

NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Issue No: 101



Hello everyone ...

And it's March! Which always sounds better than February – glad to have that out of the way. All I will say of the current weather is that at least it's dry. It could be worse!

Our Monthly Meeting on the 8th is particularly topical now with Russia waging war on Ukraine. Please also note that this talk will not be available on Zoom, either at the time or later.

I'd also like to draw your attention to the warning on page 2, and reiterate that if you get an email from someone you know asking for money, please check back with them by another method.

So many celebratory days in March but I've chosen to highlight Pi Day on 14th March - a day for celebrating the wonder of mathematics. The 14th March was chosen because the value of Pi is often taken as 3.14. Now will it be apple, cottage or humble?

Best wishes,

Val Darbyshire, Newsletter Editor

New members to welcome into Chalfonts u3a

David Powell, Irene Powell, Sara Nestor, Alexandra Nestor, Pearl Hirst, John Hockenhull, Clyde Perkins, Stephen Walker, and Beth Sykes have all recently joined or rejoined. It's good to see you all and hope you enjoy your various activities and events within our group.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2023-2024

The next membership year starts on the 1 April 2023 and runs through until 31 March 2024. The subscription will be £20 per person.

At the beginning of April you will be sent an email with your membership number and information on how to renew. **There is nothing for you to do until you receive these instructions**. Those not using email will receive a letter.

If you have any queries please email Maureen Green, Membership Secretary membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Still paying with cheques?

As many of you will know Nat West have recently closed their branch in Gerrards Cross. This follows the closure of the Chalfont St Peter branch of Nat West and the Lloyds branches in both towns – all within the last few years.

Our nearest branch is Beaconsfield for Nat West and Uxbridge for Lloyds. So paying in your cheques now involves a car journey and parking fees as well as the inevitable longer queues as there are fewer branches for people to use.

We have a very active u3a and the majority of you pay for membership, trips and activities directly using online or mobile banking.

This is a plea from your convenors, your Finance Officer, and Treasurer that those of you who currently use cheques switch to online or telephone banking.

It is free and simple and safe.

Please ask a family member or trusted friend to show you how to set up an account with your bank. It will make your life easier as well as ours.

Of course, while the banks still accept cheques so will we, but we would appreciate your support in reducing our workload.

A warning from one of our interest group convenors

Unfortunately we are all subject to unwanted emails. We can all have our emails hacked.

This has happened to me very recently. It is giving me lots of problems, having to update everyone with my new account. There is also a very negative side to this, people have been asked, by the hacker, to help me out by buying a gift voucher. I know that some people have thought that by doing this they were being kind, and they paid up.

PLEASE, if you are asked for money from people, check that the email was from them and that they genuinely need help. I feel we need to be constantly reminded how easy it is for the scammers out there to get hold of our personal data and misuse it for their own ends.

Monthly meeting dates for your diary:

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

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

** Please note that this talk will not be available on Zoom **

In October 2006, 2 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.

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.

News from our Interest Groups

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all our hardworking group convenors who do such an excellent job. Lesley Bedford, Interest Group Co-ordinator

New Book Club

We have had some interest in starting a third book club but could do with a few more people, if you are interested in coming along for a chat to find out more please contact me at groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Beginners' Guitar groups

Our beginners' guitar group is doing really well and the members feel that they are now more intermediate so if you are interested in a beginners group please let me know and hopefully we can get a second group off the ground. groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New groups

If anyone has an idea for a new group we would be very interested to hear more. groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Philosophy

The philosophy group has arranged the next two topics to appeal to a wider audience, so if you are even a little curious about the group these sessions would be an ideal way to find out more in a very relaxed way.

The next session, on March 16th between 14:00-16:00, will be a presentation on The Stoics, a collection of ancient Greek & Roman philosophers who advocated a way of living that would achieve happiness. There has never been a better time to learn some stoicism! No previous knowledge necessary, just sit back and sip a warm drink, while listening to the mellifluous tones of our Luke.

The following session, on April 20th between 14:00-16:00, will be a light-hearted discussion on the usefulness of philosophy in our everyday lives with a selection of snippets from everyone's favourite philosophy. Newcomers may participate in the discussion or simply watch as we tie ourselves in knots!

We have comfy chairs and DIY tea/coffee making facilities (£1 per cup) or bring your own.

We hope both sessions will be at the Epilepsy Centre, although this can only be confirmed nearer the dates.

If this sounds like it might be just the introduction you were hoping for, please contact the convenor, so that the venue can be confirmed, on: philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Old Time Music Hall Singing group

The group has still not found a replacement pianist. It will be a real loss if a group that brings such pleasure to so many has to close. Have we no one amongst our vast membership who can help? Contact Bob Leven, group convenor, to save this group.

Badminton 2 group

The Badminton 2 group is now up and running and more members would be welcomed. 9.30am every Thursday at the Chalfont Leisure Centre. Come along for a taster session! - Chris Pearcey, group convenor.

New Experiences group

In February the New Experience group members chilled out and attended a talk and demonstration of mindfulness and meditation.

In the next couple of months the group is going creative with workshops in pottery and calligraphy. We hope to partake in some more active pursuits in the spring and summer. Angela Cranston, group convenor.

Excursions group



In February we had our first excursion of 2023 for a guided tour of Harrow School to learn about their history and traditions. The tour offered us a chance to look at this world-famous public school, including its use as a location for Harry Potter films and other TV series. We were able to visit the spectacular Speech Room, the War Memorial Building, the Chapel and other equally impressive buildings.

This was followed by a truly remarkable afternoon tea in the Shepherd Churchill Dining Room. Harrow School doesn't do anything by halves and we were all suitably impressed.



Apologies to one of the groups as no photograph was taken.

The trip was repeated in early March and was equally successful.



Future excursions:

4 April 2023: Royal College Hospital (Home to the Chelsea Pensioners) and National Army Museum – more information to follow.

If you wish to join the excursions group please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Pickleball

The Pickleball group is currently full and has a waiting list. Richard Cranston, group convenor.



Coffee Morning Group

We had another successful coffee morning at the Greyhound Inn on Wednesday 22nd February with a very good turnout.

Our next coffee morning at the Greyhound will be on Thursday 23rd March, coffee and croissants are £3.50 if you are interested in coming along, please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk.

Garden Visits

The Garden Visits group had a VIP guest at their Spring Lunch this year - Gardeners' Question Time expert and regular, Christine Walkden. Christine delighted her audience with tales of her travels in South Africa, Chile and Mexico and the wonderful plants that come from these countries.





Members enjoyed a lovely lunch provided by Ann Tennant and had their first glimpse of the Garden Visits programme for 2023. Highlights include the Beth Chatto garden, Tom Stuart's garden and The Prairie Garden in Sussex.

The programme kicks off with a visit to the Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair in Cambridgeshire.

To join the group please email gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Mixed Walking Cricket group



The mixed walking cricket group celebrated their first year playing together and enjoyed a group pic and some chocolate!

Always happy for newcomers so contact Eileen Powell, convenor. mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group

Our February outing to 'Witness for the Prosecution' on 9th was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the experience of sitting in the circular court room at County Hall and watching the play.

Our next theatre visit is to 'Moulin Rouge' on 16th March, and we are all hoping for another enjoyable evening.

Thank you all for supporting us and if anyone has any suggestions for a particular show, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Look forward to seeing everyone who's coming to 'Moulin Rouge' on 16th March. Angela and Howard, group convenors.

Walking group up to 6 miles.



On Friday 24th February 29 members of the group went on a 5 mile circular route from Hurley towards Marlow and back along the Thames.

The photograph is on Temple Bridge.

The walk was followed by a pub lunch.

Nigel Trotman, group convenor

Online learning

Don't forget that your u3a activities needn't stop in the Chalfonts. There are also online learning opportunities via the national organisation, and these can be found at https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes

Other ways of keeping the brain cells busy can also be found at the same link. See Aileen's Game - a word puzzle devised by a u3a member and named in honour of his mother. It's unlike any word puzzle I've previously played so I admire anyone who can create such things. Try it out!

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

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquires about interest groups please contact
Lesley Bedford – Interest 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

BadmintonChris Pearceybadminton@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBadminton 2Chris Pearceybadminton@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBallroom DancingCarolyn Edwardsballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBirdwatchingTony Micallefbirdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBook Club 1Carol Lyonsbookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBook Club 2Marsha Partridgebookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBridge for BeginnersBob Borwickbridgeforbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.ukBridgeSue Fisherbridge@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCake DecoratingJane Douglascakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.ukChessTony Micallefchess@chalfontsu3a.org.ukComputingGary Tomlincomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCoffee MorningsChris Cotemancoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCribbageDavid Burbidgecribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCricket- Mixed WalkingEileen Powellmixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCreative WritingDavid Brodiecreativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCrochetJeanette Galletlycrochet@chafontsu3a.org.ukCryptic CrosswordsBob Levencrypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCurrent AffairsVal Hadfieldcurrentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCycling Longer RoutesDave Duckworthcyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.ukExcursions/OutingsTricia Reeve Val Smithexcursions@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@chafontsu3a.org.uk Cryptic Crosswords Bob Leven crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Current Affairs Val Hadfield currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Excursions/Outings Tricia Reeve Val Smith
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 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
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 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
Book Club 2 Marsha Partridge bookclub2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Bridge for Beginners Bob Borwick bridge@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@chafontsu3a.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
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@chafontsu3a.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
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@chafontsu3a.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
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@chafontsu3a.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
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Cricket- Mixed WalkingEileen Powellmixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCreative WritingDavid Brodiecreativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCrochetJeanette Galletlycrochet@chafontsu3a.org.ukCryptic CrosswordsBob Levencrypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCurrent AffairsVal Hadfieldcurrentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCycling Longer RoutesDave Duckworthcyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.ukExcursions/OutingsTricia Reeve Val Smithexcursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Creative WritingDavid Brodiecreativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCrochetJeanette Galletlycrochet@chafontsu3a.org.ukCryptic CrosswordsBob Levencrypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCurrent AffairsVal Hadfieldcurrentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.ukCycling Longer RoutesDave Duckworthcyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.ukExcursions/OutingsTricia Reeve Val Smithexcursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Crochet Jeanette Galletly crochet@chafontsu3a.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
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
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
Cycling Longer Routes Dave Duckworth cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Excursions/Outings Tricia Reeve val Smith cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings Tricia Reeve excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Val Smith
Val Smith
Family History Jan Sawyer familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Marguerite Fletcher
Family History2 Linda Kedge familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Sandy Oldham frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Intermediate 1
French Conversation Ray Luker frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Intermediate 3 Pat Lawson frenchintermediate3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Judy Cutter frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Advanced
Garden Visits Jane Barker gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Jacqui Greenham
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
Italian Conversation Awaiting change of italianadvconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Advanced convenor
Knitting Marsha Partridge knitting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Lawn Bowls Pam Anderson lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Mike Alderton
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 Eileen Powell newmemberscoffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mornings
Old Time Musical Hall Bob Leven musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing
Philosophy Linda Hagreen philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography Tony Darbyshire photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickleball 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	Sharon Duncan	rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Really Useful Group		
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	Lesley Bedford	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi	Lyn Tatnell	
Textiles and Craft	Teri McAvoy	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Visits	Howard Dawson	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	Angela Windsor	
Ukulele	James O'Flynn	ukelele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg Sally	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	Buckley	
Walking less than 6	Nigel Trotman	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
miles	David Cooper	
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

Chalfonts U3A general enquiries	contactus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
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