

Welcome to the November Newsletter.



Well, the weather seems to have improved, but the clocks have gone back and the days seem so short (Spring forward, Fall back).



After the fireworks we will be looking forward to a sing-along

with Mandy, and then we will all be thinking about preparations for Christmas (see page 3 for news about the sing-along in November and our December meeting with Denise Beddows talking about how Christmas was celebrated in Victorian times).

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Your u3a needs you

If you consider yourself to be a bit of a computer and/or audio-visual technology enthusiast, how about joining the RUTT Interest Group (**R**eally **U**seful **T**echnical **T**eam)?



We are a bunch of folks who can help out with the technologies used to support Chalfonts u3a interest groups and the monthly meetings whenever the usual people are not available and we can certainly benefit by having more members.

As long as you are comfortable using Windows 10 or 11, familiar with Microsoft PowerPoint and know how to start a Zoom video call then we would really like to hear from you. Whether you have these skills or any other IT technical skills then we would still like to hear from you.

If the above is not you but you have experience of using public address (PA) or audio-visual equipment then, again, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to join us or would like more information then please contact Les Klein: rutt@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Payments to Chalfonts u3a from 1st January 2025

This is an update about payments to Chalfonts u3a with some additional information.

As a result of continued closure of local banks, from 1st January it is necessary for us to change how Chalfonts u3a will accept payments for trips, group activities and membership.

Payments will be accepted in the following ways:

- On-line banking
- Telephone banking
- Debit card payments made by you at your bank using the reference supplied by your convenor.
- Cheques deposited into the bank by you using the paying in envelope provided by the bank. Please provide a copy of your receipt to the convenor who is expecting your payment clearly writing your full name on the receipt.
- Cheques deposited via the Post Office by you using the paying in envelope provided by the Post Office. Please provide a copy of your receipt to the convenor who is expecting your payment clearly writing your full name on the receipt.

Your bank or the Post Office will be able to assist you in using these and other payment methods and will be able to help you find the best way for you to pay.

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

Christine Hillis has kindly offered to assist anyone who needs help adapting to this new process, she can be contacted on financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

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 with a wide selection from light-hearted to melancholic, including sea shanties.

Amanda has played at many folk clubs and venues around the Home Counties. She has a wide repertoire as a folk singer and she will entertain us with anecdotes as well as explaining the history of some of our folk songs.

We'll get the opportunity to join in with some of the more well-known songs too!

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

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, as well as 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!



A special note about our December monthly meeting.

- ✓ We expect to have a bumper turnout – seeing friends at Christmas, mince pies, mulled wine and our special speaker of course!
- ✓ Our Community Centre hall has a maximum of 180 people, so we'll run the meeting on a "first come; first served" basis.
- ✓ Doors open at 1.15pm with a welcoming glass of mulled wine.
- ✓ When we get to 180 people, we'll have to close the doors!
- ✓ Free tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies after the meeting too!
- ✓ We look forward to seeing you!

8 January 2024 at 2pm – Grandfather's Somme experience

Tony Ferguson recalls the life of his Grandfather Andy Symington. Volunteering to join the Irish Fusiliers, he went on to participate in the Battle of The Somme, the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War.

His story continues as we discover the impact of his experiences on the man and his family.

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 Experiences group had a lovely time making glass coasters and decorations, in a workshop delivered by Maria from Fired Works.

We will be running another session in November as so many members wanted to try this activity.



Angela is also running an escape room activity with a difference in November. On December 10th we will be making chocolate so keep an eye out for the email.

Sharon Duncan newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk.

Under 6 Mile Walking Group

We have been very lucky with good weather for our under 6 mile walks this year, and the group has ventured out to areas such as Dorney, Penn, Hedgerley, Hambledon and, most recently, Runnymede.



I would like to thank Jane Barker and Chris Franklin for organising and leading walks this past year and hope other members of the group will take the opportunity to lead some next year.



Our Christmas walk and lunch will be at Wexham Park Golf Club in December and I hope to see the group wearing their festive jumpers!

Frances Byrne walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Mixed Walking Cricket Group

Our mixed walking cricket group got in the mood for Halloween this month by donning some hats and masks!

Eileen Powell - mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Textiles Group

On Thursday 10th October, almost half of our group visited the Knitting & Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace.

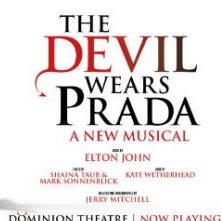
Most travelled by minibus, and everyone returned bursting with ideas for new projects.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 21st November when we will continue with Christmas themed projects.

For information about our friendly group please contact Paula Walker & Sandra Dawson on textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Theatre Trips



In October we didn't have any trips organised. However on 5th November we have a trip planned to see 'The Devil Wears Prada'. This should be a good evening as the reviews are positive.

Let's hope it's a great evening.

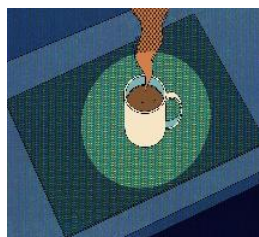
We have one final trip in December to The Mill at Sonning to see 'White Christmas', which I'm sure will be a very enjoyable evening.

Thank you again for your participation and support for these events.

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



Coffee Morning Group



We are delighted to let you know that we will be having our next coffee morning at the Greyhound Pub in Chalfont St Peter on Wednesday 13th November at 10 am.

Everyone is welcome to join us, but please let us know that you would like to come if you are not already a member of the coffee morning group, so that we can work out numbers.

Existing members will be sent an email later this week with details.

Chris Coteman coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Birdwatching Group

The trip to Otmoor on 24th October was a great success.

The main object for some was to see the Starling murmuration and we were not disappointed. Although a relatively small affair as it is early in the season, comprising of around 10k to 15k birds, it was still a spectacle to see.

Just for good measure, seven Cattle Egrets settled on the trees in the centre of the pond where the Starlings were performing over the surrounding reeds.

In total, we heard or saw around 33 different species of birds; not as many as we would have hoped for, but there were some amazing sightings. Several faces lit up with the excitement of the day. For this late a date in October and bearing in mind the previous weather we have had this year, the weather was fantastic. We started with wall to wall blue sky and brilliant sunshine, great to get an excellent view of any birds we might see.

The walk to the Greenway, a water meadow, was not promising. There was not much to see, as the LBJ's (Little Brown Jobs) were hiding. On reaching the Greenway, another Birder asked if we could identify the bird sitting on a small haystack. He then asked if it was a Marsh Harrier. Well I thought to myself, it was light brown in colour, face on. Too small for a Marsh Harrier, the meadow was popular for Curlews, but a little too small and with a short beak! Kestrel, was my thought. Then it kindly hopped down, to the ground and then flew up. Yes, a Kestrel, which stayed around flying up and then landing back on the haystack.

It wasn't long before we had another intriguing bird in our sights. I could see something dark and large in the distance, flying towards us.

Unusually, this bird kept flying in our direction. It didn't take long to identify it - a beautiful and magnificent Marsh Harrier. Quite a dark brown body, with a very pale head. Usually we only see them from a distance, but this one came relatively close to us.

The next special encounter was a shy bird, not seen but loudly heard, a Water Rail. Its call very distinctive, somewhat like a squealing pig.

Well I will not bore you a long list, but we also had close encounters with Hobbies, and a distant sighting of a Hen Harrier, which is currently visiting the site, but sadly not the Spoonbill, which had been seen the day before. However, we did get to see the pair of Great White Egrets in flight.

We also enjoyed the other animals that live on the site - many roe deer with the stags displaying their splendid antlers, a brown hare and a tiny stoat that thrilled us in not just one dash across the footpath, but going backwards and forwards several times.

One lingering vision we have is a wonderful walk around the reserve, the light and colours of the trees and clouds reflected in the clear waters of the ponds in the meadows; a touch of heaven on earth.

Lunch and light refreshments were taken at the Abingdon Arms Community Pub, Beckley. Great food, with spectacular views over the valley below - Otmoor and the surrounding area - a view reputedly the inspiration for the Chess board in Lewis Carroll's, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

Tony Micallef - birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



*Murmuration of Starlings -
Wikipedia*



*Marsh Harrier -
Wikipedia*

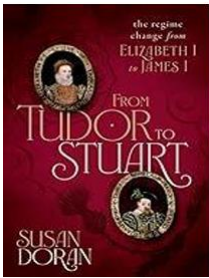


Water Rail - Wikipedia

Regional u3a Zoom events:

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

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



Professor Susan Duran will be discussing her new book on Thursday 21st November at 10.30a.m. on Zoom.

Prof. Doran was our very first speaker to TVN (Thames Valley Network) in 2020 when she spoke to us about 'The Portraits of Elizabeth'. She has now proceeded to the Stuarts which should be just as interesting.

Fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Closing date to book: Monday 18th November.

Friday 6th December at 2.30 – Christmas Quiz. Questions set by Avis

For details of future TVN events, send your name & email 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
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	Awaiting new convenor	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	Awaiting new convenor	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	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 Angela Windsor	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

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Vice Chair	Val Smith	vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Chris Hardwick	secretary@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