

Welcome to the February Newsletter.

There are lots of things to celebrate in February. There is pancake day, Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras if you want to be more exotic. There is Valentine's Day, if you are lucky or hopeful. There is the Chinese New Year – always a good excuse for a night out or a take-away. But lastly, we can celebrate because it is no longer January.



There is more news of two new groups this month. The Snooker group has started up and already has a waiting list for those wishing to join, and a new Family History Group is proposed as the existing one is full (see Page 3).

Once again we have to thank our convenors for organising and running these groups.

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Due to their popularity, some of our interest groups have no vacancies and this can be disappointing for both existing and new members who join and then cannot get into their first choice of groups and are therefore disappointed.

We will work with our Group Convenors to try to ensure that the Interest Groups page on our website is kept up-to-date with the availability of places and will encourage potential new members to check with the convenors of groups that they wish to join to ensure that there are places available.

If you feel that you could help in starting a new group, please contact our Group Coordinator, Lyn Cameron - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Bank Account

Our National Westminster Bank Account (NW) is no longer in use. We now use two Lloyds Bank Accounts.

The new Lloyds Account has a sort code 30-54-66 (the sort code is deliberately different from our existing account to help avoid confusion). This is used for outings; Theatre, Excursions, Garden Visits, Entertainments, London Walks, New Experiences and Textiles.

The Convenors will send the details to you every time they would like payment made. The name on the Account normally has to be exact to work. Some banks are 'fussier' than others!

It is Chalfonts u3a - Please remember the 's' on Chalfonts.

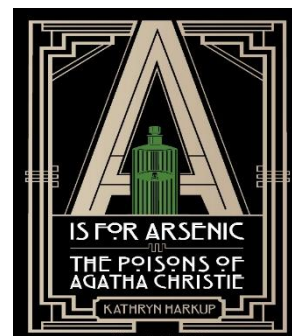
Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

11 February 2026 at 2pm – A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie

Dr Kathryn Harkup, a former chemist turned writer and science communicator, talks about how Agatha Christie revelled in the use of poison to kill off unfortunate victims in her books; indeed, she employed it more than any other murder method, with the poison itself often being a central part of the novel.



This talk looks at how the writer used her extensive knowledge of drugs and medicines mixed with real life cases to create her brilliantly plotted crime novels. Her poisons were picked with care, often providing vital clues to the discovery of the murderer. We will look at 'howdunnit' but whodunnit is for you to find out.



11 March 2026 at 2pm – Tax, Care and Toy Boys Inheritance Planning

Lucy Goldsman, an Estate Planning Consultant with Co-op, will give a talk on Estate Planning. With over 14 years of experience advising clients on all aspects of Will preparation, Will trusts and Lasting Powers of Attorney, Lucy helps clients navigate this area of the law with clarity and empathy.

Lucy will be delivering a talk to our group, with the aim of presenting this area of the law in a jargon free and entertaining way. Here's some feedback from a talk she gave recently: "Lucy was truly outstanding. She delivered the talk with clarity, warmth, and professionalism, making a complex topic feel approachable and relevant".

08 April 2026 at 2pm –The Parsi community of India and Pakistan

Ramji Abanashi, one of our members, will give a talk about the Parsis, an ethno-religious community of Zoroastrians primarily residing in India and Pakistan.

These are descendants of Persian Zoroastrians who fled religious persecution following the Arab conquest of Iran between the 8th and 10th centuries. They have become one of India's most successful and influential minority groups.

During this talk we will learn about Religion, Philosophy, Symbolism, Rituals, Navjote Funerals, Culture & Language, Cuisine, Heritage, Economic and Global Impact and the Parsi Demographic Crisis.

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

News from our Interest Groups

Zumba Gold 2



There are a few spaces left in this group which meets on Tuesday mornings between 11:30 and 12:15, in CSP Community Centre. Please contact me if you are interested in joining.

Lyn Cameron zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Family History Group 2

The Family History group is extremely popular, but sadly full and unable to take any more members.

If you are interested in researching your family history, and would like to join a second group, please contact me, and I will set up an initial meeting to discuss the way forward.

Lyn Cameron groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions Group



We're off to Birmingham for the Tattoo on the 15 February, leaving at 9am to get to the Pulse Arena in time to get refreshments before the show and perhaps do a little shopping.

If you'd like to join the waiting list for this event do email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

As venues open up after the winter we'll be in touch with information about days out.

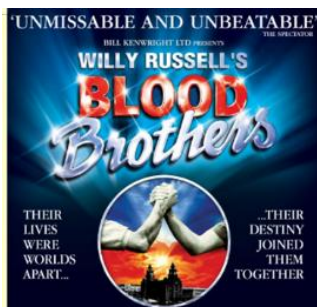
Entertainment Group



This newly formed group has started off well with a visit to the Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury for the matinee performance of **Barnham** on 26 March.



The next visit is to see the matinee of **Blood Brothers** on the **23 April at The Swan Theatre, High Wycombe** and those who have already signed up to the entertainment group have received an email giving details. There are still some places left if you would like to come along – please email entertainment@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



The aim of this group is to offer a wide a range of entertainment such as modern and classical concerts, matinee theatre performances at provincial and local theatres and to go to events where only smaller numbers are permitted.

Mixed Walking Cricket



Last month we took 12 players to Reading to play an indoor match with Purley on Thames.

We played 2 six a side games wearing our new shirts. Unfortunately they didn't bring the success we had hoped for but we did look the part!

The teams then went out for lunch together.

Our next match is in March when we take on Holyport.

Please get in touch if you would like to give it a go. Eileen Powell convenor.

mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science: Earth and Space Group



The Science: Earth and Space group enjoyed a festive social lunch in early January. We had a two-course lunch at Lara's in the heart of Chalfont St Peter. The event ran until nearly 4 pm, so we had plenty of time for members to catch up after the Christmas break and have a good chat.



Our next meeting will take place on Friday 6th February at 3pm, as usual in the Members room at the CSP community centre.



This time we will be coming back to Earth and natural sciences with a talk titled "The Colne Valley Regional Park- A Corridor for Life", highlighting why the Colne Valley is special and wildlife corridors are so important. The talk will be presented by Debbie Valman who has helped manage the Denham Country Park for many years and is now a Trustee of the CVRP.

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

Photography Group



We saw some good pictures at the January meeting and discussed how to edit images. As a result of the discussion, Tony Leonard is going to give a presentation about some very good, FREE, photo editing software at the February meeting.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 2.00 pm. in the Members Room at the CSP Community Centre, so the next one is on 20th February 2026.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact me:

David North photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

The Strollers

On a cold and frosty morning in January, much too dangerous underfoot for strolling, a small group of about 10/12 met for coffee.

Amazingly, during the course of the conversation, it emerged that four of us had gone to the same school. Not unsurprising if it had been a local school, but this was Moseley Hall Grammar School in Cheadle, Cheshire.

It did, however, lead me to wonder whether there could possibly be any other 'Old Chedleans' in our local u3a, wouldn't that be even more amazing! I'm still laughing about the coincidence!

Berny Cross

Editor's note: Berny was laughing even more when the Newsletter Editor told him that he also went to Moseley Hall Grammar School.



London Walks



Baker Street Station - showing the vents that used to allow smoke and steam to escape.

over and covering the tunnel.

Despite using steam locomotives, which caused a choking sulphurous atmosphere, it was a massive success as it relieved the city's congestion along the Euston Road.

We travelled by tube and walked around many of the stations in the centre, looking at the architecture and the changing designs over the years.

The guides were excellent and thanks to Caroline who organised walks for both Wednesday and Thursday.

Convenors John Hardwick, Caroline Ashcroft & Susan Mills londonwalks2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Regional u3a Zoom events

Thames Valley Network

From CLASSICS to POP

On ZOOM on TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY at 10.30a.m.

In a musical foray into both worlds of music, Clive Aronson will be demonstrating how certain



classical music converts perfectly to pop and/or is then used in the movies as part of the movie themes.

This will be a very interesting talk for people interested in the world of classical and/or pop music as well as in the movies.

Fee for this event is £2.

Please book electronically on the website

www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Closing date Sunday 8th February

To receive details of future TVN events, please send your name and 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.

Note that if you book a Riviera Holiday through a travel agent or other third party, this does not qualify for the payment.

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

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(s)	Email
Badminton	Jacqui Robinson	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing	Christine Hardwick	ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bird Watching	Tony Micallef, Jan Sawyer	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	Geoff Glover, Sue Fisher Ainsley Kemps, Elaine Goodwin	bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Chess	Tony Micallef	chess@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Coffee Mornings	Chris Coteman, Lesley Bedford	coffeemornings@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Computing	Les Klein	computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Creative Writing	David Brodie	creativewriting@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cribbage	David Burbidge	cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cricket - Walking (Mixed)	Eileen Powell	mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Crochet	Paula Walker, Kate Trotman	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
Curry Club	Chris Franklin	curryclub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cycling Longer Routes	Dave Duckworth	cyclinglongerroutes@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Dining Group	Lyn Cameron	dininggroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Entertainment	Val Smith, Kate Trotman	entertainment@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Excursions and Outings	Val Smith, Kate Trotman	excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Family History	Jan Sawyer, Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Advanced	Heather Glasgow	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Intermediate 1	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Kate Trotman	gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
German Conversation	Renate Danner	germanconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Guitar - Beginners	Clyde Perkins	guitar@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
History	Trish Hart	history@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Italian Beginners	Les Klein, Margaret Turner	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	londonwalks2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mac OS Computing	Les Klein	macoscomputing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Mahjong	Sam Patel	mahjong@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Experiences Group	Angela Cranston, Sharon Duncan	newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
New Members Coffee Morning	Eileen Powell, Val Smith	newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Old Time Music Hall Singing	Sharon Duncan, Richard Campbell	musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Philosophy	Rob Robinson, Luke Degan	philosophy@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Photography	David North	photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickleball	Richard Cranston	pickleball@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pickleball 2	Diane Eaton	pickleball2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Pilates	Lesley Bedford	pilates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Poetry & Literature	David Burbidge	poetryandliterature@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Quizzers	Margaret Turner	quizzers@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Really Useful Group (RUG)	Sharon Duncan	rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Really Useful Technical Team	Les Klein	rutt@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Rummikub	Anita Crosbie	rummikub@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Science: Earth and Space	Tony Micallef, Karen-Anne Devoil	science@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Anne Higson	scrabble@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	shortmatbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing For Pleasure	Sharon Duncan	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Snooker	Gio Pedalino	snooker@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Aspiring Intermediates	Ann Robinson	spanishpreintermediates@chalfontu3a.org
Spanish Conversation	David Hillis	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis	Gio Pedalino, John Park	tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 2	Eileen Powell, Gio Pedalino	tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 3	Lesley Bedford, Gio Pedalino	tabletennis3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Tai Chi	Lesley Bedford	taichi@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Textiles and Crafts	Sandra Dawson, Paula Walker	textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Theatre Group	Howard Dawson	theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ukulele Group	James O'Flynn	ukulele@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking (6-10 Miles)	Marion Clegg, Sally Buckley	walking6-10miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking (less than 6 Miles)	Sue Fisher, Frances Byrne	walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Walking-Strollers group	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
Wine Appreciation 3	Rory Christie	wineappreciation3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga	Geoff Clegg	yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Zumba Gold	Lyn Cameron	zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

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u3a National website	www.u3a.org.uk
Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk