



Editor's Update

Well, what an amazing celebration for our Queen and in this edition, you will be able to read some 'Royal' stories in Members' Musings and also see some photos sent in of how some members enjoyed their own events. Thanks as always for your input. This edition has a reminder of our AGM which will be a hybrid meeting so members can either attend in person or via Zoom. Login details will be sent out in advance. Also included are updates from our groups, it is so encouraging to hear about the number of new groups being formed since our celebration event in April. We may only be a young u3a in comparison to the Queen, but we have accomplished a lot in those 7 years!



Save the date for our AGM 20 July at 2pm

Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 2pm. It will be a hybrid meeting, taking place in person at the Community Centre in Chalfont St Peter and on Zoom for those who prefer to attend online. It is important that we have enough members attending for a quorum (about 90 of you are needed) so please do try and come along.

There will be a short business meeting during which we will receive the Accounts and Annual report and elect some new Committee members. We will be celebrating the amazing work done by two of our founding members - David Burbidge and Val Smith - who are stepping down from the Committee after seven years' service.



After the business meeting there will be a social get together for members to meet and chat over tea, coffee, and cake, so please do put the date in your diary now!

Save these dates for our forthcoming monthly meetings

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.

10 August at 2pm 'Two Mansions: Hermit's Wood and Pollards Wood Grange'

We welcome our very own author Denise Beddows to enlighten us on the history and occupiers of these Chalfont St Giles mansions.

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.



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

Thames Valley Network For those of you who may be unaware of this organisation, Chalfonts u3a is part of the regional Thames Valley Network (TVN) of u3as. This gives us access to the wide range of events they organise. And have taken place via Zoom over the last two years but the first face to face event is taking place at 10am on Friday 29 July at Benson Oxfordshire in the newly re-furnished hall. They are planning a dual-purpose day for this come back, where the morning will be devoted to a Repts' meeting, open as usual, to one or two nominated representatives of each of our member u3as and in the afternoon there 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. 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



Interest Groups Update from Lesley Bedford Group Coordinator

It is wonderful to see how groups are getting together more and members are enthusiastic to take part in the activities put on by our very hardworking group convenors.

These are the New Interest Groups we hope to get started, so get ready for take-off!



Badminton

We hope to be able to start a second badminton group in July and anyone interested, who hasn't yet been in touch with me, should complete the enquiry form on the Website or email Chris Pearcey badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Ballroom Dancing - Beginners Group

If anyone is interested, please let me know. We have one member who would love to join but does not have a partner so again if you are in the same position contact Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Beginners and Intermediate French Group

Contact Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Second Family History Group

Please contact Lesley if interested in joining this group.

Mac OS Computing Group for Apple Mac Computer Users.

This will be an interactive group and members are encouraged to bring their Apple Mac/Laptops to the meeting if they wish. Unfortunately, we will not be covering Apple iPhones but we already have an Interest group for Apple iPads run by Phil McAvoy. If you are interested in joining, please email the convenor Gary Tomlin macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Portuguese for Beginners



Brian Wapshare will be the convenor and the meetings will be held at his home with the plan is to start in August. More information once the Beacon account set up.



Sunday Group. The Sunday group was set up to offer a range of events particularly for members on their own who would welcome a social gathering at the weekend. Importantly there is always a place for refreshments in their outings and as one member told me 'It is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon meeting friends and making new ones' It is so popular that we are now looking to start a further Sunday group and need a few more members to make this viable so please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Bridge

"Fancy a game of Bridge on a Wednesday afternoon twice a month?

The Bridge Group welcomes new members to its sociable sessions played in well ventilated spacious surroundings at CSPCC.

Play is to intermediate standard and above, with a minimum of 20 hands of purposeful Bridge and a half-time break for tea and a chat.

Please contact Convenor Sue Fisher bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk if interested or for more information."



Coffee morning group

The next coffee morning will be at the Greyhound in Chalfont St Peter at 10 am on Thursday June 23rd. 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 groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Mixed walking Cricket

We continue to enjoy our Tuesday morning sessions at Gerrards Cross Cricket Club and though we haven't scored any centuries yet our practice in the nets is paying off! Please get in touch if you would like to give it a go as we play with a soft ball and plastic bats

Eileen Powell mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



New Experiences

Last month 20 members tried out 3 Escape Rooms in Slough. Groups of 6 or 8 had 1 hour to escape from a room by discovering clues to codes to unlock various padlocks and doors. One team were handcuffed together at the start of the hour, another found themselves trying to hook ducks and singing "Food, glorious food" and the other team were divebombed by fluffy toys. Great fun was had by all, even if they didn't escape. In the next couple of months, the group will be Go Aping, paddleboarding and puzzle trailing. If you would like to join the group, please email newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Old Time Music Hall Singing Group

If you have a relative who is currently resident in a local care home, you might like to have a chat with the activities officer and suggest that they might be interested in a visit from our Chalfonts u3a OTMH Singing Group who are always keen to add to their existing "portfolio."

Contact convener Bob Leven at musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Table Tennis



We have 2 groups that currently have spaces at Chalfonts Leisure Centre.

Tuesdays from 3.30pm – 5pm. Contact Sue White
tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Wednesdays from 5pm -6.30pm Contact Eileen Powell
tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Photography Group

Our next trip is out to the lovely market town of Princes Risborough on Thursday afternoon 16 June 2022. This is a little gem of a town and has some interesting architecture and great photo opportunities.

The town has a story which stretches back over 5,500 years with Neolithic farmers, Saxons and Romans all having left their mark on this ancient landscape. Lots of fascinating places to photograph.

We will meet at the CSP Community Centre at 1.20pm, and spend around an hour once we arrive in the town, before stopping for a tea/coffee and cake at one of the cafe's in the main street. We aim to return back to CSP by around 4.30pm.

An email reminder will be sent out prior to the meet-up with details of the theme and the café we will call into before heading back.

If any member is interested in joining the group, please contact the group convenor Tony Darbyshire photography@chalfonts.u3a.org.uk

Textiles and Crafts Group



Members of the group enjoyed indulging their creative skills in a painting workshop with guidance from local artist and tutor Heather McDowell/ The subject was a bluebell woodland and didn't they do well!



To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, Laura Fordrey made this fabulous decoration for her front door and has also posted it on the Cu3a Facebook page



Theatre Group



Post Covid the group has seen *Pretty Woman*, which was cancelled during the restrictions, *Come From Away* and *Cinderella*. The atmosphere at all of these productions has been amazing; the performers and audience realising just how much we all need one another. Long may it continue! Later in the month we have tickets to see *To Kill a Mockingbird* followed by *Barefoot in the Park* at the Mill at Sonning in August. If you would like to join the theatre

group, please email theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. Suggestions from members are always welcomed. Sheila Tarrant and Danny Robins, convenors.

Now over to our Members' Musings

These are some of the jubilee photos sent in by Imelda Micallef and Jackie McCarthy



A KNOCK ON THE DOOR by Denise Beddows

Abdul Waseem was desperate for a coffee. He'd been trying to master the high-tech integrated coffee machine ever since he had arrived at his son's home a few days earlier from Pakistan. He had searched all the glossy cupboards in the big kitchen looking for something more user-friendly. However, he could find no coffee percolator, no cafetière, no filter papers, nor even a jar of instant. He didn't need anything fancy, just a caffeine hit. Despite his repeatedly pressing every button on the machine's electronic keypad, whilst cursing it loudly, the gadget refused to co-operate.

He hadn't wanted to embarrass himself by asking Tariq to show him how to operate it so he could make himself a coffee whilst his son was out at work. He might come from a small village in Mirpur, but he didn't want to be thought of as unsophisticated. At the umpteenth attempt and having once again shouted '*shaitan!*'* at it, the machine suddenly began to snigger and snort at his ineptitude as it grudgingly disgorged its welcome beverage. Abdul sighed with relief as he made a mental note of exactly which combination of buttons he had successfully pressed. The machine was still strutting its noisy stuff when he heard an urgent knocking at the front door.

Standing on the doorstep was a well-built man in his forties, wearing a smart suit and looking a little flustered. The man looked about him anxiously. Beyond the caller, parked outside on the main road, was a large black car, with an elderly lady seated in the back. Another man stood at the front of the vehicle holding up the bonnet and peering in at the engine.

'The Bentley has broken down, I'm afraid,' the man told him. 'Would it be all right for my elderly lady employer and me to come into your house and await the breakdown vehicle? Our driver just called them, and they should be here very shortly.'

Abdul assured him it would be perfectly all right for them to come in. As the man returned to the car and helped the lady to alight, Abdul told himself these people weren't likely to be burglars or

murderers – not driving a Bentley, they weren't. As he led the pair into the lounge, however, it occurred to him that it was just possible they might have stolen the Bentley. However, seeing their smart attire, especially the old lady's plum-coloured woollen overcoat and matching bucket hat, he dismissed the thought and reminded himself that this was affluent Gerrards Cross, after all. Once the stranded couple were seated in the lounge, Abdul offered to make them each a coffee.

The 'shaitan' coffee machine was persuaded to produce two more coffees, which he served up in his daughter-in-law's best china cups and saucers. He found a tin of fancy biscuits, which he placed on the tray along with the coffees and returned to the lounge. As he poured milk into their cups and went to open the biscuits, he suddenly noticed that his lady visitor bore a striking resemblance to the image of the lady on the lid of the biscuit tin. 'Don't I recognise you, Madam?' he asked. 'Have I seen you on television – in a biscuit commercial, perhaps?'

The lady laughed heartily, 'quite possibly. I am on the box from time to time.'

That evening, Abdul told his son about the visitors. Tariq chastised him for allowing strangers into the house, but Abdul reassured him that the lady had been a TV celebrity.

'Really? Who was she?' Tariq asked.

'She was the lady on your biscuit tin,' Abdul told him, pointing at the tin which still sat on the coffee table.

'Don't be daft, Dad,' Tariq laughed. 'That's the Queen.'

***Shaitan = Satan or devil**



I had the opportunity to meet the Queen and other members of the Royal family at her Golden Jubilee celebrations when she hosted a Reception at the Palace for various dignitaries from BME communities and Faith representatives from diverse communities. I was lucky to receive an invitation and mingle with the Queen and various members of the Royal family over platters of posh nibbles and drinks! I also met her again when my husband received an MBE for his services to the water industry, and we had the privilege to go the Palace and he had a lengthy conversation with the Queen.



This entry is anonymous.

[U3A Sailing from Dubrovnik – Colin Smith \(Chalfonts U3A\)](#)

A national U3A inspired sailing trip departing from Dubrovnik was organised by a U3A member from the Cotswolds. It was initially advertised in U3A Matters and attracted a lot of interest (over 100 applicants), but the flotilla was limited by the number of qualified skippers. In our flotilla there were 18 of us in total sailing in 4 sloops that were chartered from a company based in the marina at Dubrovnik. At the same time 2 more boats, organised by the same person set out from Trogir (Split) with the intention we would meet up halfway through the trip. In the event this didn't happen due to time, distance and weather constraints. We started the trip on April 23, and this continued until May 3.

The general direction of travel was northwest from Dubrovnik stopping at ports and harbours either on the various islands or on the remote hinterland of the main coast called Poluotoc Peljesac. The practice was for the 4 Dubrovnik Skippers to meet every night and decide on the next day's end location for meeting up. This left each boat to decide when they left the next day,

which route to take and whether or not they would anchor in small harbours whilst en route. This system worked well with distances to travel depending on best available weather and wind forecasts at that time; we found these to be at best generally accurate but often winds were stronger than forecast. We did encounter a bora one night, which is a gale to storm force wind that comes from time to time from the north over the mountains. All boats were secured for the night when that happened.

The U3Aers were from all over Britain, many from the Midlands, northeast, and northwest of England, and even one living in Inverness. Most of the crew members had done little or no sailing, but based on experience of these trips before, generally this is not a hindrance to taking part as the 4 Skippers were both qualified and had a fair amount of sailing experience. It was part of the Skipper's job to train the crew. Certainly, on my boat I had a very willing and adaptable crew, and they were all able to sail the boat fairly early on in the holiday and to understand and implement the procedures necessary for docking. Each boat had a crew of 3 or 4 people. The main prerequisites we have found for participation in a holiday such as this are that crew members feel comfortable being on a sailing boat, and that they can claim they do not get seasick (and this was in fact the case on all the boats).

This was a hugely enjoyable trip with excellent participation from just about everyone. Only one person when asked said she would not do it again. There developed a considerable amount of togetherness and friendship on each boat, and at the end of each day there was a gathering of at least one boat's crew on another boat. That was always before dinner. There is a custom in Croatia that many of the restaurants in harbours have their own docks where a boat can moor with the expectation that the boat's occupants will use their restaurant later on. There is always a varied menu with the speciality being very well-prepared seafood.

The initial planning for next year is to charter boats from Turkey but these are early days yet. If anyone is interested, then please let me know It should be noted that this was not an official U3A trip as U3A felt unable to provide insurance cover, so this was covered by the sailing participants.

A few photos:

The Dubrovnik Group



Boat Matul in Harbour Used by Chalfont U3A Member with one other Crew Member



Korcula Old Town