

Welcome to the April Newsletter.

Now that the clocks have gone forward, we can start to enjoy some lighter evenings, and possibly even less rain too. We may even get to a point where we no longer have tankers blocking the road and sewage in our streams (or is that too much to hope for?)

This month's newsletter has a lot of news and reports. I hope that you will find something of interest.

David Powell, [newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



## New members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Susan Moffatt, Linda Cameron, Sheila Rippon and Graham Rippon

## Committee News

### Membership Renewals

Your Chalfonts u3a annual membership subscription is now due for renewal.

I am very pleased to report that we have been able to keep the membership subscription to £20.00 for the 2024/25 membership year. You will have received a communication directly from Maureen Green, our membership secretary informing you of how to renew your membership.

Please follow these instructions carefully - this will really help us with the busy renewal period. We hope you will renew, but please let us know if you no longer wish to continue your membership.

Jane Barker, Chair

### Gerrards Cross Community Association Events Day

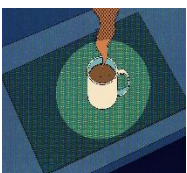
Gerrards Cross Community Association hosted an Events Day to promote all their groups on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jane Barker and Eileen Powell had a table showing off Chalfonts u3a . There was a steady stream of people throughout the day and they were updated on our many interest groups, so some new members will be signing up!

Eileen Powell [vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



### New Members Coffee Mornings



On Wednesday March 27th we held another successful New Members' Coffee Morning and, as always, it was good to meet new members and to inform them about our activities. April date will be sent out once the cafe has been booked.

Eileen Powell [newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Do you like Wagner ?

One of our U3A members, who put together the Bayreuth videos for the Complete Wagner Edition during his time at PolyGram Classics, has volunteered to hold sessions in his home for small groups, using a large screen and 5.1 surround sound from DVDs and Blu-ray video discs and unmatched sound from his incredible ATC speakers. Not everything will necessarily be from the Bayreuth Festival - there will likely be examples from others of the world's great theatres. The hope is that people who think they dislike Wagner may be surprised to learn why this composer fills theatres faster than any other and would like to discover more. If you are interested in such a voyage of discovery please contact [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) and we will send you more information and an opportunity to liaise directly with the organiser.

## Italian

We have a few people interested in 'beginners Italian' but need a few more to get a Group off the ground. If you are interested please contact [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## A reminder, just in case..

All members are reminded that they should carry with them their emergency contact details, either on their phone or on a piece of paper in their bag/pocket.

## Chalfonts U3A Monthly meetings:



### **10 April 2024 at 2pm – Grandma flew Spitfires!**

Richard Poad will talk to us about the forgotten World War 2 story of Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and the men and women of its multi-national pilot workforce, who provided the RAF with a non-stop supply of serviceable aircraft throughout the war.

### **8 May 2024 at 2pm – Dementia Friends presentation** (meeting not available on Zoom)

Rachel Phillips from the Alzheimer's Society will speak to us about Dementia, looking into how dementia affects a person and turning this understanding into action.

### **12 June 2024 at 2pm – Thames Valley Air Ambulance**

Aimee Lewis will talk to us about the work of our local Air Ambulance – how they are helping to save lives in emergency situations, including a look at their crews, the helicopter and critical care response teams.

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

## News from our Interest Groups

### Science Group

The Science Group has recently been relaunched and now encompasses Earth Science (including Geology/ Fossils /Volcanoes etc), Space Science (including Astronomy, Planetary Science, Space Exploration etc) and Nature/Natural Science. If you are interested in any of these and would like to join the group please contact the group's co-convenors Karen-Anne Devoil and Tony Micallef by emailing [science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



The group held a science quiz social event this week, which was very well-attended. Well done to team 'Meteor' who won the quiz and received goody bags with an Easter chocolate treat and some outreach materials provided by the European Space Agency. Thanks to everyone who came along and took part!



After Easter, the group plans to hold regular monthly meetings on the first Friday of the month at the CSP CC, plus ad hoc science-related outings - to be confirmed.

### History Group

The History Group meets once a month on the second Thursday from 2 - 4 pm at Chalfont Community Centre. We discuss a range of subjects, as decided by the group. These have included Monarchs, Prime Ministers, Explorers, Inventors, Assassinations and the Industrial Revolution.

In April we are discussing the Russian Revolution. Everyone does some research into a particular aspect of the subject, followed by a discussion. It is not necessary to do research every month. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the convenor, Trish Hart [history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### Guitar Group

Have you got an old guitar at home that you thought you would try to learn one day? If not, had you always thought to buy one and give it a try?

Would you like to learn the basics?

We have a Beginners guitar group looking for new members from April onwards.

We have a tutor and currently meet at member's houses. Contact Clyde Perkins [guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Garden Visits

Our garden visits group had a lovely return visit to the Daffodil and Country Fair at Thriplow in Cambridgeshire in March. Although we set off in the cold and wet, the rain stopped as we arrived and the rest of the day was largely dry .

Alongside the daffodils, members enjoyed visiting the beautiful historic Church, wandering round the stalls, buying plants and watching live music and Morris dancers.

To join our group please email [gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)



## Really Useful Group

RUG ( The really useful group) is a group of people who set up all of the technical equipment and set out the chairs and equipment in the hall for the monthly meetings.

The people who sign in members, welcome new members and introduce them to others, ensuring that they feel welcome. They assist those with poor mobility, visual and aural impairment to suitable seating and are always on hand to tackle any mishaps. Last but definitely not least they provide and serve refreshments.

Any new members wishing to join us in this group will be very welcome.  
Contact Sharon Duncan [rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Spanish Conversation

The group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 3.30pm in the Chalfont Community centre.

We are of varied backgrounds and fluency in Spanish and get together to have an hour or so of chat and discussion that gives us a chance to practice and keep our Spanish up to date. There is room for more members if anyone would like to join or try it out.

David Hillis [spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Pickleball 2 Group

I am pleased to announce that the new Pickleball 2 group will commence on Tuesday 14th May at 11 – 12p.m. at the Chalfont Leisure Centre. I will be contacting all those who have confirmed their interest in this session.

There is currently a waiting list for the Pickleball 1 group which meets on Tuesdays at 1.30 - 2.30pm. If you are available to play at the 11 - 12p.m. session and would like to switch to the earlier session, you are more likely to get to play sooner.

I will be contacting all those on the PB2 list with join up information in due course. For those wishing to switch to PB2 group waiting list, please get in touch with me, Diane Eaton, PB2 Convenor at [pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) by Friday 12 April.

## New Experiences Group

A group of members from the new experience group attended a Zumba class on 12th March. We had a great workout with our instructor Dorina.

We enjoyed it so much we are starting a regular group on Tuesday 7th May.

This new group is now full and we have a waiting list of 7 people who would like a group on a different day.

If any members are interested please email the Zumba gold group convenors: Sharon Duncan or Jane Barker [newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk](mailto:newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk).



## Zumba Gold

Following the success of the New Experiences event, a Zumba gold group has been set up. Due to the level of interest we are looking to set up a second Zumba gold group.

Please email [zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) if you would like to join.

## Excursions Group

### Heritage Canal trips



This morning excursion has it all!

The experience starts at the Rickmansworth Canal Centre with coffee, tea and biscuits, then a short talk about the history of the Roger Canal boat, the building of canals, working barges and their families, a viewing of the Boatman's cabin and engine room and a tour of the canal side buildings. Then on board for a two hour round trip north through Batchworth Lock towards Croxley arriving back at Rickmansworth around lunchtime.



The cost is £25.00 per person which includes the refreshments on arrival and the services of a team of six knowledgeable volunteers with qualified skipper - Cu3a member Bob Patey.

The trips will be running Monday 29 April, Tuesday 28 May, Thursday 13 June, and Monday 29 July and there are 12 places per trip.

If you'd like to come along please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) and state which date/s would suit you best.

Future trips include:

- Tulip Festival at Pashley Manor with steam train ride and cream tea 24 April (fully booked)
- A day out in Cambridge 21 May
- Chatham Dockyard with Ropery and Call the Midwife tours Monday 17 June
- A private visit to Stratfield Saye, Home of the Duke of Wellington Tuesday 23 July.
- Plus, if the weather is good in the Summer a day at the coast.

Please do email us with any suggestions you may have.

To belong to the excursions group and find out more just contact Val and Kate on [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Photography Group

Photography is usually something everyone has already tried. Whether you have a camera or a smart phone we are all photographers now.

If you carry with you a smart phone then you have a camera always ready to use as modern smart phones are excellent for capturing the scene.

Your smart phone may have features that you haven't yet discovered.

The photography group is part experiences, part outings and part educational, but always encouraging and maybe even inspiring.

13th May Monday meeting - Camera and Smartphone SAFARI - Meet at 9.45am Colne Valley Park with coffee to follow in the café.

The challenge is stop looking and start seeing. - Come and join us, email [photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk).

## Theatre Visits

In March we went to see Cabaret and despite having a bit of a problem with the late arrival of a coach but it all worked out fine.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and we arrived back safely to Chalfont St Peter.

Our next outing is to Cabaret and we hope it will be a fun filled evening.

Thank you all for your support and look forward to seeing you on one of our theatre trips.

Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson [theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

Please note we will be having a further coffee morning at The Greyhound at 10 am on Friday 12th April, all welcome but please let us know you are coming so we can ensure we have enough coffee and croissants. Please contact [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Regional u3a Zoom events:

Details at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>

### **Wednesday 10th April at 2.30pm – North Sea Oil Operations**

A talk by Ted Peycke Supporting the North Sea Oil Fields by helicopter

Please note applications for this event will not be accepted after Sunday 7th April

### **Tuesday 23rd April at 2.30pm – Bordering on Insanity.**

A talk by Timothy Walker. Creating an all year round border in your garden.

### **Wednesday 15th May at 2.30pm – Doctors to the Rescue**

A talk to be given by a member of Medecins Sans Frontieres

### **Monday 10th June at 2.30pm – The Korean War**

A talk by Chris Parry about the Korean war.

To receive notification of forthcoming TVN events as soon as they are published, please email [events\\_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

### Did you know?

As well as the 70 Interest groups that we have in our own Chalfonts u3a, there are many more that are available to us online?

Interest Groups Online (abbreviated as IGO) is an online u3a community that gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of your home.

Like with a u3a, the activities are run by members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement.

It costs £12 annually to join, and there's 140 groups to choose from!

Details: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online/interest-groups-online-groups>



### 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 further details. [www.rivieratravel.co.uk](http://www.rivieratravel.co.uk)



### Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

For general enquiries about interest groups please contact Lesley Bedford – Interest Groups Co-ordinator - [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. You can find a list of all our Interest Groups here:

<https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/interest-groups/>

### \*\*\*\* Special note for members without email \*\*\*\*

If you have queries about any of the interest groups, please contact Eileen Powell, Vice Chair, on 07791 210087 who will be pleased to help you.