

Welcome to the October Newsletter.



Just when we thought that the water had gone, down came the rain, back came the tankers and we seem to be back to square one.

Still, the shops are still open, and the tankers are draining the water. Let us just hope that the weather improves.

In the meantime, our u3a provides us with many opportunities for things to do – many of them in the dry!

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Sad News

Some u3a members will have already heard that Gary Tomlin, our previous Webmaster, died peacefully in the early hours of the 18th September at the Thames Valley Hospice. He had been suffering from cancer.

Those that were fortunate enough to know Gary will know how valued he was and how nothing was too much trouble for him, always volunteering to help anyone who needed any IT issue resolved.

He will be sadly missed by both the u3a committee and the wider community as a kind, friendly and caring person. Our thoughts go out to his wife Debbie.

New Members' Coffee Morning



The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th November at 10.30am in the cafe at The Gerrards Cross Community Association, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD.

Nearer the date 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 turn up!

Val Smith & Eileen Powell, Joint convenors of the group

newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:



Fieldfare



Redwing



Waxwing

9 October 2024 at 2pm – Winter visitors – birds to spot locally

Think of migration and you might picture birds heading south for the winter. However, did you know that the UK also attracts several species during our colder months?



Some years can be better than others, but it's thought that when trees and hedgerows have poor fruiting years in Scandinavia and other parts of continental Europe, migrant winter birds are more likely to arrive here in numbers. They come in search of a meal and more forgiving weather conditions, and, if the wind direction is favourable, they can arrive in their thousands.

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 Claybourn will cover many of our visiting birds, and how to identify Winter migrants in your garden and local area.

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

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 in well-known folk songs (very popular!). Amanda will bring us some anecdotes and a bit of history of the songs too.

11 December 2024 at 2pm – A Victorian Christmas

Our very own author, Denise Beddows has been researching how Christmas was celebrated in Victorian times.

She will be looking at traditional foods, decorations, parlour games and other celebrations, plus how the German traditions gradually took over (influenced by Prince Albert). We'll have mulled wine and mince pies to celebrate our Christmas meeting too!

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

News from our Interest Groups

New Experiences Group



The New Experience Group decided to learn to belly dance last month.

It turned out to be harder than it looks and big bellies did not turn out to be an advantage!

However, we had great fun trying.



Angela Cranston newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk.

Coffee Morning Group

Due to the current closure of the Greyhound Pub we are investigating another venue for coffee and will let the group know as soon as we arrange time and venue.

Chris Coteman coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions Group

Waverley Paddle Steamer trip



Our 30th September cruise, "Twinkling Thames & Floodlit Tower Bridge", went ahead (92 of us went). It was a great experience, although a little windy! It was really interesting to be taken down the Estuary, past Gravesend and the docks, under the QE2 bridge and finally finish the sailing at Tower Pier as Tower Bridge opened for us.

Unfortunately our 29 September trip had to be cancelled due to technical problems with the Steamer. Full refunds will be given. We did manage to obtain tickets for another date. However, as the uptake for this alternative day was low, making the trip not financially viable. We were unable to put this out to the wider membership as the timing was too short. We would have found ourselves subject to cancellation charges from the coach company and Waverley would have been unable to reserve the tickets.



BMW-Oxford – 18 November

Places have been allocated for this trip. If you wish to have your name added to the waiting list please let us know.



Rochester Dickensian Festival – Sunday 8 December

We have booked to go to this Festival. Full details will be sent out in due course.



Albert Hall Carol Concert – 23 December

Tickets allocated. Please email if you wish to be added to the waiting list.

Kate Trotman/Val Smith excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Theatre Trips



This month there were two trips to see 'Hello Dolly'. Both trips were enjoyed by everyone and the show had rave reviews. The round trip for both events was uneventful and helped complete a great evening.

In October we don't have any trips planned, but we have an outing on the 5th November to 'The Devil Wears Prada'. More details about this trip will be sent out nearer the time.

Thank you all for your support which makes the organisation all worthwhile and allows everyone to have an enjoyable evening.

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

Poetry and Literature Group

The group meets on the first Thursday of the month in members' homes.

Each month we select a subject or Poet(s) and each choose one or two poems relating to that subject or poet. We then read and discuss the poems we have chosen. Usually there is a musical interlude where one or two of the chosen poems are set to music.

The following is a poem that was chosen last month.

Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven

*Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet:
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.*

W B Yeats

If you would like any further information about the group please ring David Burbidge on 01494 873590 or email poetry&literature@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Pickle Ball Group

A Pickleball group for beginners and improvers is welcoming new members from October onwards.

The sessions take place at Chalfont Leisure Centre on Tuesdays from 11 – 12pm. We can provide bats for those who would like to participate.

Please contact Diane at pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk to arrange a free trial session.

Garden Visits Group

John Bunyan Boat Trip and Kathy Brown's Garden

The Garden Visits Group had a lovely trip on the John Bunyan Boat which cruises along the River Ouze.

Despite the rain we encountered while we were on the coach, the weather was kind to us and allowed us to enjoy the scenery and the wild life.

Along the way we had a fish and chip lunch which was very nice especially for a group. We were all well looked after by the crew who could not do enough for us. We had a running commentary which made it interesting.

Martin, our driver, waited patiently for us until we had disembarked, and then drove us over to Stevington to visit Kathy Brown's Garden.

We were welcomed in the village by Mr and Mrs Brown who escorted us to their amazing garden.



We split off into two groups and they both gave us a very interesting talk on how, why and where the garden has been transformed, the plants they have used and what was the inspiration for it.

We were all made extremely welcome and they went out of their way to make it a wonderful afternoon.



To crown it off we had a delicious afternoon tea with home-made cake, baked by Kathy herself.

At the end of the visit, Kathy took the time and trouble to come on the coach to thank us for coming. It was such a lovely place to go, that I know several members are already planning to return to visit the garden in another season.

Kate Trotman gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Philosophy Group



Hi everyone. My name is Luke S. Degan and I've just taken over the reins as convener from Rob Robinson who has done a sterling job.

I've been a participant of this group for the past couple of years. I joined specifically to engage in philosophy discussion with likeminded individuals and can honestly say that I've thoroughly enjoyed the range of topics and the interaction with group members.

You'd be forgiven for asking 'Why philosophy?'. It's easy to think philosophy is some highbrow intellectual subject that's best left to Oxbridge types. In my experience, it's simply not the case!

Personally, I hate reinventing the wheel. In the spirit of u3a, it's about lifelong learning. It's clear that we retired folk might feel exasperated by today's changing world, of technological, social and political factors, but we needn't be overwhelmed. Unsurprisingly, it's all been done before.



Wise men and women throughout the ages have studied the human psyche, to determine how as individuals we might navigate the society in which we exist. This has involved an exploration of moral, ethical dilemmas and mindsets that drive behavior, both of ourselves and of others.

One example is the myth of control. As much as we might consider ourselves to be in control of life, the reality is that there's very little we do in fact control, except our own responses to the world. We all see courses offered on a variety of trending matters like mindfulness, anger management, leadership and so on. These all stem from philosophical underpinnings.

The Chalfonts u3a philosophy group explores multiple branches of philosophy, including the people who came up with original thinking and we consider the relevance of these at the personal and societal levels. Believe me, the debate can get pretty lively and entertaining at times. If you'd love to keep those grey cells active, I wholeheartedly recommend taking part in our proceedings.

Why not come along to one of our monthly sessions and meet current members to see how it works? No prior knowledge or qualifications needed, simply an enquiring mind.

Our next meeting is at 2.00pm, 17th October, at The Epilepsy Centre Cafe, Chesham Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 0RJ. We'd love to see you there.

For more details, contact: Luke S Degan philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science: Earth and Space



The Science group had our biggest attendance yet for the talk and Q&A with Dr. Christine Sutton – 'CERN at 70: Adventures in Distance, Time and Energy'.

It was a fascinating talk and we had lots of great questions. Thanks to all who came along.



Our next meeting takes place on 4th October, when we will be treated to a talk titled 'Chasing the Northern Lights', exploring the science and mythology of the Aurora Borealis. This will include tips on how to image the northern lights. It will take place as usual in the Mary Smithells room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 3pm.



For the following meeting on Friday 1st November we have a speaker from the local Astronomy Society (WOLAS) who will be giving a talk on the Science of Colour which will include his experiences viewing the recent total eclipse in America.

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 on science@chalfontsU3a.org.uk

Payments to Chalfonts u3a from 1st January 2025

This is a repeat of last month's notice about payments to Chalfonts u3a:

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 using 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.



Regional u3a Zoom events:

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

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.

Deadline for Bookings: Friday 4th October

Thursday 21st November – From Tudor to Stuart. A talk by Sue Doran at 10:30

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 are 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 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

For general enquires about interest groups please contact
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

INTEREST GROUP	CONVENOR	EMAIL
Badminton	Chris Pearcy	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Christine Hardwick	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 Geoff Glover	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cake Decorating	Awaiting new convener	cakedecorating@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Les Klein	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 convenor	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	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	Sharon Duncan Richard Campbell	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Philosophy	Rob Robinson Luke Degan	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
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	Chalfonts U3A website	www.chalfontsu3a.org.uk
	U3A National website	www.u3a.org.uk
	Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk