



SUGGESTION BOX – ACTUAL AND ONLINE

Do you have any ideas for new interest groups or outings, theatre visits or any other suggestions to make our U3A even better? If so, we now have a place for them! Look on our website under “Groups” to find the group called “Suggestion Box” and send us an email with your idea. Alternatively, we will have a physical box at speaker meetings so just write your suggestion on a slip of paper and pop it in the box. We look forward to hearing from you! One comment already received is that as our meetings start promptly at 2pm, it would be helpful if members could be on time and not interrupt the speaker once he/she is in full flow. The disturbance of people arriving very late has been quite considerable at several meetings.

WEBSITE

Please use our website to find all the latest news and information about the Chalfonts U3A. You can find it easily by typing Chalfonts U3A into Google. You can find information about a specific interest group and the convenors contact details on the relevant Groups page. Please contact the convenor direct.

WEBSITE DESIGN GROUP

This is not an interest group, but we need a small group of people who are interested in helping us develop our new website. The group will be led by Tony Darbyshire, our Webmaster, and we expect the group to meet for around six months until the new website has been built. No technical skills are needed, the help is to do with content. If you are interested please contact Tony

GROUPS NEWS

WHO ARE OUR INTEREST GROUP CONVENORS?

At future speaker meetings we are hoping that our Interest Group convenors will agree to sit in the front two rows of the hall and wear their name badges. This will enable members to easily identify convenors if they have any questions relating to a specific group.

Convenor Meeting: There will be a meeting for all interest group convenors, helpers and administrators after the speaker meeting on 9 September. If you are a convenor, helper or administrator for a group please attend if you can.

INTEREST GROUPS UPDATE

Thanks! A very big thank you to all our group convenors, administrators and helpers! You have made Chalfonts U3A such a big success. Our members very much appreciate your efforts and you have helped them to Learn, Laugh and Live!

To all members - Please respond to emails! Please could all members respond to emails sent out by interest group convenors. This will make life so much easier for the convenors when they are trying to fix a date for a meeting or asking for an opinion on something. It is very frustrating to get no reply from members and makes the job of the convenor harder than it needs to be. The convenors are running the groups for your enjoyment so please be polite and reply when emailed. Thanks!

Art Appreciation: The first meeting took place at 2pm on Thursday 3 September in the Members Room at the Chalfont Community Centre. For more information contact Pam Degen, Convenor.

Discussion Group: will reconvene after the summer break on Wednesday 16 September to discuss ‘**GM Foods – good or bad?**’ New members contact: Tricia Reeve for further information.

Excursions/Outings Group: information regarding the visit on 4 November to the Mary Rose Exhibition at Portsmouth will be sent out shortly.

Intermediate Bridge Group had its first playing session on 19 August. Thirty players turned up for an enjoyable afternoon of social bridge at the Community Centre. The group meets in the afternoon on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Anyone interested should contact Geoff Glover

Theatre Visits: Lord of The Flies on Saturday 21 November matinee at 2.30pm. This is a Regents Park production which has had excellent reviews. Cost including coach £34. Sat 5 December matinee Wycombe Swan, Jesus Christ Super Star, Bill Kenwright production. Cost including coach £40. If there is enough interest, we may arrange an evening meal afterwards in Chalfont or G.X as an early Christmas celebration. Deadline for BOTH performances (payment by separate cheques) Monday October 5.

New Groups

Cycling: We have a few members who are interested in forming a cycling group but we need a few more to make the group viable. If you are interested in joining this group please contact groupscoord1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Local History – Graveyard Walk and Talk which Denise Beddows gave us recently was excellent and very informative. As many people could not attend a Wednesday, Denise has kindly offered to repeat the walk and talk on Saturday 12 September starting at 9.30am. Meet at churchyard gate in the Church Lane car park. Denise is also ready to organise a tour of Bulstrode, Wednesday 28 October. Please let me know if you would like to join the walk and also if you are interested in the Bulstrode tour.

Music: There will be a meeting for those interested in this group after the 14 October speaker meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Last week I attended the annual Conference and AGM of The Third Age Trust. It was a very interesting and inspiring occasion. I went to two Discussion Groups - one on being a Chairman and the other on Encouraging New Interest Groups. I also participated in two workshops - one on Membership Management Systems and the other on Participative Learning. Notes on all these will be passed to the rest of the committee and be open for discussion.

The main benefit of the conference, however, was being able to meet members of other U3As and glean information from them about how they operate. The general view was that the Chalfonts U3A has achieved amazing results in the short time it has been operating. So thanks all round for the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm which has made this possible. *(David Burbidge)*

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK

Geoff Glover and Tony Darbyshire were invited to attend the quarterly meeting of Thames Valley Network U3A at the end of July. TVN U3A is an association of local U3As which encourages exchange of information and ideas. It also arranges Study Days for specialist subjects open to members of all participating U3As. The meeting generated a number of new ideas and allowed us to compare our progress with longer established U3As.

Photography Group – Denham Gardens



This group photograph of the Chalfonts U3A Photography Group was taken at Wind in the Willows, a beautiful garden in Lower Denham. In the centre of the photo is Ron James, the owner of the garden, surrounded by group members plus other friends and guests.

DIARY DATES

9 September Paul Whittle

Hill Stations of the Raj in British India. The hill stations gave a

welcome respite from summer heat of the plains. Nostalgic reminders of the Raj, tea gardens, stunning mountain scenery and a visit to four hill stations in India, Burma (Myanmar) and Sri Lanka

(Paul Whittle actually gives his fees to support several charities)

14 October Mrs Eileen Dickson

from the Witness Service based at High Wycombe Magistrates Court will be talking about her work.

11 November Phil and Kay Wathen

will give a talk on The History of Candles followed by a candle making demo.

Membership enquiries only: Valerie Darbyshire, Membership Secretary:
membership.chalfontsU3A@gmail.com

Please remember to bring your membership card to every monthly meeting and all interest groups.