

Hello everyone ...



With my usual theme of giving you something to celebrate I need to remind myself that it is Shrove Tuesday on 21st of this month. Somehow it always surprises me, and I find I miss out on pancakes. So now I've reminded myself and will be prepared.

Of course, this month also brings Valentine's Day. I find this a time to think about those we love, past and present, whether it's family, friends, or pets. I can ignore the seasonal novelties aisle of the supermarkets and the expensive menus on offer at restaurants and enjoy the loves I know and have known. And never forget the love of a good book or a piece of music!

May you all be able to do the same, and not just on one day of the year. And enjoy your pancakes too!

Best wishes,

Val Darbyshire, Newsletter Editor

Monthly meeting dates for your diary:

8 February 2023 at 2pm - A History of Moor Park Mansion

Alison Wall will introduce us to the history of Moor Park, starting from the time of Cardinal Wolsey down to the present day, including its use during the Second World War for the planning of the Battle of Arnhem.

8 March 2023 at 2pm - The Murder of Alexander Litvinenko

In October 2006 two Russian Intelligence agents flew into London from Moscow. Their mission had one objective, to kill ex KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko. We examine his life and death and the attempts to assassinate him.

12 April 2023 at 2pm – Does Foreign Aid really work?

An interesting and thought-provoking talk from Roger Riddell, who spent many years on development issues partly sponsored by Foreign Aid. He held government posts in Zimbabwe and has written a book of his observations and experiences.

All Monthly Meetings are held at CSP Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9QX

New members:

We'd like to welcome the following new members to Chalfonts u3a

Sue Williams, Linda Holgate, Elaine Coleridge Smith, Peter Cathrow and Alvin Cohen.

Welcome to you all. The only silly question is the one you didn't ask so just contact the people on the list at the back of this newsletter with any queries.

News from our Interest Groups

Coffee Morning Group

We had another very successful coffee morning on Tuesday 24th January with a very good turnout considering the cold weather.

We are planning a further coffee morning on Wednesday 22nd February at 10 am at The Greyhound Inn in Chalfont St. Peter. If you would like to attend, please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk so that we can ensure we have sufficient croissants and beverages for everyone.

The cost of the coffee and croissant is £3.50. If you can bring along the correct money that's very helpful.

Family History 2

Family History 2 had a very interesting talk by Margaret Leyland on Historic Newspapers which was very informative and inspiring. Anyone interested in joining the group please contact familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Book Club

We are looking to start a new Book Club group. If you enjoy reading and are not already a member of one of our book clubs please let us know and we will help to get a Book Club 3 off the ground. Please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Arts groups

Currently we do not have any active art groups in our u3a, if you are interested in art and would like to help get a group off the ground please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk.

Antiques Group

Would any member be interested in being involved in a potential new group? Antiques is the subject we have been asked about so we would like to hear from you. Contact Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Members Coffee Mornings

A New Members Coffee Morning will be held on Wednesday March 1st from 10-11 am at Gerrards Cross Community Centre, 8 East Common SL9 7AD. There is plenty of parking.

There will be a charge of £3.50 for tea/coffee and cakes and I would appreciate it if you can let me know if you can make it for catering purposes!

Members of the committee will be there to offer any information on joining groups etc. and I look forward to hearing from you. Eileen Powell – Vice Chair

Mah-jong

Mah-jong is an ancient Chinese game dating back to the mid-to late 1800s and although its origins are still clouded in a little mystery, it is now played across the globe. The rules are straightforward but there are many different versions, indeed we at U3A have adopted a mixture to ensure the game remains enjoyable yet challenging.

When the game was first played in the West, ladies would wear the national Chinese attire. We don't go that far, but we recognise the invention of the game, and as such we celebrated Chinese New Year. Many thanks to Chin Fenton who produced this beautiful display, including scented winter honeysuckle and we were delighted with the messages we found inside our fortune cookies!



The u3a Mah-jong group is now 40 strong and we play every Wednesday. We do have a waiting list, so if anyone is keen to set up a second group, we would be delighted to assist.

Sam Patel mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls



We meet on Friday afternoon from 1.45 until 4pm.

In the months before Christmas we held a competition to help the newer members focus on their delivery skills and the competition was won jointly by Trish and Jill.

Congratulations to both.

Sheila Woolgar - convenor

Pickleball

Due to fantastic interest in Pickleball, we have now secured a third court at the Leisure Centre which will cut down the waiting time between games. The skills of the group members are improving week on week, with longer rallies and exciting volleying.

We plan to bring in a coach one Tuesday, who I hope will help us to develop our techniques and hone our tactics even further. Unfortunately, applications to join the group are being put on a waiting list, but there could be some spaces in the coming months, so sign up if you are keen to play Pickleball.

Richard Cranston at pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group

Here we are in 2023 and we have just had our first trip for the new year.

53 theatre goers went to see 'Noises Off' at the Phoenix Theatre. From the laughter and clapping in the auditorium everyone seemed to have a great evening. We were all back safely in record time.

Our next outing is to 'Witness for the Prosecution' on 9th February and look forward to a full coach and hope you all have an enjoyable evening.

There's still 'Moulin Rouge' and 'Oklahoma' to look forward to and will be meeting to discuss more trips - information to follow in the next newsletter.

Thank you all for coming on these trips and making it a very enjoyable evening for everyone. See you on the next trip.

Angela and Howard – group convenors

Two events from Thames Valley Network of u3as



A new Spring Quiz for TVN Members
Friday, 3rd March 2023
at 2.30 p.m. on Zoom
Quizmaster: Avis Furness

This event is free of charge. Participants will be randomly divided into teams.

Please book electronically by clicking on the TICKETSOURCE icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately, and the Zoom link a few days before the event.

If you experience any difficulty, please email the organiser at tvnquiz@gmail.com giving your name and the u3a to which you belong.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 1st March. If you have not received the Zoom link by midday on 2nd March, please contact the organiser as above.



- *At Home with Agatha Christie
the Wallingford and Cholsey connection
Tuesday, 21st February
at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom*

As Curator of Wallingford Museum, and a professional historian and lecturer, Judy Dewey has taken a keen interest in the life of Agatha Christie and her second husband, Max Mallowan.

From 1934-1976, they made their home at Winterbrook House, on the outskirts of Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Today they lie buried in their chosen place in the churchyard of their parish church of St Mary's in Cholsey.

This aspect of Agatha Christie's life is often glossed over or ignored in the media, and even in biographies, yet Winterbrook House was her official residence for 42 years, where much of her work was done. As Max wrote shortly after her death, "What was truly valuable in Wallingford was her privacy and freedom from social involvement for in this way she was able to devote her time to creative work which gave pleasure to millions."

Judy will explore this little-known story, setting it fully in context with the better-known aspects of Agatha's life.

The fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link about 48 hours before the event.

If you experience any difficulty, please email the organiser Patsy Thornton at patsy@thorntac.co.uk with your name and the u3a to which you belong. If you have not received the Zoom link by midday on Monday, 20th February please email the organiser as above. Please do not wait until the day of the event.

Closing date for applications is Sunday, 19th February

To receive details of future TVN events, please send your name and preferred email address to events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquires about interest groups please contact
Lesley Bedford – Groups Coordinator - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Telephone: 07970 848617

Or, if you know which group/s you wish to join please contact the convenor direct

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Percy	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Badminton 2	Chris Percy	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Carolyn Edwards	ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Birdwatching	Tony Micallef	birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 1	Carol Lyons	bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 2	Marsha Partridge	bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge for Beginners	Bob Borwick	bridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge	Sue Fisher	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cake Decorating	Jane Douglas	cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Gary Tomlin	computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Coffee Mornings	Chris Coteman	coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cribbage	David Burbidge	cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cricket- Mixed Walking	Eileen Powell	mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Creative Writing	David Brodie	creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Crochet	Jeanette Galletly	crochet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords	Bob Leven	crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Current Affairs	Val Hadfield	currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings	Tricia Reeve Val Smith	excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History	Jan Sawyer Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History2	Linda Kedge	familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Intermediate 3	Pat Lawson	frenchintermediate3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Advanced	Judy Cutter	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Jane Barker Jacqui Greenham	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar	Bob Borwick	
History	Trish Hart	history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
iPad User Group	Phil McAvoy	ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Awaiting a convenor	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners Plus	Lesley Bedford	italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Conversation Advanced	Awaiting change of convenor	italianadvconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Knitting	Marsha Partridge	knitting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Lawn Bowls	Pam Anderson Mike Alderton	lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
London Walks	John Hardwick	londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences	Angela Cranston	newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Members Coffee Mornings	Eileen Powell	newmemberscoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Old Time Musical Hall Singing	Bob Leven	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Linda Hagreen	philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography	Tony Darbyshire	photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickle Ball	Richard Cranston	pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Pilates all groups	Lesley Bedford	pilates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Poetry & Literature	David Burbidge	poetry&literature@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Portuguese	Brian Wapshire	portuguese@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Quizzing	Margaret Turner	quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
RUG Really Useful Group	Sharon Duncan	rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Rummikub	Georgina Cane	rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Anne Higson	scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Science & Technology	To be confirmed	science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing for Pleasure	Brenda O'Gorman	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Conversation	Linda Walton	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Beginners 1	Ivor Spector	spanishbeginners1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Beginners 2	Peter Shaw	spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Improvers 1	Margaret Burbidge	spanishimprovers1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Sunday Group	Sue Fisher	sundaygroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 1	Sue White	tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 2	Eileen Powell	tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 3	Gio Pedalino	tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi Beginners Tai Chi	Lesley Bedford Lyn Tatnell	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Textiles and Craft	Teri McAvoy	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Visits	Howard Dawson Angela Windsor	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ukulele	James O'Flynn	ukelele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg Sally Buckley	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking less than 6 miles	Nigel Trotman David Cooper	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking Strollers	Kate Trotman	strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Weekend Group	Kathy Beattie	weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation	Grace Hunter	wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation 2	David Hillis	wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga	Geoff Clegg	yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga Friday pm	Helen Hall	yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts U3A Committee

Chair	Jane Barker	chairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Eileen Powell	vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Chris Hardwick	secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Treasurer/Finance	Chris White	treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Finance Officer	Christine Hillis	financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Beacon Administrator	Vince Barker	beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Interest Group Co-ordinator	Lesley Bedford	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Maureen Green	membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Publicity	Val Darbyshire	newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Speaker	Geoff Clegg	speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Venue Co-ordinator	Lesley Bedford	venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	Gary Tomlin	webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

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Chalfonts U3A suggestion box	suggestionbox@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chalfonts U3A website	www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk

U3A National website	www.u3a.org.uk
Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk