

Welcome to the September Newsletter.

According to the Met Office, Autumn started on 1st September - it seems like this summer has gone in a flash. Still, we have until Saturday 23rd September for the equinox to mean that the nights begin to get longer than the days. Let us all hope for an Indian Summer!

There is usually less news to report in the September edition as people have been away on holiday or looking after grand-children. Not so here – we have a full edition with lots of updates and news of coming events.

Finally, please read the important notice from our committee about next year's payments on the next page.

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

This month we welcome our other two new committee members, Lyn and Les.

Lyn Cameron - Interest Group Co-ordinator



I initially joined Chalfonts u3a two years ago to become a member of the mahjong group, having recently learnt how to play.

Since then, I have joined many other groups which I really enjoy.

I think we are very lucky to have such a lively and varied choice of well attended interest groups.

I look forward to being part of the committee as groups coordinator, and also to meeting members along the way.

Les Klein - Webmaster



My wife and I moved to CSP in 1985 and I retired at the end of 2021 joining the U3A in 2022.

I spent all of my working life in IT, mostly in software engineering, and I am a bit of a technology geek.

I help out as joint convener with Gary Tomlin on the MacOS Computing Group and when Gary's term as Webmaster on the u3a committee came to an end he asked me if I would like to take over and he's been great at helping to ease me into that role.

I'm looking forward to my tenure as Webmaster supporting the Chalfonts u3a.

Payments to Chalfonts u3a from 1st January 2025

As the result of continued closures of local banks, from 1 January 2025 we will no longer accept cheque or cash payments.

This applies to all trips, group activities and membership payments.

We will continue to accept payments through online banking and telephone banking.

For those of you not currently using online or telephone banking your bank will be able to assist you in how to use these and other payment methods and will be able to help you find the best way to pay.

This will mean no change for over 90% of our members.

Membership card update

In August we held a very successful drop in session for members to collect their new membership cards at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Many thanks to all of you who came along to collect your cards and those for your friends and neighbours.

Please remember to complete your emergency contact details on the back of the card and bring them with you to any u3a events you attend.

New Members' Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 19 September at 2.30pm in the cafe at The Gerrards Cross Community Association, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD. New members will be emailed with full details.

Any new member who couldn't make a previous meeting is very welcome to come along. Just email newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk to let us know.

Val Smith & Eileen Powell - Joint convenors of the group

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

11 September 2024 at 2pm – The Falklands Conflict: a first-hand perspective



You may remember that Jim Ellis talked to us about memory in November last year.

He is coming again to see us, to talk about the Falklands conflict. He'll recall some of the key events amidst the wind, rain, mud and cold of a Falklands winter.

Jim's career began in the RAF, progressing from radar and guided missile technician, to instructor and maintenance team leader.

Jim reflects on the Falklands conflict, 40+ years on. He'll recap some of the key events before describing his own involvement in support of the RAF Harriers. This began with missing the QE2 and sailing down in something a little less glamorous.

He describes that voyage and his experiences afterwards amidst the wind, rain, mud and cold of a Falklands winter. He then contrasts this with a return trip three years later as part of the move from Stanley airfield to the new RAF Mount Pleasant airbase.

For members unable to attend, a zoom invitation will be sent 48 hours in advance; log in will be from 1.45pm.

9 October 2024 at 2pm – Winter visitors

Redwings, Fieldfares and Whooper Swans are among the many birds that call Britain home in the Winter, arriving from further North to enjoy our milder weather.

Ailsa Claybourne will talk about many of our visiting birds, and explain how to identify Winter migrants in your garden and local area.

13 November 2024 at 2pm – Sing with Mandy - an afternoon of folk songs

Get ready for a pre-Christmas singsong!

Amanda Shora will come to play and sing some folk songs, and we'll have some audience participation of well-known folk songs (very popular!).

Amanda will bring us some anecdotes and a bit of history of the songs too.

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

News from our Interest Groups

Pickleball

Our lovely PB2 group is now established and we are continuing to play on Tuesdays at the Chalfont Leisure Centre up until the end of September when walking cricket will return to indoor play. We are in negotiations to find another weekday slot at the same venue if possible.

If you are interested in playing in the autumn, contact Diane at pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Tai Chi Group



During our summer break, some of the Tia Chi group members, have been meeting on Gerrards Cross Common to practise our skills. taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Short Mat Bowls

We have a couple of places available to play short mat bowls on Friday afternoon if anyone would like to come and give it a try. We are a very relaxed group and enjoy a sociable afternoon of fun whilst bowling competitively.

We have bowls to borrow and I can coach learners to play the game.

We meet at about 1.45pm to start at 2.00 and play until 4.00pm

If you think you would like to give it a try just turn up at the Community Centre, Gravel Hill in the main hall at 1.45pm or email me through the u3a website

Sheila Woolgar sheila.woolgar@btinternet.com

Lawn Bowls

We have one more week of lawn bowls on the 3rd September it has been a frustrating season where we had to cancel so many weeks because of rain, but people still turned up wanting to play

Mike Alderton lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Group



On 13th August a hundred members went to Chichester for a day out and to see 'Oliver!' at the theatre.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyable and everyone seemed to appreciate both the theatre and having time to explore the town.

On 2nd and 12th September we are going to see 'Hello Dolly' in London and this should prove to be another great evening.

Thank you all for your support which makes the organisation all worthwhile.

Hopefully we will see lots of you on the remaining trips this year.

Angela Windsor and Howard Dawson - convenors theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Textiles & Crafts Group



At our August monthly gathering Sandra Dawson led a workshop on how to create Dorset buttons, a very old craft originating in Dorset which predates machine made buttons. Here are photos of some of our fantastic creations and the fun filled work in progress.

On Thursday 10th October we are going to the Knitting & Stitching Show

at Alexandra Palace. The minibus leaves CSP at 9am and returns by 5pm. The cost is £40 to include reduced group price admission, and coach costs. We have 3 spaces available.

Please email textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk if you are interested in coming along.

New Experiences Group

Are any members interested in learning croquet?

We are trying to start a new group and need a regular 4-8 players. The cost is £10 per session. Day to be discussed.

If anyone would like a taster session before signing up the cost is the same. Please let me know.

Sharon Duncan newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk.

Zumba Gold

Our second term of Zumba Gold is in full swing . It's been great fun trying out the dance moves to some super music with our tutor Dorina. There is a charge for these classes, as we have a tutor.

Term dates - Tuesday 24th September and Tuesday 1st October, 10.30 am for 45 minutes at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre.

Term 3 - dates to be decided

If you would like to join us for the final two weeks, or for the next term please email Jane Barker - zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk .

Science: Earth and Space



The Science: Earth and Space group's August meeting featured a fascinating talk on the factors contributing to healthy old age by Prof DA Brodie, Emeritus Professor of Cardiovascular Health.



For our next meeting on Friday 6th September we will be welcoming Dr Christine Sutton, who will be talking about the basic particles that are the ingredients of our Universe, as well as her work at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN and as a journalist at New Scientist magazine.

This will take place as usual in the Mary Smithells room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 3pm.



In the following meeting on October 6th we will be exploring the science and mythology of the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis), as well as getting some practical tips for seeing and photographing the northern lights from a professional astrophotographer and science communicator.

If you are not already a member of the group and would like to attend future meetings please email the co-convenors Karen-Anne Devoil and Tony Micallef science@chalfontsU3a.org.uk

Mixed Walking Cricket Group

We enjoy our weekly get together from May through till the end of September at Chalfont St Peter Cricket Club before moving indoors to Chalfont Leisure Centre. We spend our time together practising in the nets and having a game followed by coffee in the clubhouse.

We have also been known to occasionally have cake!!

We enjoyed our recent match against Holyport and really appreciated the support from u3a members.



So how did we do? We were playing a team that is in a league so get a lot of match practice. Even though we didn't quite make their total they were very impressed with our hospitality! They have asked for a rematch later in the year.

Please contact Eileen Powell convenor if interested in joining us mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Birdwatching Group

Some members of the birdwatching group headed off to Norfolk for a 3 day trip at the beginning of July and we were treated to a feast of birdwatching highlights spotting around 100 birds with some very special visitors and we also enjoyed some lovely food in our bed and breakfast hosted by Mary and Tim.

Our guide Chris picked us up each morning at 8.15 and off we went, stopping here and there as he spotted different birds in the distance, though often they would have disappeared by the time we were all in place with our binoculars!



There were several highlights for us and the first evening as we went out for a walk from the bed and breakfast where we were staying we were so happy to see a barn owl circling above us and you can see the photo here.

We visited forests, heard cuckoos, saw a beautiful turtle dove sitting on a wire and then went off to see waders of which there were too many to mention. The coastline around Cley and Wells Next the Sea offers so much and each evening over a glass of wine we enjoyed trying to remember what we had seen so we could record it! - birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Regional u3a Zoom events:

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

Wednesday 11th September – Two Neils at 10.30

A presentation by Clive Aronson playing the music of Neil Diamond and Neil Sedaka

Monday 23rd September – A virtual tour of the CERN Facility at 10.30

A Virtual Tour of CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) will be shown on Monday 23rd September at 10.30a.m.

2 CERN colleagues will show us the workings of this famous laboratory, home of the large Hadron Collider. This presentation is perfectly suitable for both scientist and non- scientists.

The fee for this event is £2.00 per device - bookings can be made through our website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Saturday 21st September.

Monday 7th October The American Presidential Election at 10:30

Those of you who are regular attendees at our events will remember our presenter, Mark Lovett, for his several excellent presentations on both American and British political leaders. This one may be even more of a challenge given the events in the USA so far this year.

For details of future TVN events, send your name and email address to 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.

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>



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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 the advertisement in Third Age Matters magazine for further details. www.rivieratravel.co.uk



Chalfonts u3a Directory of Interest Groups

Lyn Cameron, Groups Coordinator - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Telephone: 07503 481537

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 on the next pages or here:

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

Chalfonts U3A Directory of Interest Groups

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Percy	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Laura Fordrey	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	Sue Williams	bookclub3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bridge	Sue Fisher	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cake Decorating	Awaiting new convener	cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Gary Tomlin	computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Coffee Mornings	Lesley Bedford 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	Bob Leven	currentaffairs@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions/Outings	Val Smith Kate Trotman	excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History	Jan Sawyer Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History2	Linda Kedge	familyhistory2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Flower Arranging	Awaiting new convener	flowerarranging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Conversation Advanced	Heather Glasgow	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Jane Barker Kate Trotman	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar	Clyde Perkins	guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
History	Trish Hart	history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
iPad User Group	Joan Welch	ipad@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Margaret Turner/Les Klein	italianbeginners@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners Plus	Lesley Bedford	italianbeginnersplus@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Lawn Bowls	Mike Alderton	lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
London Walks	John Hardwick Caroline Ashcroft Susan Mills	londonwalks@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
MacOS Computing	Gary Tomlin and Les Klein	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mah-jong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mindfulness	Ruth Ryan Olwyn Davison Oakley	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences	Angela Cranston Sharon Duncan	newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Member Coffee Mornings	Val Smith/Eileen Powell	NewMembersCoffeeMorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Old Time Musical Hall Singing	Bob Leven	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Rob Robinson	philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography	Vince Barker	photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickle Ball	Richard Cranston	pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickle Ball 2	Diane Eaton	Pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Pilates all groups	Lesley Bedford	pilates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Poetry & Literature	David Burbidge	poetry&literature@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	Karen-Anne Devoil 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	David Hillis	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Beginners 2	Peter Shaw	spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Improvers 1	Margaret Burbidge	spanishimprovers1@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 All Groups	Lesley Bedford Lyn Tatnell	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Textiles and Craft	Paula Walker Sandra Dawson	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Visits	Howard Dawson	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ukulele	James O’Flynn	ukelele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wagner Group	John Deacon	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking 6 – 10 miles	Marion Clegg Sally Buckley	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking less than 6 miles	Frances Byrne	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking Strollers	Kate Trotman	strollers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Weekend Group	Sue Fisher	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
Zumba	Sharon Duncan/Jane Barker	zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Committee

Chair	John Krushner	chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Val Smith	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	Lyn Cameron	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Maureen Green	membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Newsletter & Publicity	David Powell	newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Speaker	Geoff Clegg	speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Venue Co-ordinator	Lesley Bedford	venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	Les Klein	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