



Welcome to the August 2022 edition

As your new Newsletter Editor I'm delighted to be here, dropping into your homes and making your acquaintance. We may already know each other or we may not have met before but I look forward to sending you the news each month.

As you will see later in this edition Eileen hasn't gone very far and is still on the committee as our Vice Chair. Thank you, Eileen, for all your help in transferring the role over to me. Much appreciated.

We have lots of reports this month and I thank all who have contributed. I hope you will find it interesting and perhaps it will tempt you into trying new ideas and activities.

Now, find a cool spot to read through this, and please continue to keep your fingers crossed for a night of rain.

Val Darbyshire

Monthly meeting dates for your diary:

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

Local author Denise Beddows presents some unusual facts and original images of two local mansions and their occupants, including a staggeringly wealthy but odd eccentric and her high-speed boyfriend, plus brave, betrayed saboteurs.

14 September at 2pm **Beacons of the Past - Investigating a prehistoric Chilterns Landscape**

Wendy Morrison tells us of her project to discover in the Chilterns, one of the largest collections of hillforts in the UK, yet many are poorly preserved, and little is known about them.

12 October at 2pm **The Perils and Pleasures of a Blue Badge tourist guide**

Amanda Bryett's team accompany around 6,000 visitors on private guided tours of Windsor, Windsor Castle and on evening private guided town walks. In this talk, Amanda describes some of her experiences whilst acting as guide.

Our **AGM – 20 July**

At our recent AGM the Chair introduced all members of the committee. Here's a recap of Jane's speech: -

The committee (composed of trustees) is responsible for overseeing our u3a - making sure we act legally and comply with the rules of the Charity Commission. That's the easy bit - there is a lot of guidance and advice out there to help us. The bit we spend more time on is making sure our u3a is working well. The Trustees have three main aims:

- creating an open and welcoming organisation with a friendly ethos and outlook
- delivering value for money for our members
- making sure we continue to have a wide range of interest groups which are available for people to join.

That's what we try to do! We're all volunteers and we work as a team – it's very rewarding contributing to such a dynamic organisation.

A quick '**who-does-what**' of the Committee members:

Jane Barker – Chair



The Chair has overall responsibility for ensuring the effective running of the u3a and compliance with any regulatory

requirements.

In addition, the Chair acts as a co-ordinator for all Committee members and represents the u3a at external meetings and events.

Eileen Powell - Vice Chair



Eileen is our new Vice Chair (having served as our Newsletter Editor for the past 3 years).

Our Vice Chair works with the Chair to oversee the running of our u3a and has a particular role in relation to member engagement. Eileen will make sure that new members are supported and encouraged to be active in our u3a and provide feedback to the Committee from the wider membership.

Chris White -Treasurer



Chris is our Treasurer. As well as overall oversight of our finances and the production of our

Accounts, Chris looks after payments for those groups organising visits, experiences, and trips for their members.

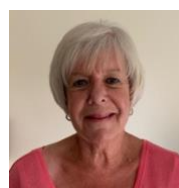
Christine Hillis – Finance Officer



Christine works with Chris. She looks after membership payments and room/venue hire subsidies for groups meeting at the Community

centre, Leisure Centre, and any other agreed venue.

Maureen Green -Membership Secretary



Maureen is our new Membership Secretary – Maureen will deal with any queries re your membership and with new members.

Remember to tell her if you move house or change your email address or phone number!

Geoff Clegg - Monthly Meeting and Speaker Co-ordinator



Geoff is responsible for finding our speakers for the monthly members meetings and organising and hosting the meetings.

Chris Hardwick -Secretary



Our Secretary – keeps us legal and in order, looks after the Committee meetings, and makes reports and

returns to various bodies such as the Charity Commission.

A lot of “behind the scenes “activities!



Vince Barker- Beacon Administrator

Responsible for overseeing our Beacon system.

This is the data base we use for our membership, and that we encourage the convenors to use for their group communications.

Val Darbyshire – Newsletter Editor



Val is responsible for our monthly members newsletter which aims to keep you up to date with all our local u3a news!

Lesley Bedford- Group Co-ordinator



Our Interest Group Co-ordinator. Her role is to support all our group convenors – she is their “go to” person for

information and advice and she is very knowledgeable about all things u3a. Helps set up new groups and deals with room and venue bookings for groups.

Gary Tomlin - Webmaster



Our webmaster who is responsible for keeping our website up to date (by the way a good source of information and news).

Gary also looks after all our technical requirements.

Honorary Presidents



In 2022 we appointed **Val Smith** and **David Burbidge** as our joint Honorary Presidents in

recognition of their hard work, energy and dedication to the establishment and running of our u3a over the past seven years. It is an honorary role, but I am sure they would be delighted if you invited them to come along and participate in your groups’ activities from time to time.



Interest Groups Update from Lesley Bedford, Group Coordinator

Monthly Coffee Mornings. We have planned our August coffee morning for Wednesday 17th August 10-11.30 am at The Greyhound Inn in Chalfont St Peter, coffee or tea and a croissant is £3.50, please bring the correct money if you possibly can and do let us know in advance that you will be attending as we need to know numbers to ensure there is space and enough croissants.

New French Intermediate Conversation Group - this is a new group for people who speak some French and want to improve, if you are interested please let us know the first meeting will be at the Community Centre on Thursday 15th September at 11.45 until 1.30, the plan is to meet on the first and third Thursday of the month.

Family History 2. This new group had an initial meeting on the 14th July and we are looking forward to our second monthly meeting on August 24th 2-4 pm at the Community Centre, if you are interested in researching your family history and would like to join this group please let us know.

Cake Decorating. One of our members has experience in cake decorating and would like to share her knowledge if this is something you are interested in we are running a taster session on Tuesday 13th September between 2 and 4 pm at the Community Centre. The information so far is we will be making sugar roses and piping a swirl on a cup cake for display.

This session is for beginners but is also for anyone who enjoys cake decorating. A small cost will be incurred for ingredients supplied.

Will those interested please let us know and we will give you more information once we have some idea of numbers.

For all of the above activities please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk If anyone has an idea for a new group again please let me know.

More news from interest groups

Theatre Group

The group spent a pleasant evening at the Mill at Sonning to see Barefoot in the Park. Prior to the show we enjoyed an excellent buffet supper.

We are stepping down as convenors and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support. The good news is that several members have come forward to run the group. Further details to be announced.

During the handover period it is an opportunity to join the group or have your details removed from the theatre group. To do this email theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or phone 01494 581079.

Sheila Tarrant and Danny Robins

As a postscript to the above we hear that after the trip back from 'Barefoot' at the Mill at Sonning members of the Theatre Group showed their hearty appreciation to Sheila and Danny for their seven years of enjoyable theatre-going, wishing them all the best for the future. '

The **Crochet** group meets once a month on the first Thursday in each month at 2pm till 4pm in the Community Centre. The next meeting will be 1st September

If anyone would like to learn how to crochet, we are available to help complete novices, also if anyone who would like to join our group we have some vacancies. Jeanette Galletly, convenor.

Myra Inglis scores her century!

CU3A **Bridge Group** was delighted to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Myra Inglis, a longstanding and lively member, at its session on 20th July.



Myra was serenaded during the tea break in traditional fashion before being presented by Sue Fisher, Convenor, with a birthday card containing pages of congratulatory messages, flowers and 3 birthday cakes, 2 of which were quickly consumed by Bridge players. Myra happily took home the miniature cake, surmounted by a candled '100'.



There is a second **Badminton** group up and running which could really do with more members. They meet every Thursday at the Chalfonts Leisure Centre from 11.30am and play for an hour.

Anyone interested should go the Interest Group section on the Chalfonts U3A website and complete the form to contact Chris Pearcey, convenor.



Mixed Walking Cricket

Our summer of cricket continues at Gerrards Cross Cricket Club on Tuesdays from 9.30 am and we are enjoying the great weather, no rain stopping play! A few pics of our group and please contact me if interested in joining.

We hope to continue indoors during autumn, winter and spring and I will probably organise another taster

session for those that would like to try it out. Eileen Powell, convenor.

Mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk.



The next **Photography Group** Meet-Up - Oxford - 18 August 2022



We had planned to visit Oxford in July, but we had to postpone our meet-up so we will now be going there this month.

We will meet at the CSP Community Centre at 12.15pm, and then travel to the Thornhill Park and Ride on the A40, to catch the bus into the city centre. We will then spend our time taking pictures. Lots of great opportunities, including museums, streets, and a host of amazing buildings. At around 3.15pm we will link up again at Pret A Manger café at 26-27 Cornmarket St, Oxford OX1 3EY. After tea/coffee/cake, we will then head back to CSP for around 5.15-5.30pm.

Some may prefer to travel via the train; if you plan to do this please let the convenor know.

A email reminder will be sent out to group members in the week commencing 15 August with details of the two themes. Members interested in joining the group, please contact the group convenor at photography@chalfonts.u3a.org.uk

Tony Darbyshire, convenor



40 members of the **New Experiences** group took part in a Puzzle Trail last month. They navigated from puzzle to puzzle using the What3words app and then tried to solve 15 fiendish puzzles, before finishing up with tea and cake. Congratulations to 2 teams (Imelda, Sue, Jackie & Frances and Jan, Val, Sue & Carolyn) who managed to score full marks by correctly solving all the puzzles.

Next month the New Experiences group are trying Pickleball and an Alpaca Walk. Angela Cranston, convenor.

The U3A **Singing for Pleasure** are hoping when to return in September and we need new members. Our leader Stephanie is hoping to put together a full Christmas programme and we will entertain at local venues. Brenda O'Gorman, convenor.

Short Mat Bowls



Have you watched the bowls on the Commonwealth Games and thought you might like to play? We have a couple of spaces to join our Short Mat Bowls group on Friday afternoon 2.00 pm. If you would like to give it a go please get in touch or come along on a Friday and have a chat. Sheila Woolgar, convenor.

The **Table Tennis** group which plays on Tuesday at 3.30 is able to take more members now. This is now the more experienced group so previous experience would be beneficial. Players are welcome to come and have a look before joining. Sue White, convenor.

UP AND COMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

RACE NIGHT



Saturday 17 September 7pm – Race Night with Hog Roast

Tickets at £18 per person from Carol at the Centre

cbirkenshaw@cspp.org.uk

Saturday 22 October –Barn Dance with home-made supper

By popular demand the Barn Dance returns with home-made supper.

Tickets at £18 per person from Carol at the Centre

cbirkenshaw@cspp.org.uk



Plus Your chance to win a monthly cash prize!!



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

Finally I leave you with a puzzle from my friends at the **Cryptic Crossword** group. Thanks to all who devised this.

Herb dairy Slav? Possibly new kid on the block (3, 10)

Solution, if you're really stumped, available on request to me at

newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk