

Hello everyone ...



We've passed the Vernal Equinox, we've moved into British Summer Time, the days are getting longer and the sun has been seen and felt. It's a hopeful time in the garden and we can look forward to four Bank Holidays in the next few weeks. Have we ever had 4 so close together before?

At our Monthly Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> the speaker is going to talk about Foreign Aid. Another very topical issue with asylum seekers: "More than £4bn meant for Overseas development aid will be spent in Britain this year, largely to support rising numbers of asylum seekers and refugees". (BBC). I foresee some interesting questions following this.

The usual list of contacts is detailed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Please check that we have the correct details for your interest groups and let me know of any errors or omissions. Also please use the official email addresses to contact people so that your message gets to the right person.

Celebratory days in April? Well, Easter of course, and Eid, but there's also the usual long list of the unusual; Unicorn Day – 9<sup>th</sup> and Penguin Day – 25<sup>th</sup> to name but two. And how could we forget that double celebration on 23<sup>rd</sup> – Shakespeare and St George. Enjoy whatever you celebrate, whether it is personal, local, national or international.

Best wishes,

Val Darbyshire, Newsletter Editor

## Our webmaster

Some eagle-eyed members may have spotted that our website is not as up to date as normal and that there are "new" people looking after the technology at our monthly members' meeting. Sadly, Gary Tomlin, our webmaster has been unwell recently, so has been unable to provide his usual first-class service to our u3a.

We are hoping Gary will be back soon and I am sure you'll want to join me in wishing Gary a speedy recovery. In the meantime, please bear with us if there are technical glitches!

## New Members

As we recover from the pandemic it is very pleasing to note that we have a steady stream of new members joining our u3a. With more members some of our groups are becoming very large and the activities offered by our excursions, theatre visits, London walks, and garden visits groups are often oversubscribed.

Your convenors will do their best to allocate places in a fair way - sometimes by ballot, and some of the most popular activities may be repeated later in the year if there is sufficient demand.

If you experience on-going difficulty joining in a group please make contact with our Vice Chair Eileen Powell -vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. - so that we can address the situation.

Sara Nestor, Alexandra Nestor, Pearl Hirst, John Hockenhull, Clyde Perkins, Stephen Walker, Richard Nye and Ann Nye have all recently joined or rejoined Chalfonts u3a. Welcome to you all and we hope you find plenty to interest you in our activities and events.

### **Monthly meeting dates for your diary:**

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

#### **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.

#### **10 May 2023 at 2pm - A History of Pinewood**

Mike Payne talks to us about the past, present, and future of one of Buckinghamshire's biggest assets. His talk brings some personal memories of the stars and is told with a passion that stems from a lifetime of interest.

#### **14 June 2023 at 2pm – Wild flowers in the Chilterns**

Dr Brenda Harold has always been fascinated by plants. Studying plants at university, going on to become a lecturer, and becoming Deputy Head at Brunel University. Brenda lives locally, and so can speak with knowledge and experience on our local flora.

### **News from our Interest Groups**

#### **Coffee Morning**

We had a very successful coffee morning on Thursday 23rd March with another good turnout. The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 13th April at 10 am at the Greyhound Inn in Chalfont St Peter. If you would like to come along, please let me know. The cost of the hot drink and croissant is £3.50. Email is groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

#### **Public Speaking**

One of our members is keen to start a Public Speaking Group. This is an opportunity to gain confidence in general and speaking to groups of people in particular. The plan is to have an initial meeting to find a suitable day and time. If you are interested, please email groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk There will be a small fee for room hire.

#### **New groups**

Once again if anyone has an idea for a new group and wishes to explore this further please do let us know on groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

#### **Lawn Bowls**

Lawn Bowls will be starting up again at Chalfont St Giles Bowls Club on Tuesday 16th May and will run fortnightly after that until 19th September (always on a Tuesday morning 10-12). Mike Alderton, convenor.

## Textiles & Craft group



The February meeting of the Textiles & Crafts Group was a hand sewing project called English Paper Piecing. Group member Laura Fordrey led the workshop and provided materials and paper templates to make pincushions.

Here's a selection of the finished pincushions.



The Stitch Festival at the Business Design Centre in North London is an annual must-see event for the Textiles & Crafts Group.



We spent a very enjoyable day on Thursday 23rd March, trying out new crafts, browsing the many stalls and of course, drinking coffee!



## Intermediate French

Our U3A Intermediate French Group resumed "meetings" as normal following the wretched lockdowns, and now, rather than at members' homes, we meet at a local coffee bar, where we reserve a table for every Tuesday morning. This works extremely well, and we have a good regular attendance of our 8 members. Very enjoyable. Ray Luker, convenor.



## Cake Decorating group

In March the Cake Decorating Group had an enjoyable session making Easter bonnet biscuits.

We are planning to decorate Coronation cupcakes in April, then move onto Summer themed sessions. Jane Douglas, convenor.



## Pickleball

Have you heard about Pickleball? Do you know what Pickleball is? Do I eat it? No. Do I dance there? No. Do I hit a round object and have lots of fun with other people whilst getting some exercise? Yes.

Pickleball is the fastest growing racket sport in the UK, a cross between tennis and 'beach' bat and ball, and is suitable for all ages. It is played on a badminton-sized court so there is less running than with tennis. We play indoors at 1.30pm every Tuesday for one hour, and equipment is provided. Newbies are guided through the basics of the game and are usually joining in with the more experienced players before too long.

There are currently a few vacancies, so please apply to Richard Cranston, convenor, to join the group at [pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org](mailto:pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org)



## Excursions

**Convenor changes:** At the launch of Chalfonts u3a an excursions group was set up by Tricia Reeve and Val Smith. Many of you will recall the first excursion in June 2015 to Mapledurham. Tricia has decided that now is the right time to take a back seat and a well-earned rest from the convenor roll. We're sure that everyone would like to thank Tricia for her dedication and hard work in researching very interesting and enjoyable outings for us all.

With the increased number of Cu3a members who wish to join outings Kate Trotman and Sheila Tarrant have joined Val Smith as convenors to make a team of three to plan and administer excursions. All members of the excursions group will continue to be emailed with information about up and coming trips. Val, Kate, and Sheila - [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



## Garden Visits – trip to Thriplow Daffodil Festival



Our first visit of the year was a new idea for the group - a visit to a Daffodil Festival which was at the weekend. It turned out to be lovely day despite a very damp start and drive there. However as soon as we turned off the main road to Thriplow Village, the rain stopped, and things improved. The whole event is organised by the residents of Thriplow who all come together for a community event weekend. It is extremely well organised, and we could not fail to enjoy ourselves.

Coffee and tea on arrival with a huge selection of homemade cakes. The organisers were so upbeat that you could not fail to be infected by their mood. There was a group playing in a marquee where you could take your refreshments and sit and enjoy the live entertainment. Further on there were stalls selling all sorts of things and plenty related to daffodils.

Despite it being a bit damp underfoot there was a lot of care taken to ensure that people did not slip over. There was a further marquee with lots to tempt you with, something for everyone; Morris dancers to watch, food for you purchase to take home, children's lunch boxes, and horses to pat.

There was a large entertainment area where there was plenty to eat and drink, if you could not find something you liked then it was not because they had not given a huge variation of stalls. Whilst waiting for your food and eating it there were live acts on the stage.

Oh yes, and then there was the main event the daffodils. They were everywhere. You could see lots of different varieties all over the village. Many people open their gardens for you to look around. The village itself has many old buildings which makes it an interesting place.

A new variety is being planted up for next year called 'Madam Speaker' in honour of the late Baroness Boothroyd, a resident of the village for many years. Her funeral was taking place in the church in the week following our visit.



The church was well worth a visit; personally I loved the work carried out in the roof space and the unusual bell ropes. Some of us were lucky enough to enjoy a bit of peace and calm in the church where they held a short service, consisting mainly of songs for us all to join in.

The time just seemed to fly by, and it was all too soon to say goodbye and get on the coach again. If this is what it was like on a 'bad' weekend, then I can only imagine what it would be like on a lovely spring day. I hope I get the chance to visit again another year.

## Theatre Group

This month we are going to see Moulin Rouge on 4th April after a late change of date and hope it'll be a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Also this month the first of two trips to Oklahoma is going ahead on 18th April with 46 members booked on the trip.

We have the second trip to Oklahoma in May and Mrs Doubtfire in June to look forward to as well.

Wishing all theatre goers an enjoyable evening and thank you for your support in attending the shows. Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson, convenors.

## London Walks



The most recent London Walk saw 3 large groups, guided by volunteers from the Inland Waterways Association Towpath Walks Society, explore the Regents Canal.

The walk began at Kings Cross where in his 1935 film, *The 39 Steps*, Alfred Hitchcock's hero Richard Hannay rushes into the station to board the Flying Scotsman. The walk ended at the Gainsborough Studios, an apartment complex on the site of the former Islington Studios, where Alfred Hitchcock began his film career in 1922 as a designer of title cards and progressed to becoming a director. The centrepiece of the apartments is a large sculpture of Hitchcock's head.

Between these Hitchcock bookends, we walked the towpath taking in the contrast between classic industrial Georgian buildings, now largely re-purposed and the modern redevelopments. Past the locks and basins full of narrow boats that once traded commercially along these waters, all the while avoiding the cyclists and lunchtime runners with whom we shared the towpath. We then followed the path the barge-horse took through Islington to bypass the 960 yd long Islington Canal Tunnel before re-joining the towpath.



## Riviera Travel Holidays -

Riviera Holidays - Provider of holidays including cruises and signature tours. Unbeatable value for money & honest pricing, backed by price match guarantee. Which recommended.

Book with Riviera Travel, tell them that you belong to Chalfonts u3a and your U3A will receive a payment from Riviera which helps support our activities.

See advertisement in Third Age Matters magazine for details. [www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)

# Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquires about interest groups please contact  
**Lesley Bedford – Interest Groups Coordinator - [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto: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 Pearcey	<a href="mailto:badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Badminton 2	Chris Pearcey	<a href="mailto:badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Ballroom Dancing	Carolyn Edwards	<a href="mailto:ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Birdwatching	Tony Micallef	<a href="mailto:birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Book Club 1	Carol Lyons	<a href="mailto:bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Book Club 2	Marsha Partridge	<a href="mailto:bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Bridge for Beginners	Bob Borwick	<a href="mailto:bridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">bridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Bridge	Sue Fisher	<a href="mailto:bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Cake Decorating	Jane Douglas	<a href="mailto:cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Chess	Tony Micallef	<a href="mailto:chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Computing	Gary Tomlin	<a href="mailto:computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Coffee Mornings	Chris Coteman	<a href="mailto:coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Cribbage	David Burbidge	<a href="mailto:cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Cricket- Mixed Walking	Eileen Powell	<a href="mailto:mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
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Cryptic Crosswords	Bob Leven	<a href="mailto:crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Current Affairs	Val Hadfield	<a href="mailto:currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	<a href="mailto:cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Excursions/Outings	Val Smith, Kate Trotman, Sheila Tarrant	<a href="mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Family History	Jan Sawyer Marguerite Fletcher	<a href="mailto:familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Family History2	Linda Kedge	<a href="mailto:familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
French Conversation Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	<a href="mailto:frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
French Conversation Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	<a href="mailto:frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
French Intermediate 3	Pat Lawson	<a href="mailto:frenchintermediate3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">frenchintermediate3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
French Conversation Advanced	Judy Cutter	<a href="mailto:frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Garden Visits	Jane Barker Jacqui Greenham	<a href="mailto:gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
German Conversation	Renate Danner	<a href="mailto:germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Guitar	Bob Borwick	
History	Trish Hart	<a href="mailto:history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
iPad User Group	Phil McAvoy	<a href="mailto:ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Italian Beginners	Awaiting a convenor	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Italian Beginners Plus	Lesley Bedford	<a href="mailto:italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Italian Conversation Advanced	Awaiting change of convenor	<a href="mailto:italianadvconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">italianadvconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Knitting	Marsha Partridge	<a href="mailto:knitting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">knitting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
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MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin	<a href="mailto:macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	<a href="mailto:mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
New Experiences	Angela Cranston	<a href="mailto:newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
New Members Coffee Mornings	Eileen Powell	<a href="mailto:newmemberscoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">newmemberscoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Old Time Musical Hall Singing	Bob Leven	<a href="mailto:musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Philosophy	Rob Robinson	<a href="mailto:philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Photography	Tony Darbyshire	<a href="mailto:photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
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Portuguese	Brian Wapshire	<a href="mailto:portuguese@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">portuguese@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Quizzing	Margaret Turner	<a href="mailto:quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
RUG-Really Useful Group	Sharon Duncan	<a href="mailto:rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Rummikub	Georgina Cane	<a href="mailto:rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Scrabble	Anne Higson	<a href="mailto:scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Science & Technology	To be confirmed	<a href="mailto:science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	<a href="mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Singing for Pleasure	Brenda O'Gorman	<a href="mailto:singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Spanish Conversation	Linda Walton	<a href="mailto:spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Spanish Beginners 1	Ivor Spector	<a href="mailto:spanishbeginners1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">spanishbeginners1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Spanish Beginners 2	Peter Shaw	<a href="mailto:spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Spanish Improvers 1	Margaret Burbidge	<a href="mailto:spanishimprovers1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">spanishimprovers1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Sunday Group	Sue Fisher	<a href="mailto:sundaygroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">sundaygroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Table Tennis 1	Sue White	<a href="mailto:tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Table Tennis 2	Eileen Powell	<a href="mailto:tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Table Tennis 3	Gio Pedalino	<a href="mailto:tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
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Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg Sally Buckley	<a href="mailto:walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Walking less than 6 miles	Nigel Trotman David Cooper	<a href="mailto:walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Walking Strollers	Kate Trotman	<a href="mailto:strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Weekend Group	Kathy Beattie	<a href="mailto:weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Wine Appreciation	Grace Hunter	<a href="mailto:wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Wine Appreciation 2	David Hillis	<a href="mailto:wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Yoga	Geoff Clegg	<a href="mailto:yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>
Yoga Friday pm	Helen Hall	<a href="mailto:yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk">yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk</a>

## Chalfonts U3A Committee

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U3A National website	<a href="http://www.u3a.org.uk">www.u3a.org.uk</a>
Thames Valley Network website	<a href="http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk">www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk</a>