



Hello everyone ...

I hope this gets to you in time for World Chocolate Day on 7th July as it would be a shame to miss that. I note Bastille Day is on 14th but think the French may have done enough storming recently. St Swithun's* Day is, of course, on 15th so we can keep our fingers crossed and judge whether the myth that we will have similar weather for the next 40 days will be true. Opinion seems to be divided on the historical data but why let truth stand in the way of a good story?

Just a reminder to check the back two pages of this newsletter so that you can ensure you address any queries or comments to the right person.

So many people seem to be away at the moment or are busy packing for an imminent departure, so a lighter edition of the newsletter this month. Whether you're going around the world or staying close to home I hope you all have a wonderful month and I'll talk to you again next month.

Best wishes,

Val Darbyshire
Newsletter Editor

**Also known as St Swithin*

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 12th July at 2pm

A reminder to come along and support your u3a by attending our AGM on 12th July at 2pm. **To go ahead we need one tenth of our members to be present – that's 91 people.** To encourage you, we will have refreshments after the AGM and then our monthly members meeting following on at approximately 2.45pm. If you can't attend in person, please consider joining us on Zoom. We can host up to 100 people on Zoom, and you can still take part in the voting via Zoom. Zoom details will be sent out nearer the time.

All Committee members are standing again and we have one proposed change to our constitution. You will also receive our Annual report and Accounts for 2022/23.

Remember – it's your u3a - The Trustees welcome feedback from all our members at any time so if you have any thoughts or views about your u3a, please let us know.

Did you know ? (Facts about your u3a)
68% of our membership is female.

Monthly meeting dates for your diary

12 July 2023 at 2.45pm (after the AGM) – How horses can educate us

Lynn Kirby will talk to us about her experiences of using horses as a way of aiding the development of education and relationships in children, their teachers and parents. Her techniques continue to be effective in cases of social and learning difficulties.

9 August 2023 at 2pm – The John Lewis & Partners story

Peter Cox will give us an illustrated talk on this unique mutual organisation. It's "Never Knowingly Undersold" pledge, and how things worked at the largest co-operative in the UK. Bringing us up to date, as online sales have had a disruptive effect on High Street trading.

13 September 2023 at 2pm – Arranged marriage and how it works

Ramji Abinashi gave us an excellent insight into Indian Culture in May last year. Following requests to hear from him again, he will now show us the history, conventions and procedures involve in arranged marriages. We'll learn about some of the pros and cons of this tradition too!

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

News from our Interest Groups

Book Group 1

A splendid afternoon cream tea was enjoyed by 3 members of Book Group 1 at The Hearing Dogs for the Deaf Grange Restaurant at Saunderton.

Carol Lyons, convenor



Excursions Group



We were very fortunate to have a lovely day for a visit to Henley. The day was warm and sunny and allowed all of us to enjoy the trip along the Thames with an informative guide, telling us about different things as we glided past. We were treated to a delicious selection of sandwiches and cakes all laid out for us to sit down and enjoy. Afterwards there was time to wander around Henley itself and indulge in a little retail therapy. Others enjoyed a walk along the river and many an ice cream was purchased. A lovely relaxing day was had by all.

Our next visit at the beginning of July, is a day trip to the interesting town of Stratford on Avon, home of William Shakespeare. We are looking forward to a guided visit around the town, lunch, and then a trip along the Avon. We will also get to see Ann Hathaway's Cottage before returning to Chalfont St Peter.



We have a visit to Quebec House, childhood home of General Wolfe and Chartwell lined up for August. Details about this visit will be sent to members of the Excursions group shortly.

If you have any suggestions for visits that you think other members would enjoy, please contact the excursions group and we will be happy to consider them. Our email is excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

As most of you are aware this is a popular group, we try to accommodate as many members as we can on our trips, however some are limited in size by either the venue or the size of coach that can be used on the trip. We feel that having a ballot if the trip is oversubscribed is the fairest way that we can offer people places. On some occasions it is possible to organise an additional visit so that as many members as possible can go on the trips. Val Smith and Kate Trotman, convenors.

Garden Visits

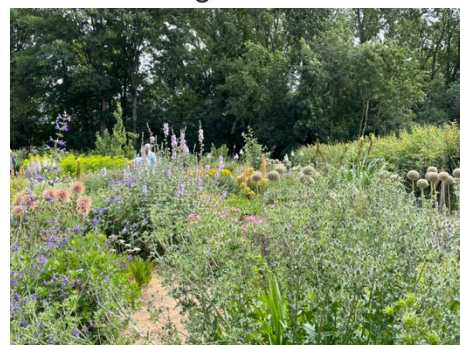


The Garden Visits Group visited The Barn, Serge Hill and The Plant Library in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire on Monday 26th June 2023.

Home to brother and sister, Kate, and Tom Stuart-Smith's family since 1924 and Tom's wife, Sue Stuart-Smith since 1987. The trio of gardens were overflowing with an abundance of greatness.

An array of perennials, unusual shrubs, trees, and

numerous research projects, the gardens are complimented by the newly created Educational Centre which will be opening soon. This new addition, will serve the local community, visiting groups and hold educational workshops. The trio of gardens are a combination of formal, informal, prairie and woodland, which made for a very interesting visit with no one area the same.

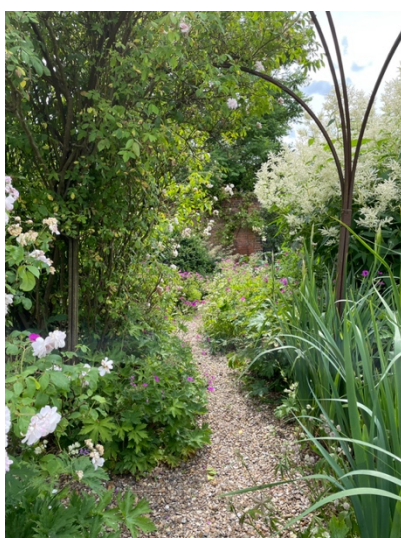


Each garden tour was informative and uplifting and there were several opportunities for Q&A throughout. The 6-acre Wild-Flower Meadow was in its full glory with amazing views across Hertfordshire Countryside. Crops were thriving and benefitting from home-made organic comfrey feed across the gardens.

Please take a deeper look and visit when you have time. One not to miss -

Serge Hill Project — Sue Stuart-Smith (suestuartsmith.com)

Jacqui Greenham, convenor



Theatre group

This month we had our theatre trip to Mrs. Doubtfire on 15th June which was a great success and an uplifting evening with everyone seeming to have had a good time and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

When we were returning to the coach one of our group unfortunately fell and two very helpful American servicemen helped her onto the coach and couldn't do enough for her - what a credit they were to their country and their training.

July is our month with no trips and the next one is on 15th August to Chichester which I am sure will be very enjoyable.

Thank you all again for your continuing support so that we can continue to run these theatre trips.
Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson - convenors

Intermediate Guitar group



Members of the group pictured at a recent meeting. Not all present due to holiday commitments. New members welcome. Next term starts on 12th July. Bob Borwick, convenor.

New Experiences group

Over 20 members of the New Experience group took part in a falconry experience in June. We learnt a lot about birds of prey and were able to hold several different birds as well as have them fly onto our outstretched arms.



Coming up in the next couple of months we have coastering, sea kayaking, mudlarking, disc golf and a 60s disco.
Angela Cranston, convenor.



Old Time Music Hall Singing

Pianissimo: whisper it quietly; there are hundreds of members in Chalfonts U3A, some of whom can play the piano. Our singing group are (some would say) a motley crew, desperately in need at least one of you pianists to spare just 2 hours, twice per month to accompany us.

We sing in Care Homes in the area. This is highly rewarding for the residents, and us, as are the tea and cakes after each show.

Fortissimo: shout it from the rooftops; if you can play the piano, (even if you are motley) we need you badly, (even if you play badly!)

PLEASE contact me at bobt@halifax99.plus.com Bob Leven, convener.

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquiries 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

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Pearcey	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
Book Club 3	Helen Hall	bookclub3@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
Cryptic Crosswords Too	Val Darbyshire	crypticcrosswordstoo@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Current Affairs	Val Hadfield	currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings	Val Smith, Kate Trotman, Sheila Tarrant	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 Kate Trotman	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar - intermediate	Bob Borwick	guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
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
Lawn Bowls	Pam Anderson Mike Alderton	lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
London Walks	John Hardwick, Caroline Ashcroft, Susan Mills	londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin, Les Klein	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences	Angela Cranston, Sharon Duncan	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	Rob Robinson	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-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	Richard Simmons, Tony Micallef	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 – both groups	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, Tina Gilvear	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	chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Eileen Powell	vicechair@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
Co-opted member	John Krushner	projects@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