



Hello everyone ...

Well St Swithun's Day was spectacular and the legend seems to be coming true this year, but better than the life-sapping heatwaves other countries are experiencing I think.

u3a goes far beyond our local group. If you turn to the last page of every newsletter you will find the penultimate line is a link to the national u3a website. I urge you to go and have a look for yourself – a veritable treasure trove of activities, events, news, ideas, online learning, zoom events, visits and workshops.

I've just found out 9th August is National Rice Pudding Day, 13th is Left Handers Day, 15th is Granny Square Day and 19th is World Photo Day. Something for everyone in there I think.

Best wishes,

Val Darbyshire
Newsletter Editor

Chalfonts u3a website

We are in the process of updating our website and really want the interest group information to be up to date so **can convenors please check and send me anything they want to add** eg. group objectives, photos, recent activities etc. Eileen Powell, vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New members

A warm welcome to our new members: Nicky Dann, Martin Josten, Pamela Maley, Des Folliard, Karen Tester, Dorothy Whitwell, Mark Whitwell, Surjit Singla, Margaret Pengelly, Joan Trott, Stanley Angel, Gail Baldwin and Carol Hoade.

Please be sure to check out the information on our website and the list on the back two pages of every newsletter.

All new members are invited to a New Members Coffee Morning. The next will be held at Gerrards Cross Community Association on East Common SL9 7AD on Thursday 17th August from 10-11 and if there are any other recent members who may have missed previous meetings and would like to join us can they please contact Eileen Powell, convenor newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

AGM

We held a successful AGM on 12 July, attended by around 100 members. The committee and officers were re-elected and a new committee member - John Krushner - was voted onto our committee. The trustees will continue to work on your behalf to ensure we remain a vibrant and successful u3a.

Did you know?

Since the start of Chalfonts u3a 2,818 Cu3a members have enjoyed 57 outings run by the Excursions Group. With an average cost per excursion of £33.60 a total of £94,825.00 has been spent.

Website

We've created a meeting schedule in the interest group section of our website. This means you can easily see which groups meet on which days. Do take a look, especially if you are a new member wondering about which groups to join. <http://www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk/>

Monthly meeting dates for your diary

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!

11 October 2023 at 2pm – The Joys and Perils of being an Author

Colin Wade talks about his career as an author, his influences and writing motivations. Colin explains some of the things that he was not expecting when it came to publishing and selling his books (the peril bit!).

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

News from our Interest Groups

Coffee mornings

Our next coffee morning at The Greyhound Inn, Chalfont St Peter will be on Wednesday 23 August at 10 am. All welcome but please let me know if you would like to attend to ensure we have sufficient croissants. Cost is £3.50. Email group coordinator on groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Tai Chi groups

We have been running two very successful Tai Chi groups for some time and are now in a position to offer a beginners class on a Friday morning at 11am for half an hour starting on the 8th September. The cost is £5 per session and this is a block of 10 sessions. If you are interested in joining please contact group coordinator at groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Spanish Beginners Group 1

The Spanish Beginners Group 1 is looking for a few new members. The group meets on Monday afternoons and all are welcome, although the knowledge of a few words and phrases of Spanish would be an advantage. Contact Ivor Spector, convenor.

Beginners Italian Group

We are in the process of setting up a Beginners Italian group and already have some keen members, if you are interested in learning Italian please contact groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

As with all our language groups the emphasis is on self learning.

Excursions Group



We had a lovely day in **Stratford upon Avon** in July. The day started with tea /coffee and pastries at the Stratford Hotel where our guides met us for a walking tour around the home of the Bard. We were taken to parts that were away from the main tourist trail and we saw some of the old buildings and interesting parts of the town that probably most visitors would not normally see. We then went our own ways for lunch and met again on the river bank for a boat trip along the River Avon. It was very peaceful and we were able to see many of the lovely gardens of the houses that overlook the river. Martin, our coach driver, then met us and took us on a detour to see Anne Hathaway's cottage from the coach. We were fortunate to have a dry day and no holdups. Another successful trip for the Excursions Group.

Our August outing is to **Quebec House and Chartwell House**. Hopefully we will again be lucky with the weather and enjoy another good day out. I am glad to report that this trip has been well supported.



Boughton House in Kettering is the destination in September. This is the home of the Montagu family since 1528. It has featured in many films including Les Miserables. A guided tour of the house has been organised followed in the afternoon by our guide escorting us on the coach around the Boughton Estate.

Further details of the excursion will be issued to the group shortly.

If you have any suggestions for further visits please contact the excursions group by emailing excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group

We had a change of plans this month as the Lyric Theatre informed us that the trip to Aspects of Love was now ending on 19th August instead of our planned trip in September. After many calls and emails we managed to fill all seats for the show and everyone headed off on 25th July to see the show. It turned out to be a fun evening and everyone seemed to enjoy the show.

Our next trip is to Cirencester to see The Sound of Music and also explore the town and am sure it will be a fun day.

Thank you everyone for being so willing to change plans and fill up empty seats so that we can continue to see these great shows.

Hoping at some point we will have a day without rain and a good rest of the summer. Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson, convenors

Garden Visits

On Thursday 27th July 2023 the Garden Visits Group embarked on an all-day visit to Colchester.

The morning was spent at **Beth Chatto's internationally renowned 7.5-acre Gardens**. During her lifetime, Beth Chatto OBE VMH won countless awards for her garden design. She exhibited and won Gold many times at one of the most well-known horticultural shows; the Chelsea Flower Show, and these gardens are her life's work in plants.



Transformed from challenging terrain into beautiful gardens that provide a living demonstration of how plants thrive when they're grown in the conditions that suit them best. With an emphasis on "Right Plant, Right Place", the Beth Chatto Gardens include a spectacular Gravel Garden which is full to the brim with healthy, vibrant, and lush plants. In addition, The Water Garden includes a series of ponds and moisture loving plants.

All plants at Beth Chatto are classified according to their growing conditions which makes shopping for something new in the Plantarea a real treat.

The afternoon was spent at **Green Island Gardens** "A little piece of Heaven - on Earth". Green Island Gardens a 20-acre private garden, was professionally designed by its owner Fiona Edmond, the land is laid out as a series of structured gardens displaying a huge range of unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, and bulbs - A Plantsman's Paradise;



One of the best gardens open to visit in Essex. Featured in Country Living February 2019, The English Garden 2022 and recommended in Great British Gardens 2019 and Essex Days Out as well as being awarded Travellers Choice on TripAdvisor 2022. As well as this, Green Island Gardens has been honoured with becoming a RHS partner garden in 2023. Both gardens were well worth a visit. Jacqui Greenham, convenor

Cryptic Crosswords

Do you like doing cryptic crosswords? Would you like to "halt the ageing process" by stimulating those brain cells and, simultaneously, have enormous fun? If so, come and join us weekly, on Zoom, from 10 am to midday every Friday. Bob Leven, the convener, is waiting to hear from you - bobt@halifax99.plus.com

Photography Group

The Photography Group met in July to discuss its future.

After some discussion it was agreed that future meeting content will be broadcast to members via social media with the WhatsApp application. It was decided that members will take it in turns each month to find a suitable location that we can go to, with a topic to cover and then share this

with the WhatsApp group. This ensures that every member has the opportunity to get involved in the organisation of the monthly meetings so that it doesn't fall on one person to come up with ideas of where to go each month.

With the exception of January 2024, the group meeting time/day will be held on the first Monday of the month from 10am to around midday, occasionally a bit longer depending on how far we intend to travel. (The first Monday in 2024 is New Year's day, hence why for this month only we will meeting on the second Monday.)

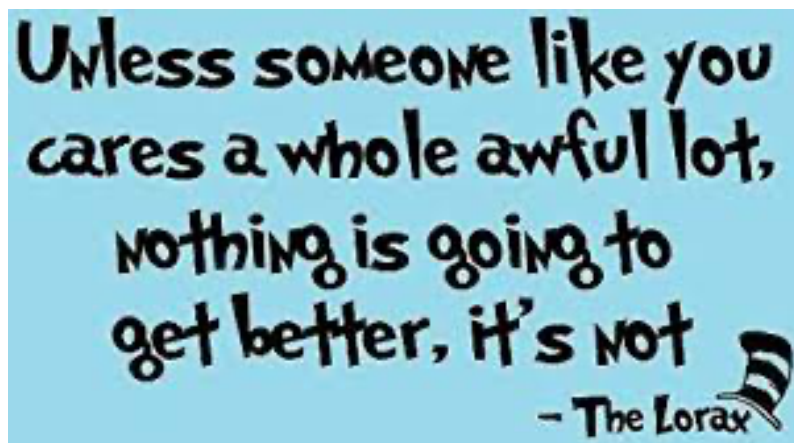
Meetings in the winter months in future, i.e. November to February, will be held in the CSP Community Centre and cover topics of interest, and to share the pictures we've taken at meetings in the past.

We welcome new members. If you wish to be part of the group contact photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk and we can add you to our list. Please supply your mobile phone number so we can add you to the group list on WhatsApp.

CSP's Community Centre

Chalfont St Peter's community centre has had a rough few years, with Covid making life more complicated and our plans to re-develop the centre not making much significant progress. Having said that, we have a strong base of loyal supporters, and a committed office team who work closely with our chairman, (David Burbidge), our vice chair (Karen Dickson), and our treasurer (Antony Micallef).

Looking forward, we are keen to introduce fresh ideas and new energy on to our community centre leadership team. We would very much like to welcome new trustees to our management team, and new members to join our Re-development Committee. Neither positions will require an onerous commitment, but they will allow new members to play a valuable role in keeping our community centre moving forward.



If you are interested in learning more about either of these positions, please make contact with David Burbidge (01494 873590), or Tony Micallef at 07876591995.

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 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
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