

## DIARY DATES FOR 2017/2018 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| 8 November  | Mike Bartlett                           | <i>The Amber Room in Saint Petersburg. Mike is a retired Vulcan bomber navigator and his talk is about a stunning room within the Catherine Palace near Saint Petersburg. The contents of the Amber Room were stolen by the Nazis in WW2 and their whereabouts remain a mystery to this day.</i>   |
| 13 December | Keith Baldwin                           | <i>Who calls himself The Tall Fellow and will entertain us with his Christmas Greetings talk.</i>  |
| 10 January  | Blue Badge Tourist Guide<br>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> |

## FROM THE EDITOR

Some members of the thriving **Textile Group** will be holding a Christmas Gift Stall at next week's Monthly Meeting. They will be selling a wide range of handcrafted gifts, ranging from bags, hats, spectacle cases, designer diaries, jewellery, bunting....and much, much more. **All** proceeds will be donated to the **Medical Detection Dogs** charity based in North Bucks. These dogs are trained to carry out lifesaving work in the detection of various forms of cancer, as well as giving vital support to people suffering from certain diseases including Diabetes. The amazing work carried out by this charity does not get any government funding and relies totally on donations. So please visit the stall, do some Christmas shopping and support a worthwhile cause. We hope you will enjoy what is on offer.

**Canal Boating** - The canal boating group has finished for the year. During 2017 we had nine trips, seven on narrowboats (6'6" wide) and 2 on wide beams (10'6" wide). Each trip started off from either Harefield or Kings Langley and usually lasted around 6+ hours each. There was significant participation from members in both steering and also working the locks, quite hard work since all the locks are manually operated. Members also used the trips to socialise, the main point of the trips, and it was a good opportunity to meet new members who might have different interests. Lunch was usually at a canal side pub or in one case fish and chips were delivered to the boat. It was considered that the year was a success with many members finding new skills at boat steering. In broad numbers there were 108 signed members for the trips and the overall number of members in the group is 140. Plans are underway for 2018, starting in early May. Thanks go to Sue Fisher, Convenor, and to Bob Patey and Colin Smith Skippers. Regrettably we are saying farewell to Sue as Convenor as she has other duties in U3A.

**Computing Group** - The group is now meeting on the second Thursday of the month from 2-4pm in the CSP Community Library. To find out more go to 'Interest Groups' and follow the links to Computing. **Note for nonmembers of the group:** If you **follow the Meeting Archive link on the Main Information Page** you will find a summary of each meeting, and some training information/videos on the topics they've covered so far. If you want to improve your computing skills the training is available for anyone to watch. The subjects so far covered are important topics like how to ensure your computer isn't hacked and how to choose good passwords and learning how to use various useful and popular software. It also has information on the various operating systems (Apple Mac and Windows) and even has valuable information on how the internet works, to more geeky stuff such as how binary code works! We are doing our best to educate you. (But only if you're interested.)

**New Experiences Group** - We tried two very different experiences in October. First of all ten members attended a

painting workshop and attempted to produce a painting similar to Monet's Poppies. Since most of us considered ourselves to be hopeless at art we were very pleased by the final result and just have the problem of where to hang our masterpieces. See the photo gallery on the New Experiences Group webpage to judge for yourselves.

Later in the month 18 of us attended a Field Sports Day at Herrings Green Farm in Bedfordshire. We tried rifle shooting, archery and crossbows with some success; then laser clay pigeon shooting with success for some and abject failure for others. Finally we finished with knife throwing – abject failure all round. Not as easy as it looks in the circus! However, we all had a great time and notched up more new experiences. *Continued overleaf*

Angela Cranston has arranged for the group to try indoor skydiving at iFly in Milton Keynes on Wednesday 31 January at 11.00am. Indoor skydiving is the simulation of true free-fall conditions in a vertical wind tunnel. When you come to iFly get ready to be blown away - literally. It's thrilling. It's amazing. Experience the feeling of freefall as you float on a smooth cushion of air. There's no parachute, no jumping, and nothing attaching you to planet Earth. It's just you FLYING in the air. Super fun, super safe, and super cool! iFly welcomes visitors from 3 to 103 years of age. There are very few reasons why you may not be able to fly and iFly are super proud of their record of flying those with a disability of every nature. The only reason you may not be able to fly is if you are over 18 stone, you are wearing a hard cast or if you have previously dislocated your shoulder. See website if you have any worries. This is what will happen on the day. You will start off with flight training instruction from a certified flight instructor. During training you will learn proper body position for flying and hand signals the instructors will use while you are flying. After flight training your instructor will take you to the gear up counter where you will receive your helmet, flight suit and goggles. Your instructor will lead you to the flight chamber and will be with you during the entire flight experience. They will help you enter the flight chamber (just lean in) and be guiding you the entire time, to help you fly like a superhero. It costs £29.00 per person. For this you will get 2 flights with the equivalent free-fall time as 3 x 12,000ft skydives. If you are interested please contact Angela Cranston. Do not use the new experiences website email address at the moment.

**Science and Technology group** - The first meeting of the Science and Technology group was held last month when we discussed Climate change. Future meetings are planned as follows led by our members.

**Thursday 9 November.** Stewart Fraser will give a talk on energy. This is a huge subject but he will break it down for us looking at options for energy generation now and in the future. Stewart will send a couple of links for us to read up on the subject in advance if he feels this will help our discussions.

**Thursday 14 December.** Cathy Williams will give a short presentation on Radiotherapy and Scanning equipment. There will be time for discussion following the talk.

**Thursday 11 January.** Martin Flint will cover World Resources, Population Growth etc. This should be another subject which will spark a great deal of discussion.

The meetings will take place in the Community Centre with a 2.00pm start. Please contact Cathy Williams at [science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) Cathy is kindly carrying out the administration duties for the group.

## NEW GROUPS

We have received suggestions for new groups, e.g. Bird Watching, Pilates, Beginners Golf and a second Yoga Group. If anyone is interested please contact Sue Fisher at [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Chess group** - Would anyone be interested in a chess group being formed. This would be a good time of year, with cold weather beginning to set in. The group could be run from members' homes. If interested please contact Nigel Trotman at [groupconvenor1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupconvenor1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

**Creative Writing** - After the inspiring talk by Denise Kelly at our monthly meeting in September, it seems a good time to start a creative writing group, as originally suggested by Denise a few months ago. There may be a fair few U3A members who are writing, or considering writing their memoirs, if not a novel or some research etc. Denise Beddows has writer friends who might from time to time come and speak to the group. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Sue Fisher at [groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## WEBSITE INFORMATION: [CHALFONTSU3A.ORG.UK](http://CHALFONTSU3A.ORG.UK) (PLEASE VISIT FREQUENTLY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!)

There are lots of pictures and videos on our website for members to see. Although we do have a Gallery tab on the main menu most of the pictures are in the individual group galleries. For example the Excursions group have several slideshows of visits we've made since starting Chalfonts U3A. Also our Walking 2-6 miles group have a lot of photos and some slideshow videos too. Don't forget there are links on the footer (that's the bit right at the bottom of each page) to other useful U3A websites and local websites that could prove handy. We've even got links to the local newspapers on the right hand side of the footer so you can catch up with local news. And there are links to the CSP Library, Garden Club, Community Centre and the Council websites too.

**Request!** We want to keep the website up to date and vibrant. If any member cares to submit pictures of their own we can add them to the appropriate gallery. If you're submitting pictures of members it would be helpful to send the names of the members so we can add them as a caption. Where possible please make sure the image/s you send are large files and not teen-weeny ones! (Large images have more detail and can be seen better than small images.)

We are also trying, where possible, to create pages on our Monthly Meetings as an archive so that members who haven't attended can find out more about what happened. Feedback on whether this is worthwhile would be very helpful. Please send your comments/ideas/thoughts/opinions/constructive criticisms to our webmaster at:

**webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk**

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

	<a href="mailto:contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Accessibility	<a href="mailto:accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>accessibilityofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Tricia Reeve	
David Burbidge	<a href="mailto:chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Geoff Glover	<a href="mailto:vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Smith	<a href="mailto:secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Tricia Reeve	<a href="mailto:publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Sue White	<a href="mailto:speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Peter Brady	<a href="mailto:treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Jan Sawyer	<a href="mailto:venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Janice Buchanan	<a href="mailto:newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Smith	<a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Tony Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Nigel Trotman	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Sue Fisher	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Suggestion Box	<a href="mailto:suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Val Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>
Chalfonts U3A Website:	<a href="http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk"><u>http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk</u></a>

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

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