowman dishes, egg cups and Santa ornaments. Most of us were surprised at how good they looked once fired. *continued overleaf*

Between Christmas and New Year we held a Murder Mystery Party. It was set at a Hollywood Awards Ceremony and many members dressed the part. As well as working out who the murderer was, members acted out excerpts from their latest films to great laughter all around. We even got to vote for the best actors and best film. Four people managed to work out/guess who the murderer was and congratulations to the murderer for managing not to give herself away. Once we'd had a couple of glasses of wine and got into the swing of it we all enjoyed it tremendously.

In January the group are holding a meditation/mindfulness workshop and are trying out Indoor Skydiving. Please see the Gallery section of the New Experiences page of the Chalfonts U3A website for photos of all our events so far. If you would like to join the group please contact Angela Cranston, the convenor

Textile and Craft Group - The thriving Textile Group is changing its title to Textile and Craft Group. As our numbers grow, so do our varied interests and we would like to include card making and scrapbooking, etc in our repertoire of future projects and workshops. New members are welcome to join this group. For more details contact Sally Dinning at textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Singing for Pleasure Group - Janice Holmes reports that in December the group performed a programme of Christmas Carols at Farnham Common House and then at Woodland Manor in the presence of Rt Hon. Cheryl Gillan who sang along with us! She is a member of the choir at the House of Commons. We all had a wonderful time and start 2018 full of enthusiasm. The group does have places for anyone interested in singing and men are most welcome – we need the deep voices! For more information email Janice on singingforpleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

WARNING!

Members are occasionally receiving spam emails purporting to come from other members of Chalfonts U3A. They are asking members to pay fake invoices from PayPal. These emails are NOT GENUINE and any member receiving them should report them to their email provider, and also mark emails like this as spam. ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD ANY ATTACHMENTS BE OPENED because they may contain a virus. Also, please DO NOT forward any of these emails to others, including any of our Convenors or committee members. The BEST ADVICE we can give any member is never to respond to these emails. We would never ask members to pay anything to us so please take care not to get caught by scammers!

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 2018. At the **end of January** you will be emailed with a Membership Renewal form for completion. You will be able to renew at the monthly meetings or by post and at coffee mornings from **10am – 12 noon** on **Tuesday 27 February, Tuesday 27 March** and **Wednesday 25 April**. Membership renewal forms will also be available at the monthly meetings and will be posted out to those not on email with the February newsletter. Membership cost remains at £22 per person per annum.

We do hope that you will renew and continue to be part of the thriving Chalfonts U3A. If you have any questions or would like to know more do email membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or contact Val Smith on 01494 872467

Gift Aid - If you pay tax and have not already done so please consider signing up for Gift Aid when you renew your membership for 2018/9. We obtain an extra £5.50p for every person who signs up for Gift Aid. This helps us maintain the Annual Membership fee at its present level. If you have any queries or doubts about the Gift Aid scheme please ring David Burbidge on 01494 873590 who will be pleased to answer your queries.

WEBSITE

Members are encouraged to visit our website chalfontsu3a.org.uk for more information, resumés of recent talks, photos of excursions and activities and so much more. If you have a quiet rainy afternoon, why not log on and view the gallery, see if there are any new interest groups, or even listen to the radio or look at the local paper. It's all there and easy to find – see the links at the foot of the home page.

This newsletter is also available in large print if needed.

Please allow two days' notice.

Contact Val Smith email: contactus@chalfontsu3a.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

Thames Valley Network Website: u3atvnetwork.org.uk