

Chalfonts U3A Newsletter No.50 May 2019 ●

Monthly Meeting Diary Dates for 2019
at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre
(Please Note - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

- 8 May** **Keith Hoffmeister** We welcome the return of our speaker Keith who spoke to us at our AGM in 2017 when he informed us of the progress of HS2. He returns to update us on current developments made during the last two years. This is likely to be a very well attended talk!!
- 12 June** **Mike Casson** After leaving the army Mike was accepted into the Tower of London as a Yeoman Warder (aka Beefeater) in early 1988. He lived and worked there until June 2003 when he took early retirement to concentrate on his other interests. He has appeared on various TV programmes and is currently working on an historical novel and a book on anecdotes from the Tower
- 10 July** **John Tyler** John Tyler is a local naturalist, will be giving an illustrated talk on The Changing Wildlife of the Chilterns. From warm seas, through Ice Ages, tundra and forest to the farmland and beechwoods of today, we travel through a hundred million years to follow the story of the Chiltern landscape and its wildlife.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held at the May members' meeting in the main hall of the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 2pm. All members were emailed on 22 April with the 2019 agenda and the Minutes from the 2018AGM. Paper copies will be available.

Following the meeting The Group Co-ordinators will be present in the Mary Smithells Room to share information about the Interest groups we run so please do go along and say hello and perhaps even join up!

Please note that all members should bring their 2019-20 membership card along to all meetings. A gentle reminder to you all that we would appreciate a donation of 50p per member towards Tea, Coffee and biscuits which as always is organised by the amazing Sue Jupp!

Annual Chalfont St Peter Feast Day will take place on Saturday June 29th and as in previous years Chalfonts U3A will have a pitch. We hope you will come and visit us and of course we are always on the lookout for new members. We will need help to man this event so if any Convenors have an hour to spare on the day Eileen Powell would love to hear from you. Further details will appear in the June newsletter

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Chalfonts U3A membership runs from 1 April – 31 March so subscriptions are now overdue. Please contact Val Smith on membership@chalfontsu3a.org.uk should you have any queries about re-joining or would like a membership form.

EXCURSIONS

A Day in Oxford

We were very lucky with the weather and had a wonderful day walking around Oxford, visiting New College and The Ashmolean Museum with a delicious lunch in Cosmo Restaurant. We are planning to repeat this trip and all those who didn't get a place first time around have been emailed explaining that when the trip runs AGAIN, they will get priority. Full details to all members of the excursion group will be made available once another date has been arranged.

Loseley Park & Watts Gallery – Tuesday 21 May

This trip is now full. But if you would like your name added to the waiting list please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Hindu Temple & Shayona Restaurant, Neasden – Friday 7 June

We visited the Temple earlier this year and those who didn't get a place have been given priority for this June trip and the list is almost full. There are still a few places left so if you are interested please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

We would like to thank all our members who have given us ideas for future trips out and we do research them all. **2019 Holidays**

Some of you are perhaps thinking about your holidays for later this yearCU3A can benefit!

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.

Reduced price admission at Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Gardens.

As a CU3A member you can take advantage of our RHS reduced price entry card to visit any of the four RHS gardens and get 30% off normal adult admission price for yourself and a friend. The offer is available at RHS gardens at Wisley, Woking, Surrey; Hyde Hall, Chelmsford, Essex; Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon and Harlow Carr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. To take advantage of this offer you will need to borrow the card from our garden visits convenor, Jane Barker. Please email Jane at gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk if you wish to borrow the card. Please return it promptly after your visit so that other people can borrow it too.

EXISTING GROUPS

Creative Writing

The writing group has been most creative thus far, critiquing each other's jottings and sharing ideas in terms of composition, publishing and promoting. We are a friendly group of authors writing fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and even true crime. For further information please contact Denise Beddows at creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Singing 4 Pleasure

Brenda O'Gorman has taken over as convenor of the choir from Janice Holmes, who has now moved from the area. Singing for pleasure is going quite well. Rehearsals take place in the village church and a charge is made to members who attend of £3 per week. Ben, the choirmaster is very talented, puts us through our paces music wise but, we need new members, especially men. Please contact Brenda

We also understand that a keyboard purchased by the CU3A can be borrowed by other members at no charge. Bob Leven is the point of contact. musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science and technology

This is a keen and lively group of people from various backgrounds. We include those who have a scientific background as well as those who are just interested in learning new things. Our sessions have mostly been talks given by various members of the group, but we are just in the process of organising a trip to the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington. Our sessions include discussing energy and water as well as medical equipment. New members are always welcome including anyone who is happy to share their science or technology story with this friendly group. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the community centre. For further information contact Cathy Williams on science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis Groups

We have been approached by Bicester U3A with an invitation to play a couple of friendly matches. We also have some good news from Chalfont Leisure centre about the purchase of a new table and nets which were greatly needed.

Theatre Group

The theatre group have recently stepped back in time and enjoyed visits to see 2 musical theatre productions, "Rip it up", a modern twist on the hits of the 60s and the Dolly Parton musical 9 to 5. both

evenings were popular with Our members. our next outing is in May to the mill at Sonning to see the Pasadena roof orchestra. following this we have tickets for Matthew Bourne's "Romeo and Juliet" ballet in August but there will be additional theatre visits between these dates. Suggestions from members are always welcome. To join the theatre group email: theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Wine appreciation group 2

In March we had a tasting of English wines, which was a good reminder of how much these have improved recently. On 15 May We will be tasting Italian wines. we meet on the third Wednesday of every month. Contact David Hillis

Interest Groups and Convenors (Note New E-Mail Addresses)

Nigel Trotman – Groups Coordinator – groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Sue Fisher – Groups Coordinator – groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

The list of new committee members and their contact details will be forwarded to you after the AGM.