

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

12 July	Mike Payne [who visited us in January last year and gave us an excellent talk on Pinewood studios]	<i>The story of a very Special Stained Glass Window. He will tell us about the creation of a special memorial window dedicated to the members of the Burma Star from the Isle of Wight.</i>
9 August	David Ramsay who is from our local company - Services Sound and Vision	<i>David will be giving a talk on BFBS working for the military in conflict zones.</i>
13 September	Denise Kelly	Subject to be announced next month

FROM THE EDITOR

By the time you read this July issue of our Newsletter, we will have watched the first week of Wimbledon – this most English of sporting events. Strawberries and cream, knowledgeable spectators and outstanding sporting prowess – all to delight and enthuse us as we wonder who will win and our dismay when our favourite seed is beaten. Others of us enjoy cricket, golf, rugby whether by participating or viewing from our armchairs. More delights at this time of year are to be found in our many U3A outings, walks and canal boat cruises etc. not to mention the plethora of local fêtes, shows and BBQs. So, savour these summer months when we enjoy light evenings – no school traffic for six weeks when the schools break up – and the joys of relaxing with family and friends and breaks in our normal routine.

CHALFONT ST PETER FEAST DAY

Thanks must go to those who manned our stall at the recent Feast Day – your efforts are appreciated. Help was provided by our RUG (Really useful Group) and their support was invaluable. The Feast Day was a good opportunity for U3A to support this important local event and to raise awareness of our existence. The weather was kind and the event was very well attended. The free raffle was won by Jeff Green (one of our members) – see the picture of him and our stall on the website.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

For the statisticians in our number, we thought you might like to know the latest figures. Our current membership stands at 594 which is a 13.5% increase over 2016. Sixty-five members did not renew this year (2016 the number was sixty-three) and this is in line with national figures of approximately 10% non-renewals. New members continue to sign up each month, usually at monthly meetings, and we look at attendance figures each month and also at interest group attendances. We have found that quite a few people sign up full of intentions to join groups, but then life gets in the way and they find they have been unable to come to anything at all. This does account for some of the non-renewals. Please remember to wear your badge when attending meetings – it does help us to get to know you.

WEBSITE

ChalfontsU3A.org.uk – do visit the website for lots more information about our activities and interest groups. There are also wonderful photos of places visited and we are grateful to all those who submit their photos. TV and Radio networks can also be accessed via the website so you can listen to your favourite programme while you surf.

EXISTING GROUPS

Bus Pass Adventures

On Thursday 7 September the group plan to visit Hemel Hemstead. There will be time to visit both the Old and New Town and enjoy the ride through Chesham and Bovington and stopping briefly outside HM Prison, The Mount, en route for Hemel. Contact Dorothy Bowie buspass@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Canalboat Trips

After a few more trips from Harefield, on Monday 3 July some members of the group did their first trip from Kings Langley. It was a very enjoyable trip with lovely company, scenery, wildlife & an enjoyable pub lunch at Hunton Bridge. Contact: canalboattrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) - Tuesday 25 July 2017

This trip is now full with a waiting list. If you would like your name added to this list please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

We have booked to visit Highclere again on Tuesday 17 July 2018 and those not fortunate to get a place this time around will be guaranteed a place for next year.

Family History

Travelling by coach with members from Chiltern and Chalfonts U3A, we made a joint visit to the Public Records Office at Kew. Most of us made new discoveries about our families, others researched some of the vast store of original documents which are only available in the reading room at Kew. A very enjoyable day out for our friendly group. Other groups might like to consider joining up with other U3As from time to time and share travel arrangements. Contact: familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Flower Arranging

The Flower arranging group had their first meeting on 29 June. They had a very interesting, informative and enjoyable first meeting when Deidre Lacey came and gave them lots of information and tips. She has kindly agreed to come and help again and impart more of her knowledge on Tuesday 18 July. If you would like to join the group and/or attend on 18 July, please contact Angela Kemps: flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Historic Buildings

This group has met regularly during the year: every month we visit a place of historic interest and take a conducted tour. Trips so far have included:

- Wycombe Museum
- A tour of Berkhamstead to see all the historic blue plaque buildings
- St Alban's Cathedral
- Fulmer Church
- Penn Church
- Moor Park Mansion

So you can see that we try to cover a wide variety of buildings. Members make their own travel plans and we find a cafe or pub for a get-together afterwards. Contact: historicbuildings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Sunday Group

After a nice lunch the Sunday Group had a very interesting visit to Taplow Court last Sunday. We had a tour of the house, which is a beautiful house and very light and peaceful. We learnt about the history of the house and also a little bit about the Buddhist movement SGI UK. The gardens were also lovely and we finished off with tea and cake in their café. This is only open on a few Sundays in the summer. It is open again on 6 August and 10 September from 2-5pm. Although this group is full, if you would like to join a new Sunday group please contact Sue Fisher on groupcordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis

There are vacancies for the Wednesday table tennis group. All levels welcome. We play from 5.00 to 6.30pm at the Leisure Centre. Contact: tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

NEW GROUPS

German Conversation - Convenor Renate Danner. Meeting in homes. No dates yet available. germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

	<u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Accessibility	<u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
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Suggestion Box	<u>suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>
Chalfonts U3A Website:	<u>http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u>

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Thames Valley Network Website: u3atvnetwork.org.uk