

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

- 11 October** John Fieldsend *Recalls his own personal experiences of Kindertransport and how his life was saved because he was on the next to last train from Prague to London in 1939*
- 8 November** Mike Bartlett *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.*
- 13 December** Keith Baldwin *Who calls himself The Tall Fellow and will entertain us with his Christmas Greetings talk.*

FROM THE EDITOR

In the words of Keats, we are now entering the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as we see the trees changing colour and shedding their leaves. Autumn is a beautiful season and the Buckinghamshire countryside offers myriad places where we can enjoy the colours of the changing seasons. Gardeners who are busy leaf sweeping may have other sentiments however – it can be a never ending task. Do school boys still play conkers? – or have Health and Safety now made it a forbidden pastime I wonder? Let's enjoy the last vestiges of light evenings until we put the clocks forward on the weekend of 28/29 October.

We do hope that you will come and join us after our meeting next Wednesday 11 when we shall again be running Mary's Café in the Mary Smithells room for tea/biscuits/cake and time to chat with one another. We are very grateful to those who have made this social opportunity available for members – feedback from last month has been very positive.

EXISTING GROUPS

Book Club 2 - now has room for another reader. If you enjoy reading books and talking about them, come and join us. We enjoy tea, biscuits, news and laughter with our books, and have surprised ourselves with books we might not have normally picked. We meet in the afternoon of the third Thursday each month. Contact Al Klein at bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk.

Dine with Friends - Now a year old with 24 members. Each month four hosts are allocated to welcome four dinner guests who provide starters & desserts. Hosts rotate monthly. Don't forget you needn't cook - M&S ready meals are good too. It's fun, good company, conversation, wines and food. Every 3rd month we have a restaurant lunch together. New members welcome - come and join us..

Discovering Art Group – we meet in the CSP Community Centre at 2pm on the first Thursday of every month. We are on the lookout for potential speakers – could that be you? Ideally, the "volunteer" would be able to join us and give us a talk about an artist, a period of art, an art gallery or an art collection - and could speak for some 45/50 minutes. We would be happy if the speaker came with a PowerPoint presentation or

with artistic items to show us. We'd offer a warm welcome, a hot cup of tea and our thanks for an interesting talk! John Baillie 07710 096764

Excursions – Our next outing is on Wednesday 29 November to Bath to visit the Christmas Market and other attractions. Information about this trip is available on the Chalfonts U3A website and all members of the Excursions group have been notified by email or by post.

Historic Buildings Group – Current convenors Anne Foster and Margaret Turner have recently visited RAF Halton (HP22 5PG) near Wendover, and found that there's so much to see that two visits have been planned. The present Halton House was built for Baron Alfred de Rothschild in the 1880s, and acquired by the RAF during the First World War for use as an officers' mess together with its extensive grounds for the training of pilots and engineers. The base is still in use - but not for much longer - and has a fascinating history.

We've arranged the first of the visits to the two museum buildings on the main base on Tuesday 17 October where we will have a short talk, a tour of the exhibits and learn more from the volunteer staff from 1430 hours as they say in the RAF. The second visit to Halton House will be on Tuesday 14 November (please note the change of date from our original plan) again from 1430 hours

Please let us know by 9 October if you'd like to come on 17 October (no need to decide about 14 November yet) as the RAF will need a list of names for security purposes and will need to see photo ID on the day. There is plenty of car parking on the base.

After planning and organising our Historic Buildings visits for almost two years, Anne and Margaret will stand down after the Christmas get-together. A new leader (or leaders) will therefore be needed from 2018, and we seek volunteers. The planning and organisation of trips is not onerous: all that's required is a preliminary recce of possible places of interest before bookings are made. We have greatly enjoyed searching out visits for the group, and will help our successors if required. So, please come forward to carry on with this successful group and offer to lead Historic Buildings into 2018. Contact Anne or Margaret on historicbuildings@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

Theatre Group – we have had two outings recently and whilst they were completely different, they both centred on women in power. The first of these outings was to see Queen Anne which was a RSC production, enjoyed by a small group of 30 members. We struggled to get sufficient numbers together for this outing but it was well worthwhile and we were pleased to be able to offer an alternative to musical theatre.

There were no such problems with numbers for our visit to see a revival of the musical Evita, which was charged with emotion and stunning performances all round. It was an evening of nostalgia for some of us trying to recall who played the roles in the original production. Members can join the group by emailing Sheila Tarrant at theatregroups@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Walking Group (up to 6 miles) Trip to Church Stretton - Twentyeight members of the group went to the Longmynd House (HF Holidays) at Church Stretton, Shropshire, for a Guided Walking Weekend at the end of September. The venue, perched above the town, had stunning views and the food was especially good.

The walking was tougher than our usual local walks with plenty of hills and a downpour on the first afternoon – some anoraks were found wanting so Fox's may well get some customers (don't forget the U3A discount). Sightseeing trips were also made to Shrewsbury and Ludlow. Despite the rain and wind the weekend was considered a success and great fun and plans are already being made for next year's trip.

Visit the Website to see more news and photos of recent events – chalfontsu3a.org.uk

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

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National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

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