

Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No.61 March 2020 ●



Editor's Update COVID-19 Coronavirus update

Hello everyone at this very difficult time. I hope to be sending out a newsletter fortnightly to keep everyone in touch with current events within the U3a and some helpful websites that you can access. I have asked convenors to send me updates on their group activities and they are beginning to appear! Currently the Government's message is to self-isolate as it is the single most important action, we can all take.

It is a time for all of us to make changes to our lifestyle and we would love to hear of any achievements you managed during this crisis! It could be something that you have been procrastinating about and now you have the time and the drive to accomplish or perhaps, a bit of DIY, a painting project or starting a new hobby we would love to hear about it !! Photos to accompany could provide the evidence! Over to you.

Some other suggestions for you to while away the time. How about keeping a personal diary of your days throughout this extraordinary period in our lives which in years to come you will be able to share with children and grandchildren and reminisce! Perhaps your garden is the place where you are going to be most productive or there may be some book recommendations and reviews you could try your hand at and share with us The national U3A website also has many recommendations and you can fill in your details at www.u3a.org.uk to receive the national and regional updates direct to your inbox

To keep you in contact with each other you might like to consider joining the CU3A Facebook Group which Gary Tomlin our webmaster has created. There is a link on the Website's home page to the following page: <https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/cu3a-facebook-group/> There you will find a link to the PDF with instructions on how to join Facebook and the CU3A group. He has also set up an email address facebook@chalfontsu3a.org.uk where any questions or issues you may be having in creating a Facebook account or joining the group can be answered. This may sound a bit daunting if you have not ventured into the world of social media before but perhaps now is the time to give it a try and reap the benefits! We have also heard from Sharon Duncan who is very willing to act as co-ordinator for taking calls from members who may need some help or just like a chat.

Here is the info re local supermarkets. **All elderly and the vulnerable shopping hours are on Monday, Wednesday and Friday** unless otherwise stated.

Tesco Gerrards Cross - open from 6am to 10pm weekdays Priority Hours 9-10 am.

Sainsburys Beaconsfield open 8 am to 8pm weekdays Priority Hours 8-9am.

Waitrose Gerrards Cross open 8am -7pm weekdays Priority Hours 8-9am.

Co-Op CSP/St Giles open 7 am to 8pm weekdays Hour for elderly 8-9am Monday - Saturday and 10-11 am Sunday . But it includes NHS workers.

M and S CSP opening hours weekdays 8am-7.30pm. Priority for the elderly 8-9 am Mondays and Thursdays and finally Birrings, the greengrocer in CSP is closing from Saturday 28th March for the foreseeable future.

A useful newsletter to sign up for is localnewsbyemail.info which is adding new information frequently. We will also be reading more during this time so you might like to know that you can buy books and support our local shops at places other than Amazon! Gerrards Cross Bookshop and Chorleywood Bookshop are offering free local delivery placed by phone or email, minimum order £10. Although they are closed to physical customers, they will be there intermittently during some mornings to deal with enquiries and orders.

Existing Groups

Book Club 2 “Book Thoughts” by Chris White I have been an avid reader since childhood and like most people tend to read authors and genres that I am familiar with. My tastes have changed over time as I have read books recommended by friends and family. I have even come to love some of the required authors that were forced on me for O and A levels. When I joined the Chalfonts U3A Book Club 2, another world opened, and I have read books that I would not have thought to pick up. Three such examples are: **Olive Kitteridge** by Elizabeth Sprout. An episodic novel set in small town America. Filled with pathos and a cast of misunderstood characters woven together by their relationship with the eponymous Olive. **The Gift of Rain by Tan Twan Eng**. Set in Penang, Malaysia, a teenage boy innocently befriends a visiting Japanese man. The consequences for him, his family and the island itself impact their whole life. Beautifully written with sweeping descriptions I loved this so much we went to Penang. **Warlight by Michael Ondaatje**. Wartime London, parents who must go abroad, a strange guardian and his even stranger friends. A brother and sister do their best to cope while trying to unravel the mystery of their mother. With evocative descriptions of life in wartime London what is the truth behind the mystery? For those of you who have a Kindle you may want to try **The Hunt for Wotak**. A spy thriller set-in present-day UK by our very own Denise Beddows. Fast paced with a host of interesting characters and some unexpected twists and turns.

Intermediate Bridge A reminder from Geoff Glover to let us know there are a wide variety of Bridge apps available to which some members may wish to consider using in this bridge free period.
bridgeintermediate@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Italian beginners Our Italian beginners' group have been working solidly for the past 5 or so months and I think we are progressing. Given the difficult times we are encountering we have attempted to set up a Zoom meeting, which was actually pretty successful although on the first occasion we did not manage to do any Italian. The social side of things is important and just seeing each other, albeit on screen was a good experience. On Monday morning we will have our first Zoom Italian session and I have high hopes that it will be enjoyable. In the meantime, we have set up a WhatsApp group to share thoughts and ideas and everyone is thinking about how best to plan our sessions. All in all, our group continues, and we will I am sure enjoy it as we usually do. Lesley Bedford convenor italianbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis No, we are not playing virtual table tennis unfortunately! However, David Morgan has let me know there are many videos on You Tube both educational and amusing! Use Liam Pichford to search. He is number 2 in the UK. I hope that when we all return to playing, we will see signs of improvement, just find a table and some bats, but remember no more than 2 people playing at one time!

Theatre Visits Whilst there are no theatre trips planned for the immediate future, we are keeping our fingers crossed that the September outing to see 'Hello Dolly' will go ahead. For those who have bookings for this and other theatre outings we will keep you updated as and when there is any news. The members who came to see Les Mis on the 3 March when the coach broke down may be interested in the outcome, so to recap: Les Mis was really enjoyed by everyone, the coach was waiting for us when we left the theatre but there were no external lights so we had to wait for a replacement coach. The cause of the breakdown was a bucket of water which was mistakenly left in the hold. Whilst the coach was parked, this water leaked into the electrics, causing the failure. The cost to rectify this - £500 tow charge, £1200 garage costs and a further £100 emission charge as the coach was there beyond midnight! Not to mention getting another driver out of his bed to come to the rescue! Despite this everyone kept smiling and positive! Keep well, and we look forward to seeing you as soon as normality returns, Sheila and Danny co- convenors

Wine Appreciation Group1 Grace Hunter, who is convenor suggested that as they are not able to meet up, that perhaps some of the members would like to share some of their comments about recent wines they have tasted, so I am dedicating a wine taster's corner in the newsletter! Grace enjoyed a South African First Cape Special Cuvee Merlot from Waitrose at under £10 and found it was very enjoyable with a simple supper. We look forward to reading the next wine recommendations!