

EDITORS UPDATE

Welcome to the May edition.



I hope you will notice some subtle changes throughout our newsletter. I thought that as it is now Spring (although I don't

think that the weather gods know that!) we could try something new so out with the old and in with the new style which we hope you will like.

We are now beginning to get out and about and meeting up with friends and family and come 17 May we are on the next part of our journey to re-claim our lives, can't wait!!

This edition will be updating you on what our existing groups are up to with a report from Lesley Bedford and plans for returning to activities. She has been working hard on our behalf.

This month we have a 'member's musing' about the Duke Of Edinburgh from Trevor Kent. Please find your pens or turn on your computers and get writing for the June edition.

I have recently emailed you information about three events from Thames Valley Network. If quizzes are your thing then sign up for Friday 28 May at 2.30pm with a mix of difficult and easy questions. Participants will be randomly allocated into teams. Following this comes 'The British Prime

Minister, a President in all but name' on Friday, 4 June at 10.30am and finally The Lady and The Generals-Burma on Thursday 10 June at 10.30 These are free events and booking is via Ticket Source www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Some excellent news to share with you as we welcome a new committee member. Geoff Clegg has been co-opted to organise the monthly speakers and we are very pleased to have him on board. He will be happy to receive any recommendations from members.

speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

In light of falling attendance numbers at our monthly meetings, it is no longer economically viable to meet the cost of the additional Zoom licence for participants in excess of 100 people. The committee will keep attendance figures under constant review and reintroduce the additional licence should demand return. Our Zoom AGM on 21 July will be unaffected.

u3a National Office are asking us as part of their Push Back Ageism campaign to complete a survey around the assumptions of visual image and the look of people as they age. This is an online survey, but you can share any anecdotes or photos about how you have been perceived. email communications@u3a.org.uk



Cu3a Facebook Group

We now have 122 members keeping us posted on events in their daily lives, giving suggestions for us to consider eg: cultural activities of which there are many being streamed

on YouTube and information about our monthly talks and updates from TVN and National U3a are available to browse plus the monthly newsletter. Very Important!!

There is a link on the Website's home page to the following page:

<https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/cu3a-facebook-group/> There you will find a link to the PDF with instructions on how to join Facebook and the CU3A group. Gary Tomlin our webmaster can help where there are any questions or issues you may be having in creating a Facebook account or joining the group.

He has also set up an email address facebook@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Computer Issue? If you are having any problems with your computer you can email support@chalfontsu3a.org.uk and we will try and assist you via email. You can also post your questions on the Chalfonts u3a Facebook page.

Cu3a Interest Groups- Update from Lesley Bedford

Further to my update in last month's newsletter I wanted to let you know how things are progressing. I am delighted to report that many of our existing groups are continuing on Zoom; these include both book clubs, discovering art, most of the language groups, computing, cryptic crosswords, family history, flower arranging, Mahjong, Philosophy, Poetry and Literature, Wine Appreciation. These groups meet either weekly, fortnightly, or monthly and continue to be a wonderful way of keeping in touch and enjoying activities. We have even managed to start a new Beginners Italian group and if anyone is interested in this group please do let me know. Some groups are now meeting up in person, albeit in groups of 6 and these include the Strollers and Walking 6-10 miles.



Provided the Government gives the go ahead for STEP 3 of the road map after the 17 May other groups can gradually start to make plans to meet up in gardens, people's homes and at The Community Centre, which is a Covid Secure venue.

The **yoga groups** are planning to re-start with effect from Tuesday 18 May when social distancing will of course still be required. Badminton can also return next week at the Leisure Centre but Table Tennis Groups will have to wait till 22 and 23 June.

If you wish to join **table tennis group 3** on Tuesdays at 1.30 please contact convenor, Gio Pedalino tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Lawn Bowls are also hoping to re-start on the 25 May between 10 and noon at the club in Chalfont St Giles. **Email** lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a if you are interested in finding out more.

Once again if anyone knows of someone who would be prepared to play the piano for the singing for pleasure group twice a month at St. Peter's church please let the convenor know at singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

As restrictions are lifted we will keep everyone informed as groups re-start meeting in person. I know we are all looking forward to getting together when we can and it is safe to do so. Please do contact me if you need specific information about joining a group or are keen to start a new group either now or in the near future at groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Bird Watching

Eventually on the 28 April 11 members of the bird watching group went to RSPB Otmoor to the east of Oxford.

Understandably there was a lot of excitement and anticipation at our first outing for many months, and we split into 2 groups to conform with restrictions. Just as we arrived a cuckoo was calling, and then flew



over with a mate. What a magical start and these days hard to hear in Chalfont St Peter or surrounding area. Not long after we started off we were shown a Glossy Ibis, a rare visitor from Europe. It had been there a few weeks and we had good views courtesy of a volunteer with a telescope. We saw plenty of the regulars and small birds, such as Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Lapwings.

Further into the reserve we were told about 3 Cranes, again not easy to find and often far off. We were in luck and everyone had good views of their dancing and courting rituals. We had to leave them to it sadly as we had a lunch date at the local community pub in Beckley where sitting outside and gradually getting colder was not much fun. Good food all the same and the company of course was very lively! Amazing how the day goes but enjoyed by all. With the weather closing in we returned to our warmer homes. Blankets having been left behind! In total we saw between 40 and 50 species. Our next venture later this month is our visit to Norfolk held back from last year.

On the same subject Maire Smith Clegg thought we might enjoy the Nightingales dawn chorus and sent this link <https://thenestcollective.co.uk/events/nightingales-dawn-chorus-day-2021/>



Book Club 1 has a new convenor. Jane Barker has stepped down after 5 years convening the group and Carol Lyons has agreed to take over the group convenor role. Many thanks to Carol for doing this.

Book Club 2 is back and the sun shone!



Our first meeting since early 2020. New and established members gathered to talk books and catch up. While the current restrictions are still in force we need to limit to six but we will soon be looking for more new members to join us – watch this space. Chris White bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Garden visits-update

The garden visits group is looking forward to arranging some local visits this year. Our first one is in the diary for late May and fully booked. More to follow shortly including a trip to St Timothees near Maidenhead who provided us with two lovely Zoom talks during the gloomy Winter lockdowns. Jane Barker.

gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Hello Strollers



Our next walk will be a circular walk in Denham Country Park, led by Mavis and Andy on Thursday, 13 May, meeting at 10.30 am at St Mary's Church in the centre of Denham village, UB9 5BH. Park on the roadside near the church and Green Man pub. We will still need to observe Public Health Covid guidance and may still have to split into groups of 6. As we look forward to getting back to 'normal' it seems a good time to remind everyone of the Strollers' code.

As Strollers, we aim to walk for up to 2.5 miles at a leisurely pace, on the level, without any significant hills. We rely on members to propose and lead walks and we are very grateful to those who have kept us moving with delightful walks so far, whilst welcoming new proposals. In doing so, they also obviously have a say in determining the day it takes place. People have commitments at different times, so we do not have a fixed day. I realise there have been several Thursdays recently and apologise if it is a difficult day for you, but I will try to make sure our next walk is on a different day.

I have been hoping to do a Bluebell walk but so far have not managed to find one that fulfils the criteria. Proposals would be very welcome.

I look forward to hearing from you – Val Hadfield (Convenor)

strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Yoga classes - restarting!



I am delighted to let you know that provided the Government gives the go ahead for STEP 3 of the road map we will restart our Yoga classes at the Community Centre which is a covid secure venue.

Classes are planned to start on the week commencing 17th May, Classes will be on each Tuesday at 11:00 to 12:15, and Fridays at 12:30 to 13:45, with a second class from

14:00 to 15:15. Whilst the COVID restrictions still apply, we will continue with social distancing and this means that our numbers are restricted. We are a friendly group with professionally trained tutors and welcome new members to go on our waiting list for when we can increase class sizes. If you have any questions or would like to be put on our waiting list, drop me a line!

Geoff Clegg yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Cu3a Walking Weekend Dovedale in the Peak District 10-13 September 2021 A few places left ...



After COVID came along we rebooked our Dovedale trip on a similar basis to 2020 for 10-13 September 2021, with occupancy of the whole house. We now have a few vacancies due to the change in date clashing with prior commitments and the passage of time.

With vaccinations now completed, we hopefully will be essentially back to normal. The cost for the three nights is £325 per person, which includes breakfast and dinner and accommodation. The experience starts with afternoon tea/coffee on arrival (served between 4.00 – 5.00pm) and finishes with breakfast on departure day. Packed lunch is provided daily excluding arrival and departure day.

The guided walks will be on the Saturday and Sunday with a choice of three increasing in length and hill size. Everyone will receive a health questionnaire upon arrival to ensure the leaders are aware of any special needs. Details can be found on their website: <https://www.hfolidays.co.uk/country-houses/locations/dovedale-peak-district>

The Peveril of the Peak hotel has very good Trip Advisor reviews: (https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g186249-d245605-Reviews-Peveril_of_the_Peak_Hotel-Dovedale_Derbyshire_England.html#REVIEWS) and all of the trips so far have been enjoyed by everyone, including this one that was enjoyed by four brave souls who went last year and are going again. Our rebooking numbers really are testimony to how much we enjoy the visits. The staff really make an effort to make us welcome and look after us.

There are a few places left and a £75:00 deposit will be required to secure from you when you commit to join us and needed at sign up. The balance will be needed by 23 July. If you have questions please email vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk.

An update from Grace Hunter ... Convenor for the 2022 Long Weekend Walking



Having emailed members asking for any further interest for Abingworth this was not forthcoming in sufficient numbers so St Ives remains the destination. Thanks to those who responded.

Members Musings ...

From Trevor Kent

Around 1990, when I was President of the National Association of Estate Agents, I was deeply involved in a charity fundraiser launched by various sections of the property industry. We called it 'LandAid' and it was primarily supported by Estate Agency groups, Building Societies and Builders. Though hardly on the level of 'Band Aid', it was successful enough to warrant a 'thank you' reception hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh.



Come the day we invited attendees were split into groups of three, instructed on etiquette (call him Sir, only attempt to shake hands if he offers his, only speak if he addresses you, etc etc). When he swept up to we three, he ignored my two colleagues and stared at me questioning -

"Who are you? Naturally I replied -

"Trevor Kent Sir, President of the National Association of Estate Agents".

His reply - "Oh, some sort of Trade Body then" (with a hint of disapproval). Taken aback I replied -

"No Sir, a Professional Body". Quick as a flash he responded -

"Well, certainly not a Learned Society!". With that he turned on his heels and vanished.

