



Editor's update

Welcome to the February edition and hope you enjoy the news about our groups and of course Members' Musings which this month have a 'romantic theme'



A message from our Chair, Jane Barker.

First of all, I am delighted to report that with the easing of covid related restrictions our groups continue to open up and meet in person. We continue to attract new members and to set up new interest group - many thanks to all convenors for their positive approaches and engagement.

I am really looking forward to a more active and positive year for our u3a.



Just a gentle reminder for you! If you haven't already put this in your diary, please do so.

SAVE THE DATE ** Chalfonts u3a Celebration event - Tuesday 5th April 2-4pm

There will be live performances, demonstrations, and lots of information about our interest groups. These groups cover over 70 subjects such as Languages, Walking, Outings, Singing, Theatre trips, Bridge, Science, Technology, Sports and many more. There is something for everyone! You will be able to meet the convenors, chat to lots of members and try out new activities. There will also be refreshments available. **Please do come along** - no need to book, just drop in. The event will be held at The Hub in Chalfont St Peter and be open to the public, so bring your friends along as well.

Please note the celebration event will replace the monthly meeting in April.

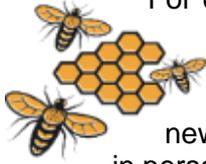
CSP COMMUNITY CENTRE – FUNDRAISING QUIZ IN THE AFTERNOON

The Community Centre continue with their fundraising for the New Build project with the next event – **A Quiz with afternoon tea (sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes, scones, jam, cream, biscuits).** at 2.30pm on **Saturday 12 March**. Plus, bar and raffle. Tickets available direct from the Community Centre at only £15. Just email cbirkenshaw@cspcc.org.uk. Or follow the click to see the flyer <https://www.cspcc.org.uk/quiz-event>
Promises to be a well-spent afternoon with loads of fun!



Monthly meeting – 9 February at 2pm

For our monthly meeting on 9th February at 2pm we will be welcoming a speaker from the Chalfont Beekeepers where we will hear about her experiences in this engaging hobby. She is also planning to bring a hive to show us, fortunately without any of its usual residents! Perhaps she can recruit some new apiarists from our members! As usual members can access the meeting either in person or via Zoom. For those members receiving the newsletter by post, please let Eileen Powell know if you are coming as due to Covid restrictions we continue to have a limit of 75 people being able to attend meetings. Her contact details have already been sent out.



Geoff Clegg also wants to share some good news that following our January monthly meeting, where our solo yachtsman spoke and asked us to donate his fee to charity; he received this response from Amanda who works with The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Thank you so much for your recent donation of £50. Every penny we invest in Type 1 research is thanks to fantastic supporters like you – we simply couldn't do it without you. I'd like to tell you about one of the exciting research projects you're helping make happen.

At the University of Exeter, Dr Richard Oram is testing blood samples to determine the presence of working beta cells in people with long standing Type 1 diabetes. Although previous work has indicated the presence of working beta cells in people with type 1 diabetes, it is not understood why. The research could give us a better understanding of Type 1 diabetes and a new test to check for progression.

Interest Groups Update



Beginners Bridge. Bob Borwick reports on this group and he is on the lookout for some new members, so find your pack of cards and get dealing! Currently we have 5 active members. One of which, has progressed to club level and another not far behind. The other 3 are at varying stages of making good progress. I have now received requests from two members who wish to learn Bridge. Both are total beginners. The existing group are too advanced to introduce a new pair to that set. I would therefore like to start a new set of beginners i.e table of four, so another 2/3 new members would be very welcome. If you are interested in this group do let him know bridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Coffee Morning Group. We had further very successful coffee mornings in December and January with a good number of new members coming along to find out more about what is on offer. These coffee mornings are a good way for people to meet up, particularly new members.



Our next coffee morning is planned for Wednesday 23rd February at 10 am. at The Greyhound Inn. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Lesley Bedford. groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Intermediate French Group Update from Ray Luker This continues to run well on Zoom, and great fun - an extremely nice group of people, and hopefully our French is improving. One of our members is currently in South Africa and joins us very successfully from there. Very annoying to see the lovely sunshine though!! We hope to resume our meetings soon, when the weather improves, rather than just look at one another on a small screen, often with not too good reception. As there is a Valentine's theme, I have permission to mention that Gill and I got engaged on Valentine's Day 60 years ago

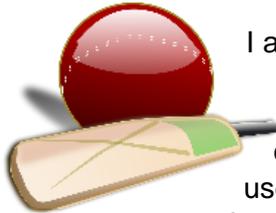


Knitting Marsha Partridge is going to be group convenor for this new group who are going to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month - starting on the 10th February 2022. We will meet at 2 pm and knit and natter for an hour to two hours.

Initially we are going to meet at Rowans Garden Centre in their cafe, but may revert to people's houses, taking it in turns, or look to book a room at the community centre. This will depend on numbers. If anyone is interested in joining us, could they email Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Mixed Walking Cricket



I am very pleased to be able to let you know that following discussion with Bucks Club Network Manager Emma Boswell-Harris we are going to be offering a taster session soon at Chalfonts Leisure Centre for all cricket enthusiasts who perhaps can't run or play in the same way they used to and for complete beginners to the game! We will be played with a plastic bat and softer ball, so no pads or helmets required! We are proposing offering an 8-week coaching session indoors in March/April then when summer arrives, we hope to find a local cricket club where we can play outdoors. What could be better? -Tea and cakes obviously! Dates and times of the sessions and costing will be published once fixed but Tuesday mornings appear to be most convenient at the moment. Let me know if you are inte

rested. Eileen Powell newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

The New Experiences Group has 2 events coming up. On February 16th they will be trying out climbing and archery at Dinton Activity Centre; then on 18th March they will be having fun on the trampolines and other soft equipment at Jump In in Slough. If you would like to take part in either of these events or if you would just like to join the group, please let Angela Cranston know on newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Tai Chi



We had a Tai Chi taster session which was very well received and there has been enough interest for us to get this started in the next couple of weeks. If we have sufficient numbers, we will have two groups a beginners and one for those who have done Tai Chi before. If you are interested in joining this group, please let me know as soon as possible, the sessions will be on a Friday late morning/lunch time in Chalfonts Community Centre. Contact: Lesley Bedford: groupcordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group



At last time to return to our theatre visits and a warm welcome to our new members. Existing members will be aware that the theatre visits are very popular, especially the musicals. Due to the easy access to emails on mobiles, watches, iPads etc. it has meant that previously the tickets have gone within hours and those who do not access their emails so regularly miss out. For the future when bookings are oversubscribed, we would like to suggest a ballot system. At the closing date,

probably 5 days, the ballot would be drawn. A limit of 2 members per booking. A joint booking would be entered as one in the draw. If there are sufficient numbers to run a second visit, then this would be arranged for a different date. Unsuccessful applicants would be placed on a waiting list. Whilst we would organise the second trip, we would ask for two volunteers to facilitate the event on the night. We would welcome your views and suggestions on the booking process and answer any questions that you may have. Please let us have your suggestions for future theatre visits. Email theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or telephone 01494 581079. Sheila Tarrant and Danny Robins, Group Convenors

Now over to our Members' Musings ...



Advice for married men. The best way to remember Valentine's day is to forget it once!
Derek Russell

A 'romantic' tale from Berny Cross

On New Year's Eve when I was 19, I happened to meet someone who had been at the same school, so I knew him very vaguely. I had left school at 16 and by then I had embarked on my career and was very proud of my position with Columbia Pictures. He asked if he could see me again, he seemed nice, so I said yes but I then felt I had been too hasty because when I asked what he did he told me he was still at school to do another year in the 6th form! I was flying high; he was still at school.... not ideal!! Nevertheless, we had our first date at a local cinema where I had a free pass, courtesy of Columbia Pictures, so that did away with the embarrassment of who paid!! We had a few very similar dates but by February I was ready to move on!! But in the post on February 14th I received, not a Valentine card, but a romantic poem he had composed, and later a bunch of red tulips arrived. Oh dear, maybe not a good idea to suggest a break at that moment, perhaps I should wait a week or two?

This September we are celebrating our diamond wedding anniversary..... that Valentine's Day probably changed my life!!!

This one is from Val Isaacs



In 1969 I was cruising to Madeira and the Med for a holiday with my daughter who was 6 yrs old and my parents. I was a widow and during the voyage all passengers were invited to a Valentine's dinner and dance. Who would be my Valentine date I wondered? The crew were excellent at escorting single passengers to "do's", but I had spotted a tall, handsome man who appeared to be travelling solo! How to attract his attention I mused? I always walked the decks before breakfast each day as the decks were mainly empty at this time of day and I could get a move on!

On the morning of February, the 14th who should be walking towards me but the "dish". Just as we passed each other I like the hussy I am asked "if I ask you for a dance tonight will you do the honours?" He replied, "wait and see!" Needless to say, he did dance with me all evening and what I thought was simply an on-board romance became a wonderful lifetime together. We married three years later and had a happy 40 yrs together. I am as I write at my home in S Africa where I come each year go escape the British dreary winter. My husband who introduced me to this magnificent country in 1986 sadly, died here 11 yrs ago and I still miss him very much every day. Thank you, Saint Valentine, for sending me such a wonderful man.

Death of a Rock Superstar - anon

When I was about 19, I hitch-hiked from New York to San Francisco, having hitched around Britain for years. After that, I resolved always to pick up hitch-hikers. This was subject, I have to add, as long as they looked reasonably acceptable. My wife simply became used to me bring home what she called 'my waifs and strays' and accepted my generous attitude to fellow travellers.

Late one night, I returned home with a young American who had been travelling with me for over two hours. With the weather closing in, I hadn't the heart to leave him in the rain and dark on the slip road to another unwelcoming motorway. We shared a meal together and my wife dutifully made up the spare bed.

He gave his name as Marvin Aday, a short man, somewhat overweight, but great company. He regaled us with stories from his home town of Dallas and how he hoped, one day to break into the music industry. After the meal, I incautiously mentioned to my wife that I needed to leave early the next morning, most likely before Marvin would even be awake. She was horrified at the prospect of being left alone in the house with a complete stranger but could do little to remedy the situation at this late hour. The next morning, my wife gave him a good, cooked breakfast and even drove him to the nearest main road.

It must have been about eight years later, that I received a mysterious parcel in the post. By then we had moved house, but fortunately it had been redirected. The package was flat and about two feet square. It was an LP called 'Bat out of Hell' by an artist called Meatloaf. Scrawled on the back in black, capital letters were the few words 'Thanks for bed and the full English'. It was signed Marvin.

Meatloaf, born Marvin Lee Aday, died on January 20th, 2022

