

DIARY DATES FOR 2016 - (PLEASE NOTE - All meetings start promptly at 2pm)

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| 14 September | Andrew Willis | <i>The History of Harefield Hospital including old photos and Powerpoint presentation</i> |
| 12 October | Alistair Lack | <i>Travels with Auntie – An illustrated talk on the BBC</i> |
| 9 November | Alan Copeland | <i>will give a presentation on Pubs and the way pub sign writers introduce their sense of humour into their work</i> |
| 14 December | Sue Benwell | <i>who will be speaking on the Life of Sir Norman Wisdom</i> |

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER AND GROUPS COORDINATOR – We are delighted to announce that Nigel Trotman, whom many of you will know as one of the convenors of the very successful shorter walks group, has agreed to join the committee. Nigel will be working with Helen Whitlum to coordinate the interest groups. A very big welcome to Nigel and we are sure he will be a valuable addition to the committee and to the interest groups. **Please note that Helen, Nigel, all convenors and committee members (see listing in this newsletter) now have new email addresses:**

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

Helen Whitlum – Groups Coordinator – groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK (TVN) WORKSHOP – TVN are running a workshop entitled “Participative Learning – The U3A Way” on Friday 21 October from 10:30am to 3:30pm at Benson Parish Hall, Benson, Oxon, OX10 6LZ. All members are welcome but the day will be of particular interest to current interest group convenors and those considering starting a new group. Helen Whitlum and Nigel Trotman our Groups Coordinators will be attending. Please contact Nigel for more information or see the TVN website for an application form. NOTE – Bookings MUST be made in advance please.

THE U3A INTEREST GROUP ETHOS

At the August meeting there was a brief announcement to remind members of the ethos of U3A interest groups. A summary is provided below. Please read and take note. Thank you.

- Groups are run BY the members FOR the members
- It is a MUTUAL agreement
- The convenor / group leader should not be expected to do everything
- The group should distribute the work amongst the members
- Members should actively participate in the group
- There are many ways that group members can contribute e.g. by:
 - Offering to be a joint leader/convenor
 - Leading one or more sessions or part sessions
 - Organising an outing or external speaker
 - Sending out group emails
 - Keeping the attendance register
 - Collecting any subs
 - Providing refreshments
 - Offering their homes as a venue for the meeting
 - Organising a group social event
- It is possible to have a successful group where there is no “expert” leader
- Many resources are available from U3A head office, the internet, books, online courses etc. Lack of knowledge is not a reason for not having a group.
- Groups should have regular planning meetings to discuss the running of the group, the participation of members and to plan the next set of sessions and who is going to lead them
- U3A groups are NOT like a paid-for evening class where you pay your money and just turn up ☐ In U3A groups you don't pay. Instead you contribute to the group.

Remember! GROUP - G-Groups R-Rely O-On U-You – Participating!

NEW GROUPS

Italian Conversation – Intermediate – We already have a successful Advanced Italian group which meets for coffee and conversation once a month. Are there any members who are not quite so fluent, but have a reasonable grasp of the language, who would like to form an Intermediate group? If we get a good response this could run as a separate group, but if there are only a few people interested, they could possibly be incorporated into the existing Advanced group. The next meeting of the advanced group is on 20 September. For further details please contact Ann Whaley

Languages - Portuguese and Others! – French, Italian and Spanish groups are already in place but would anyone like to learn Portuguese? Last month's invitation to show interest in a Portuguese Conversation interest group has attracted several enquiries but one or two more would make such a group viable. If anyone else is interested please email Geoff Glover. If you are interested in learning any other languages – German, Dutch, Russian, Latin or any other please let us know.

Military History - A Convenor has come forward to lead this possible new interest group. Several members have indicated an interest in this subject in their membership forms so would anyone else who would like to show interest please also email Geoff Glover.

Science and Technology – We would like to start a new group which will explore various aspects of science and technology. Obviously, this is a huge area of interest with many branches e.g. maths, physics, astronomy, geology, robotics etc. If you are interested in a particular aspect of science or technology and would like to join this new group, please email Nigel Trotman on groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk with details of which subjects you are interested in, whether you have some knowledge of any science or technology subject and how you would like the group to run e.g. discussion group, formal sessions, visits, guest speakers etc. Please provide as much detail as possible to help with planning the new group. Please also indicate how you might be able to help with the group e.g. leading a session, helping with the administration of the group, organising a venue, sending emails etc.

EXISTING GROUPS

Cycling – Shorter Routes – Adele Fishleigh has very kindly volunteered to take over from David Burry to run this group.

The autumn is a lovely time to be out on your bike so why not join this group and get some fresh air and exercise? Please contact Adele on cyclingshorterroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk you would like to join the group.

Excursions - Thank you to all who stayed behind at the August monthly meeting and gave us ideas for future excursions. We shall work on these!

Tuesday 13 September 2016 - Eltham Palace

This excursion is now full with a waiting list

Tuesday 11 October 2016 - Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey

The fact sheet and booking form will be emailed out to all members on the excursions list on *Monday 12 September*.

Wednesday 7 December 2016 – Christmas at Waddesdon Manor with High Tea

Full details to be announced later

Monday 20 March 2017 - Brooklands Museum

Full details to be announced later

Theatre Visits - We had a very enjoyable visit to the Savoy theatre on Tues 30 August. It was an excellent production and we were fortunate enough to see Sheridan Smith who gave an amazing performance. There are still a few tickets left for the Globe outing "The Elizabethan Experience" on Friday 4 November - cost £35. Booking form on website. The details are: 9.30 am leave Chalfont St Peter by coach. 11 am arrive Globe tea/coffee etc. 11.45 self-guided tour of exhibition. 12.30. Elizabethan dressing demonstration. 1.30. Globe theatre guided tour. 1.45 Rose and Bankside guided tour. 14.30 Return by coach to Chalfont, estimated return time 15.30. Please contact Sheila Tarrant asap if interested theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. Our Christmas outing to "Kinky Boots" plus meal has a waiting list.

NEW WEBSITE

At the Monthly Meeting on 14 September we will be announcing the official launch of our new dedicated Chalfonts U3A website. It will go live on the day of the meeting and the website address is: <http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk>
We will be putting more information about the website in the October newsletter. In the meantime, if you have internet access, please go and take a look. Also, let us know what you think! The old website will be taken down soon, so please bookmark the new one.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Three of our members recently attended the U3A National Conference and a full Report will be posted on the website shortly. Please be encouraged to visit the website. We also anticipate attaching the full report to the October newsletter.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

publicity@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

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suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A Website:

<http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk> (goes live on 14 September)

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk