

Welcome to the December Newsletter.

This month everyone will be busy preparing for the Christmas Holidays.

There seems to be so much to plan for and prepare – the food, the present and the cards.

If you do have time, why not join us to hear Denise Beddows explain how we celebrated Christmas in days gone by on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm.

As an added incentive there will be mince pies and mulled wine too!



## **Wishing you all a Merry Christmas from the Chalfonts u3a Committee**

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

### **Committee News**

#### **Payments to Chalfonts u3a from 1st January 2025**

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](mailto:financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

### 11 December 2024 at 2pm – The 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 also take a little look at how the festive season was celebrated before the Victorians' fripperies and flummery were introduced, and also how different customs are still observed today in different regions of the UK.

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!

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

### 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.

### 12 February 2025 at 2pm – Local Astronomy Past and Present

Stewart Coulter will tell us about Astronomy, and in particular, our local Astronomy group, including intriguingly, how the first telescopic observations of the moon took place nearby!

Stewart will also let us know how we, the general public, can visit observatories and public observing events locally.

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

## News from our Interest Groups

### Wine Appreciation Group 3

As both Wine Appreciation Groups are now full, it has been suggested that it's time to start Wine Appreciation Group 3.

This new group would, of course, need its own Convenor.

Grace Hunter, Group 1 Convenor, has kindly offered to help set up a new group, and to attend the first few meetings until it gets going.

If you are interested in joining please contact me, Lyn Cameron, and if there is sufficient interest we will have an exploratory meeting in late January, with the first meeting, hopefully, in February.

Lyn Cameron [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### iPad Users Group

Unfortunately, we have lost our Convenor for the iPad Users Group. Is there anyone with sufficient knowledge of using an iPad who would be willing to take over this role?

The group meets on the last Wednesday of the month between 2:00 and 3:00 pm, at the Chalfont Community Centre.

Please contact me if you think you can help.

Lyn Cameron [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### Rummikub Group 2

The Rummikub Group is full, but has had several enquiries from people wishing to join.

If you're interested in forming a second Rummikub group, please contact me, and if there is sufficient interest, I will arrange a meeting so that we can sort things out.

Just for information, the present group has 8 members, and meets once a month in each other's homes. However, it would be up to a new group to make whatever arrangements suited them. This group would need someone willing to act as group Convenor.

Lyn Cameron [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

### Zumba Gold

We are planning to continue with our very successful and fun Zumba Gold sessions in the New Year on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 am -11.15 am at the Chalfont St. Peter Community Centre. It's a great way to get some exercise to music and no dance experience is required.

We have a few places available so if you would like to join us please

email [zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk) by no later than 10<sup>th</sup> December to secure your place.

Jane Barker, Convenor

## Spanish - Aspiring Intermediates (Formerly Spanish Beginners 2)

Want to improve your Spanish?

If you would like to chat in Spanish, already have some knowledge of verbs in present, preterite and future tenses and know some basic Spanish grammar, why not join our small, friendly, U3A Spanish group.

We meet in each other's homes every Tuesday afternoon, are studying the book, Pasos 2 and learning together. Although we don't have a teacher, we set a small amount of homework each week, which helps us understand the grammar, learn new vocabulary and gives us things to talk about at the next session.

If you would like to discuss or try out our group to see if it is for you, contact:

Ann Robinson [spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:spanishbeginners2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## New Experiences Group



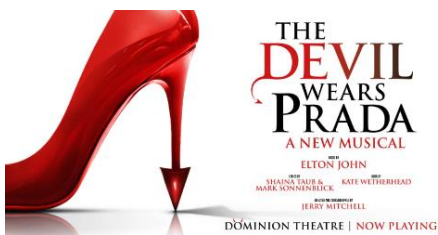
On 28<sup>th</sup> November 30 members of the New Experience Group took part in a seated escape room game in the Enigma Express, a replica railway carriage.

Each of the 6 teams had to solve lots of fiendish clues, left on the train in a lady's handbag, to find the secret code and hidden microfilm.

All agreed that our brains were hurting by the end.

Angela Cranston [newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk](mailto:newexperiences@chalfontu3a.org.uk).

## Theatre Trips



This month we went to see 'The Devil Wears Prada' on 5th November.

The trip was enjoyed by all who went and as usual the coach took everyone safely there and back.

Our last trip for this year is to The Mill at Sonning to see 'White Christmas'. We are a large group and I am sure it will be a great evening as it always proves to be a hit venue with the members.

Thank you all for your support during the year for the many and varied shows we have been to.

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





## Excursions

Our recent trip to the **BMW-Mini plant and Oxford** was great. With impressive robotics from floor to ceiling and the use of artificial intelligence, just over 1,000 mini-cooper cars are manufactured each day. However, each car still has to be driven off the production line by a human – BMW are working to change this!



### Sunday 8 December

A full day out to visit the **Dickensian Festival** with street parades, Christmas market, carols in the Cathedral - the whole city comes alive with festivities.



### Albert Hall Carol Concert – 23 December

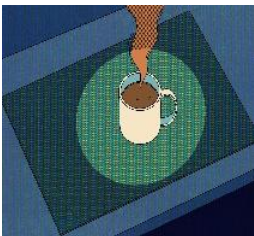
Places have been allocated but if you'd like to join the waiting list please email [excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

We look forward to trips out in 2025 and do please let us know places you'd like to visit.

*Festive greetings from Val and Kate – joint convenors of the Excursions Group.*

[excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Coffee Morning Group



As everyone knows, the Greyhound is having great difficulties at the present time but we are more than happy to support them.

This month we are hoping to not only have coffee but a glass of mulled wine should be available for those who wish to partake. We will let everyone know details for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Chris Coteman [coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto:coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk)

## Mixed Walking Cricket Group



A photo of our walking cricket group preparing for Christmas!

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

## Regional u3a Zoom events:

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

TVN are moving forward with new ideas. We want to be a network which can assist, advise (when asked) and continue with events as we have been doing in the past. BUT to do all this we need new input.

Thames Valley Network need members to join the Committee. This is an opportunity to bring in fresh ideas and shape the future of our Network. The work is not onerous, we meet as a committee 4 times a year and join the Reps meetings 4 times a year. Please do think about this, as without a functioning committee Thames Valley Network cannot continue. The constitution allows us to have 4 officers + up to 5 additional committee members. To date we've been operating with just 3 extra! Although the positions certainly aren't onerous, there have been times we've needed assistance.

Please do think about it. We'll welcome your ideas and opinions.

Fay Sinai [Chair@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:Chair@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

For details of future TVN events, send your name & email to [events\\_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)

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### 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>

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

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## Chalfonts u3a Directory of Interest Groups

Lyn Cameron, Groups Coordinator - [groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 Percy	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
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	Awaiting new convener	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 – Aspiring Intermediates	Ann Robinson	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	Kathy Beattie 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