

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

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| 13 September | Denise Beddows
Local author and U3A member | <i>A Wistful Eye on the Titanic – Denise’s great grandfather’s role in the building of the ship and unique images record of the harsh living and working conditions of the Belfast shipwrights. Talk will include her discovery of her great grandmother’s brutal murder in 1910</i> |
| 11 October | John Fieldsend | <i>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</i> |
| 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> |

FROM THE EDITOR

We were very encouraged by the large turnout for our August speaker meeting when we enjoyed a most informative talk by David Ramsay of SSVC. The standard of speakers continues to be excellent and stimulating month by month and we are grateful to our speaker secretary for arranging these. On another note, St Peter’s Court now awaits the arrival of Marks and Spencer and Costa and sadly we say farewell to the Sports shop – *plus ça change*. News on the grapevine is that St Peter’s Garden is to be redesigned and transformed so we await further information – this is a little known quiet oasis in the middle of our village and we look forward to details in due course.

PLEASE JOIN US - Everyone is invited to stay for tea/coffee, cake and biscuits after the talk on Wednesday 13th. We shall be opening up the Mary Smithells’ room where members can sit comfortably around tables instead of battling with the congestion in the hallway. Do plan to stay and chat over a cuppa and get to know other members.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The majority of our existing committee will be required to stand down in 2019 and we need to have arrangements in hand to replace them so that there is a smooth handover. Could you consider taking on this role? On page four of this newsletter, you will find the list of committee members and their various responsibilities. If you feel your skills are appropriate for one of these positions, we would be delighted to hear from you.

EXISTING GROUPS

Canal Boat Trips - We have had nine enjoyable trips on the canal this year, some from Harefield & two new ones from Kings Langley. Hopefully there will be more next year but we do need a new convenor. If you can help, please contact Sue Fisher groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Bus Pass Adventures - Our 7 September trip to Hemel Hempstead was a great success. The buses were right on time, and it was great to sit back and let someone else do the driving! The rear raised seats give quite a different perspective of the countryside and even HM Prison the Mount in Bovingdon! There was time to go to both the Old and New Town – walk around the gardens, visit the Market and enjoy a relaxing lunch before heading back. Overall a great day out!!!

Next Trip – Windsor Tuesday 10 October - A full day out with loads to see and do. The bus will leave Chalfont St Peter at 09.15 and be back just before 5pm. If you would like to join us please email buspass@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Flower Arranging - This group has become so successful and grown so quickly and a room is now booked in the Community Centre as the group couldn't fit in member's houses anymore! At the last meeting a florist came to demonstrate and the members all made a handheld bouquet, turning a bunch or two of flowers from the supermarket into a lovely gift that looked as though it came from a florist. You can see the pictures of the results on the website. If you would like to join the group please contact Angela Kemps flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Sunday Group - There has been a very successful Sunday Group for nearly two years but it is now full. If you would like to join a new Sunday group starting soon and enjoy joining others on a Sunday for lunch, a NT property, Open Gardens, a Garden Centre or a museum amongst other places, please contact Sue Fisher groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Local History - This group meets in the Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month. There have been some very interesting talks. The talks for the next two months are:

3 October - Pam Connor will talk about Chenies Manor. Pam is a guide at Chenies and is very knowledgeable. She will have some lovely photos to show as well.

7 November – Sara Sabine will talk about the Friends of the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital and how they got so involved in our local needs.

Each of these will be at 2pm in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre and we would be so pleased if we can have a big turnout. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Elaine Quigley localhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Experiences - the group certainly had two very different new experiences this last month. First of all we attended a dowsing workshop run by the Thames Valley Dowzers where we were taught how to find things out by dangling pendulums and crossing wires. Initially most of us failed conclusively with our pendulums to identify the contents of envelopes and to distinguish water from gin (there must be an easier way). However, we had slightly more success outdoors identifying gravestones, finding hidden fruit and measuring each others' auras, despite some very crossed wires. See photos on the website.

Then an intrepid group of us tried out white water rafting on the Olympic course at Lee Valley White Water Centre. Not put off by the fact that the world's best canoeists found the course challenging, we pulled each other into our flimsy plastic raft and set off. We seemed to be in full control of our raft as thankfully the water was relatively calm. Later on you would have found us in a heap in the raft with heads, legs and nether regions all in a tangle. However, we all came out of it relatively unscathed, though with legs like jelly. We all agreed that it was a fantastic experience. See photos on the website. Contact Angela Cranston

NEW GROUPS

It's 'Back to College Time' and our thoughts turn to widening our range of Interest Groups.

Do we hear '**if only there was an XYZ Interest Group, that would be great news!**'?

If this is you, email Nigel on groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk today and we will see what we can do.

NEW IDEAS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME - it's your U3A after all.....

Several ideas popular among U3As but which did not quite take off in our early days include **Public Speaking**, **Classic Cars** and **Personal Finance**. With the expansion in our membership we invite renewed interest in these topics. Contact Nigel as above.

For fans of that 75 year running BBC classic, how about a **Desert Island Discs Archive Group**? Members select, play and discuss programmes from the readily available BBC Archive of 3000 episodes according to interest in the personality, the historical context and the music selected. Unusual, but operating successfully elsewhere. If the idea appeals contact Sue on groupcoordinator2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Beginners French Group - under Marian Cooper's convenorship the group has been so successful they are no longer 'Beginners'. We have several members interested in a new French Beginners Group but we need a couple more to make it fly. This is a great opportunity for Absolute Beginners as Marian has offered to help see you on your way. Language Groups are great fun so, if interested, and however hesitant, email Geoff Glover on vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science and Technology Group There are a number of members who have shown their interest in forming a Science and Technology Group. For those interested in starting the group, please meet at the back of the Community Centre Hall following the Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 13 September. David Burbidge will announce the date and time of the first meeting of the new group. Those who originally showed interest will also be informed by email of the first meeting details. Contact Nigel on groupcoordinator1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

U3A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Three members of your committee attended the National Conference, held at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham on 29 – 31 August. To find out about the Conference and its content log onto our own website www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk and then follow the link on the Noticeboard to the dedicated page on the National U3A website. It was a very worthwhile event, with specialist speakers and workshops. A full report will follow and be made available to Chalfonts U3A members .

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES BELOW:

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Chalfonts U3A Website: <http://chalfontsu3a.org.uk>

National Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Thames Valley Network Website: u3atvnetwork.org.uk