

Welcome to the March Newsletter.

As of 1st March, it is now officially Spring (well, metrological Spring), and it is lovely to see the bulbs in flower and listen to the bird-song.

That's not to say that winter is completely done with us yet, as the poem goes: *'March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil'* but it has been nice to have had some fine days.



David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Group Coordinator

Zumba Gold 2 still has a few spaces on Tuesday mornings. This is a fun exercise group set to music, but which allows you to participate at your own pace.

Also, see Page 3 for a proposed new group - Computer Clinic Group

If you have any ideas for new groups, please get in touch with me, and I'll see what can be done to set them up.

Lyn Cameron, groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Unfortunately, due to being unable to find a new Convenor and general waning interest, the Philosophy Group has now closed. This is a pity, since this has been a long running group.

Membership Renewals for 2026-2027

The next membership year starts on the 1st April 2026 and runs through until 31st March 2027.

The subscription will be £20 per person. At the beginning of April you will be sent an e-mail with your membership number and information on how to renew.

THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

Those not using e-mail will receive a letter. If you have any queries please e-mail:
Maureen Green, Membership Secretary membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

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



Lucy Goldsman, an Estate Planning Consultant with The 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".

Please note that this talk will be available on Zoom, but will not be recorded.

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

Ramji Abinashi, 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.

13 May 2026 at 2pm – Swans, an illustrated talk

Daniel Keel is a local author, journalist, birdwatcher, and speaker who is an expert on swans.

He will speak about these magnificent birds which are common in the South of England, combining his knowledge and experience of them during 30 years of birdwatching on land, at sea and in the air.

As part of the talk, he discusses the myriads of myths and fairytales about swans e.g. - Can a swan really break your arm? Does the King really own them all? Do they really sing before they die? And Do they really mate for life?

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

News from our Interest Groups

NEW GROUP – “Computer Clinic”



Would you be interested in attending a “Computer Clinic” where you could get an answer to your individual computer or mobile phone problem?



Sessions would cover Windows PCs, Windows laptops or Android devices and would be able to provide one-to-one support operating on a 15-20 minute slot per query to avoid long waits.

This would be the way to discuss your computer issues and learn how to resolve them. It would be separate from the already established computer group and would be run at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre.



If this new group is for you then please contact Lyn Cameron,
groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Cryptic Crosswords Group

For something a little light hearted, you might like to use this crossword clue for your readers, courtesy of the Financial Times:

Get to stretch (5)

For the Answer: [See Page 6](#)

To find more clues like this, come and join our friendly group on Friday mornings at 10.15 am.
Crosswords - crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Photography Group



At the last meeting Tony Leonard gave a very clear presentation on using the free photo editing software – Affinity. It was well received and hopefully for the next meeting we shall see some great examples of before and after editing of pictures.

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 March 2026.

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

David North photography@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Experiences Group

In our latest New Experience adventure we all spent a very enjoyable afternoon making some new friends. Everyone (except me) was really brave and held and stroked all of the reptiles.



We started off with a couple of very pretty geckos, one from a dry environment, the other used to living in rain forests.

We were really surprised at how calm they were as we handled them and passed them from one to another. They seemed to enjoy all the attention.



We then moved on to larger lizards, a bearded dragon, which seemed to love sitting on jumpers, and a blue tongued skink, which was very muscular, like a snake.

Our two hosts explained where each animal came from, what they ate (usually insects), and their temperaments.

We were then introduced to the snakes, starting with the smaller ones before moving onto the larger Royal Python. Although he looked very gentle curled up on their laps, he has a pretty strong grip.



The ladies running the show were very knowledgeable and we all really enjoyed the experience.

Lotus Exotics is well worth a visit and it is right on our door step on Gravel Hill, Chalfont St. Peter.



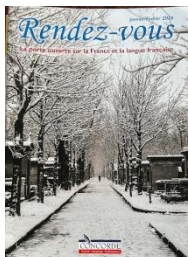
Sharon Duncan, Joint Convenor, newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

French Conversation Intermediate 2 Group

Our Intermediate French Group continues to go well with 8 members.

We continue to meet every Tuesday at the Ethorpe Hotel and speak in French for 1 1/2 hours.

We have been buying the Rendez Vous magazine for some time which we read and translate, but we have recently switched to "Intermediate Short Stories in French" which is a very nice book.



Although the group has no vacancies, I have 3 RV Books covering Juillet 25 - Fevrier 26 if anyone would like them?

Ray Luker, Convenor frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions Group

On Sunday 15 February, the Excursions Group visited the International Birmingham Tattoo.

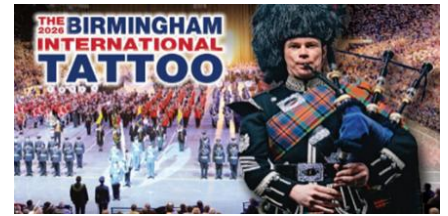


It was an excellent and enjoyable day out.

Thank you to Val Taylor for taking these photographs.

If you would like to join the Excursions Group please email:

excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Science: Earth and Space Group

For the next Science: Earth and Space group meeting on 6th March we will be treated to a talk about our cosmic origins from science author Phil Halper.



The talk is titled 'Battle of the Big Bang' and will offer a thrilling exploration of competing cosmological origin stories, drawing on cutting-edge science to challenge our deepest assumptions about space, time, and reality. Phil Halper will guide us through a striking range of possibilities that physicists are now exploring for the pre-Big Bang universe - fascinating stuff!



The meeting will take place on Friday 6th March at 3pm as usual in the Members room at the CSP Community Centre.

If you would like to join us, please email the co-convenors Karen-Anne Devoil and Tony Micallef science@chalfontsu3a.or.uk

Bridge Group

We play on the first and third Wednesday of every month and the group is a very happy and friendly one - all newcomers welcome!

This photo was taken at our Christmas party - lunch and bridge - when Val Ward and Elaine



Goodwin won the "most promising" players prize, after having risen from coming bottom most weeks to middle! With us are Geoff and Sooty Glover who, I think, founded the group and have run it for years along with Sue Fisher.

Sadly Geoff announced his retirement. He will be much missed as he always made it a happy occasion.

Elaine Goodwin, Joint Convenor bridge@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Cryptic Crosswords Answer

Get to stretch (5)

Answer: REACH

Crosswords - crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Regional u3a Zoom events

Thames Valley Network

The Treasures & Mysteries of Sutton Hoo A Viking Ship Burial - by Dr Jennifer Foster.

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom



Dr Jennifer Foster, is an Archaeologist at the University of Reading specialising in artifact identification. Jennifer leads popular courses both in class and around the countryside for Oxford University Continuing Education Department.

Fee for this event is £2. Please book electronically on the website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk
Closing date 6th March

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



u3a Friends Extra provides a range of offers, discounts and additional services for Friends of u3a.

The latest offer, which may be of interest to travel enthusiasts is cheaper membership of utc.travel.

utc.travel is a members-only travel service that gives you exclusive access to trade-only travel rates that aren't available on most public booking sites. Annual membership is usually £99, but u3a friends extra members can get utc.travel for only £29.

Even if you make one booking for the year, you've already made back the cost of your utc.travel membership.

For further details use this link: [https://u3afriends-extra.org.uk/a /](https://u3afriends-extra.org.uk/a/)

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	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, Sharon Duncan	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
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
Yoga 3	Geoff Clegg	yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Zumba Gold	Lyn Cameron	zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

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Thames Valley Network website	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk