



Editor's Update

Welcome to the May edition with updates on our AGM, membership, and a request for new committee members to join us. Many thanks as always to those members who have sent in their musings. I imagine that many of us will also be planning to attend or even

organise events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee next month, a busy time ahead!



Save these dates for our forthcoming monthly meetings

11 May at 2pm 'A broad view of Indian Culture' with our speaker Ramji Abinashi who by providing an overview will give us a better understanding of the Indian way of life, its values, gender

roles, and behaviours – and the opportunity to find out first hand some answers to questions that you haven't had the chance to ask before!

8 June at 2pm 'The importance of a Lasting Power of Attorney'.

The speaker works through Age UK and will talk about her experience of setting up and actually using an LPA to support her mother. This is not a sales pitch!

13 July at 2pm We welcome back Keith Hoffmeister for an update on HS2. Keith has talked to us a couple of times in the past, and he is most informative on progress and issues that are occurring for the tunnel and the neighbourhoods around the line.

And of course, there will be a cup of tea afterwards to catch up with friends! These meetings will also be available to access via Zoom with details being sent out 48 hours in advance.



Save the date for our AGM 20 July at 2pm

Please note this will take place via Zoom only



We will have 5 members of the committee stepping down at our Annual General Meeting, so we really need you! We will all have a sense of what our u3a means to us and how it runs so effectively due to the work of all the volunteers so perhaps now is the time for you to get involved?

Please contact Jane Barker our Chair for more information. chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Membership News

Membership renewal is now complete. Welcome to our new members and to all those who have renewed for 2022-2023. We look forward to an activity packed year with so much on offer. For those who have not renewed, their names are removed from the database.

For any queries/information please email membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Advance notice – Thames Valley Network is going live on Friday, at 10am on 29 July at Benson Oxfordshire

I am certain that many of us during lockdown and currently have taken advantage of some of the excellent TVN talks via Zoom, but they are now going to resume face-to-face meetings at Benson in the newly re-furbished hall. They are planning a dual-purpose day for this come back. The morning will be a Reps' meeting open, as usual, to one or two nominated representatives of each of our member u3as.

The afternoon will be a presentation entitled ' **Welcome to my World**' by William French who is a retired butler to the Royal family and stars. As well as a fund of wonderful stories, he brings with him a large collection of photographs, both formal and informal, of members of the Royal Family, including H.M. the Queen, that you will never have seen before because he took them all himself (with permission of course). Members wishing to attend may come in time for lunch at 13.00 or just for the talk which will start at 14.00. Tea will be available afterwards.

Full details of the day and booking for lunch will be circulated at the end of June and available on www.tvnetwork.org.uk at the same time. To receive notification of forthcoming TVN events as soon as they are published, please [email: _events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:_events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

Looking a bit further into the future you may have been notified about the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust which will be held as a hybrid meeting allowing delegates to attend in person (subject to government restrictions in place at the time) or online on: **Thursday 6 October**, commencing at 11.15am - time and venue for those wishing to attend in person to be confirmed.



Interest Groups

At the celebration event last month, we were delighted that so many of you showed an interest in joining new groups. We are currently going through the list of members and will be in touch in the coming weeks.



Coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be at the Greyhound in Chalfont St Peter at 10 am on Wednesday 18 May. You must register your request to attend with Lesley as they need to know how many they need to cater for in advance so please don't just turn up.

The cost is £3.50 per person for coffee and croissant.

Lesley Bedford groupscoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Mixed walking Cricket. We have now finished our indoor sessions, thoroughly enjoying them and will now try and put that coaching into practice! We are fortunate to have been offered Gerrards Cross Cricket Club as our venue so if you would like to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10am please contact me
Eileen Powell mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Excursions Group

Bletchley Park – 20 May (repeat visit). As this trip was over-subscribed, a ballot was required, and a waiting list made up. Those successful applicants have been notified by email.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Windsor Castle and Savill Gardens Change of date again – now 11 July 2022 (was 7 July). A visit to Windsor Castle in the morning for the Platinum Exhibition of the Coronation dress and then to Savill Gardens in the afternoon. Full details nearer the time.



Fishbourne Roman Palace & visit to Chichester – 9 September 2022
Full details nearer the time.

Photography Group



The next meeting is in the CSP Community Library (next to the Co-op Store) on Market Street on Thursday 19th May from 2pm to 4pm.

During the first half of the meeting, we will show the first part of a film about a woman who took amazing street photographs. Amazingly she was unknown until she died in 2009. Her pictures are now celebrated at exhibitions around the world. The second part of the meeting we will review, and critique pictures taken by members of the group in the first four months of this year.

Please bring with you a memory stick with your selected pictures please.

Our meeting plan for 2022 can be found on the Photography Interest Group main page. Go to: <https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/interest-groups/photography/>

New members are always welcome. Use the Contact Form on the website to get in touch with the group convenor to register your interest.



HATHA YOGA We have a few places available in our friendly Friday afternoon Hatha Yoga group. All are welcome; beginners as well as those who are more experienced as we all work at our own pace.

The class takes place in the Tony Graham Room at the Community Centre on Fridays from 2pm to 3.15pm. If you are interested, please contact the group convenor, Helen Hall, via groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



The CSP Community Centre continues to raise funds for the New Build and are delighted to announce the renewal of the successful 50/50 club. If you would like to be part of the club and support the centre with a donation, whilst having a chance to win a monthly cash prize please contact Carol at cbirkenshaw@csppc.org.uk

Now over to our Members' Musings ...



Just making a living'- Howard Dell

One of my idle pleasures is engaging with scammers who telephone me at home – I figure the longer I can keep them talking the less damage they can be doing elsewhere to gullible folk. The easiest line is to play the simpleton who has to be guided, line by line, through the scammer's script to a point where either one of us gets fed up with the game.

My most successful engagement was being the confused old man who had to be carefully instructed on how to download a very dubious little program from a website. All was going swimmingly, but slowly, on my imaginary PC until suddenly I found I wasn't seeing what the scammer was expecting me to see. It was some time before we discovered my monitor had got turned off! Only once have I got the gold standard response from a scammer, "You're wasting my time!"

A couple of weeks ago I had the most unexpected exchange with one of these tiresome people. I happened to be in the kitchen with an electrician who had just completed his work and was about to leave when the phone rang. I noticed that the call was from an unrecognised number, so I guessed it was likely to be another scammer. Being involved with the electrician, I was a bit irritated at the timing of the call but when I answered it I was surprised that it was a woman and, as there wasn't the usual call centre hub-bub in the background, I assumed she was calling from home.

I didn't have time for the usual pleasantries so I simply said, "Sorry, I have someone here so I can't speak to you at the moment," but not wanting to waste the moment completely, I added, "but can I ask you a personal question?"

To my surprise the woman replied, "Yes, go ahead."

"What's it like being a scammer, trying to steal money from innocent people?"

I wasn't expecting any answer at all, more likely there'd be the usual earful of abuse, but she replied slowly in a very pleasant voice, "Er... it's OK."

Good heavens, now I was stuck between the electrician who was anxious to get away and this opportunity of a possibly revealing conversation. No, I had to deal with the electrician so I found myself asking, without really expecting the woman to reply, "Sorry, I have to go but can I just ask you how much money you've taken today?"

No swearing ensued so clearly, she wasn't fazed by my question. A short pause, then, "Let me think... about five hundred pounds. A reader might expect an exclamation mark here, but it wouldn't be appropriate, the answer came as a simple statement of fact.

That very brief chat was just after lunch. If she was working from home, my guess is that she'd be calling until early evening so as to catch the folk coming home from work. I wonder what her scam would have been: maybe renewing the (non-existent) overlooked expired insurance maintenance cover on my kitchen appliances. She could have been on course to make a thousand pounds that day.



The mystique of the Maris Piper- Doug Gray

During childhood there were occasional seasonal rituals shrouded in mystery for small boys and the uninitiated. Paramount among those was the nurturing and planting of Maris Piper seed potatoes. A simple task one would assume but with the veteran allotment holders of the South Wales mining communities, this was a very serious business. It was a ceremony worthy in equivalence to the preparation of a piece of poetry for the National Eisteddfodic Competition, where later the harvest would be judged, and the prize awarded.

These modest brown tubers were the potato choice for my father and friends. They had no time for the garish red King Edward or other exotic varieties, it was the Maris Piper that was worshipped. It is a potato which when cropped later in the year, becomes majestic if roasted with duck fat, succulent when roasted with mashed parsnips and salty butter and completely destroys any competition from McCain oven chips.

As to planting time itself, well it was a bit of a moveable feast really which was often governed by things other than the weather, but usually you would sow in late April or early May. True enthusiasts determine the decision to plant by the phases of the moon, but they were a rare breed in allotment circles amongst pragmatic miners. Others of a more daring disposition timed their efforts relative to the vagaries of the horse racing calendar chancing their luck for produce by the time of the St Leger. My innocent ears mistakenly believing that they were particularly religious or had some hope of divine intervention for their crop



The preparation of the 'Maris' prior to planting was an equally tense time. The placement of the seed potato relative to a frost-free position, coupled with the number of turns required to develop the perfect 'chit', stern warnings of "don't touch until I come home from work" became part of a mysterious barely understood routine for small boys.

In the allotment, trenches were marked out and dug with precision, and comparisons made as to the quality of the tilth of the neighbouring plots. Remarks were made in the absence of their owners and not always complimentary. The underlying competitiveness was evident despite the free-flowing banter and sense of comradeship of men who worked together and relied on each other every day.

The planting day, always a Saturday decided by a method I was unaware of started differently. My father double checked everything twice, chickens were fed, and eggs collected but all other weekend tasks were abandoned. The ceremonial march to the allotment commenced with the children in crocodile fashion following behind him. He of course carried the precious 'Pipers' and we carried everything else. On arrival we were dispatched to our various positions. I was given the key job despite being the youngest of helping my father. We made sure the spacing and placement were aligned and the 'Pipers' were bedded down with care, then eyed-up perspectively before completion of the job to his satisfaction.

At five years of age, I was too small to be trusted with earthing up his precious treasure, but I was allowed to hammer in the white marker peg, it was crooked of course!

The 'Mystique' became less mysterious as I got older, but the 'Maris Piper' is a reminder of days when skies were bluer, scarecrows did scare crows and cabbage white butterflies were the allotment holders' worst enemy.

Today I can only venture the thought 'I wonder how many Maris pipers are being earthed up today as I write this and how many will be served up as a delicacy on St Leger Day?



“WHEELCHAIR WOES “-Trevor Kent

Anno Domini has yet to land me in one, but I'm sure it will soon. I do, however, have some experience of them as one of my sons has been confined to a wheelchair since birth.

Mercifully, pressure from many quarters has increased the proliferation of larger, so called 'disabled' toilets. Sadly though, staff are often not trained in how they should be presented for use, particularly by wheelchair users.

So often, the additional space around the pan seems to be used for storage impeding access from a wheelchair. Staff don't seem aware that the chair user has to reverse to the side of the pan then slide across. Inconsiderate or poorly trained people seem to think it's OK to leave toilet- associated ephemera there, such as bins - NO it's not actually.

So if you see restricted wheelchair access in a 'disabled' loo on your travels please take a moment to point out to staff the needs of wheelchair users.