

Welcome to the May Newsletter.

The new Computer Clinic has proven to be very popular in answering those awkward questions when your PC won't do what you want it to. Bookings now being taken for June, as the May sessions are all taken.

New Experiences took to the road, with intrepid members driving high performance cars around a circuit in Bovington, and learning how to 'drift' (intentionally skidding round corners sideways).

The Whist Group is still looking for new members (see below).

Eileen Powell, of the Mixed Walking Cricket Group has some exciting news on Page 5.

Looking forward to June, after the monthly meeting about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, we will have a hands-on demonstration of CPR.

And finally, Spring has definitely arrived. Let's hope the good weather continues!



David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Membership Update

Thank you to all the members who have paid their subscription for another year.

Reminders will be going out shortly to those who haven't paid, but if you no longer wish to be a member please inform the Membership Secretary.

Maureen Green membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Group Coordinator

The **Whist Group** is still looking for new members. If you are interested please contact me.

If you have any other suggestions for new groups, please let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Lyn Cameron groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

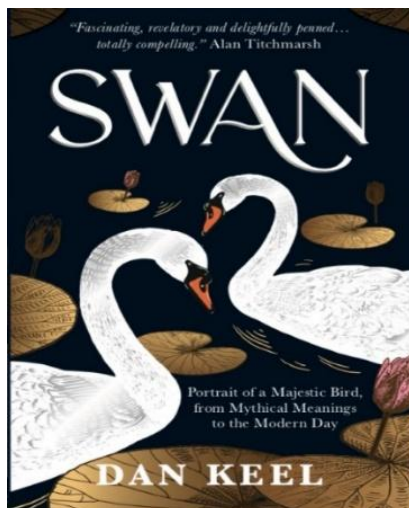
13 May 2026 at 2pm – Daniel Keel will give an illustrated talk about Swans.

Dan 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.

He combines his knowledge of swans with his experiences among them during 30 years of birdwatching on land, at sea and in the air.

He will discuss the myriads of myths and fairytales about swans such as - 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?

With an eye for the humour as well as the tragedy of the swan's story, Dan lays out the facts, guides us to our lakes and riverbanks, and urges us to see these familiar creatures in a fresh light.



10 June 2026 at 2pm – The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

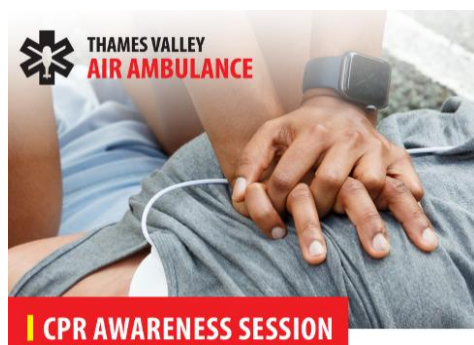
This presentation will provide an overview of the Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission from past to present with reference to the sites and casualties it cares for.

It will begin by discussing the conception of the CWGC by its founder and the principles put into place at that time that continue to define what the organisation does and how it is done. To illustrate this, we will be shown the sites that are cared for in the UK and around the world and what to look for when visiting them.

A discussion of the challenges faced by CWGC and the work done today will then follow. The presentation is rounded off with a focus on local sites and a personal story of someone commemorated nearby tailored to our group.

10 June 2026 at 3:30 – 5:30 CPR Awareness Session

(immediately after the monthly meeting in the Tony Graham Room)



Many potential life-changing medical situations could be prevented if assistance was given before emergency services arrive. One way to assist is CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). CPR is what you do when someone's heart stops and they stop breathing.

Cu3a member, David Brodie has arranged for Thames Valley Air Ambulance to come to the Community Centre and run a free CPR Awareness Session.

The session is to build awareness. It is **not certified training**, but is designed to be interactive and those attending will be able to be actively engaged, including performing CPR on manikins on the floor.

CPR by itself will not restart the heart, but 'buys time' for the emergency medical services to reach the scene. Effective CPR more than doubles the chance of someone surviving a cardiac arrest.

To book a place [please use this link](#).

The first thirty responses will secure a place and those who register after that will be placed on a reserve list for a future session.

David Brodie, organiser profdavidbrodie1@gmail.com

22 July 2026 at around 2.30 After the AGM

Working with the Royals in their Palaces and The 'Out-Takes'!

Brian Greenan is one of London's most experienced Toastmasters and Masters of Ceremonies.

Over the years he has built a unique portfolio, working with all the members of the British Royal Family, both in the UK and the US, whilst they act in their respective roles as 'Patrons' of the various high-profile charities and national organisations that engage Brian as their Toastmaster.

He has worked in many of the Royal Palaces, including numerous events at Windsor Castle attended by Her Majesty the late Queen.

Brian gives a fascinating insight to the protocols of Royal events with amusing stories of when things don't quite go to plan.

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

News from our Interest Groups

New Members' Meeting



The next New Member's Coffee morning will be held on **Thursday 14 May 2026** at 09.45 for a 10am start in the café at The Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD.

All new members will be emailed with a reminder and anyone who couldn't make a previous meeting is very welcome to come along.

Val Smith & Eileen Powell, Joint convenors newmemberscoffeemorning@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits Group

On Wednesday 29th April the Garden Visits group visited Evenley Wood Gardens near Brackley.

We were given a very interesting guided tour by Dan, the head gardener, and then we all enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch in the woodland garden café. We were then able to explore the gardens ourselves.

Evenley is a 60 acre privately owned woodland garden with a great number of unusual trees, shrubs lilies and bulbs in a woodland setting.



We saw many azaleas, magnolia and decorative unusual trees as well as a stream and pond feature in the garden, a newish bluebell wood and also a well-established mauve bluebell display in the woods.

The trees at this time of year with the fresh green leaves looked stunning in the sunshine.

We all felt that this garden is a very peaceful, relaxing and naturalistic garden. There were plenty of seats to rest at and take in the beautiful views of this garden on a lovely sunny spring day.

Everyone was very impressed with this unusual and beautiful garden. It was enjoyed by all of us - a lovely day out.

Thanks to Jane Campbell for the description of this visit and to Jane and Val Smith for the photographs.

Kate Trotman, Group Coordinator gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



New Experiences Group



The New Experiences Group tried out their driving skills this month.

We met at Drift Limits in Bovington on part of the disused airstrip.

First we were given some safety instructions and shown maps of the circuits.

Then we were kitted out in helmets and had an instructor drive us around the course to show us braking points and apexes – in a tiny little Toyota Aygo. That seemed pretty tame until the driver put his foot down and we found ourselves bouncing off the sides of the car with some of us making some high pitched squeaking sounds.



They used a variety of supercars: Audi R8, Dodge Charger and Ariel Atom to name but a few.

We then spent our time speeding around the track in super cars and learning to drift (putting the car into a skid and controlling the direction). I enjoyed racing around the track in the Jaguar.

It was good fun and the weather was very kind to us.

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

Mixed Walking Cricket

This year England are hosting the Women's World Cup and for cricket followers it is going to be amazing!

As well as convenor for the mixed walking cricket I also play with Chalfont St Peter Women's section and during the winter played in a softball league.



One of the teams we played against was East Anglia Vets (veterans) and after the match I was approached to see if I might be interested in applying to play in the Masters Women's Cricket World Cup for the over 70 age group. There will be teams representing the over 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s.

I and some of the younger women from Chalfont St Peter team went up to the Middlesex Indoor Cricket Centre at Finchley for trials recently I have just heard that I have been selected!

At first I thought it was a typo!! Anyway it just shows that we are never too old to play a part in life! I am last person on the left on the back row. Eileen

Eileen Powell mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Excursions Group



On the 20 April we went to Tulleys Tulip Farm in St. Albans. Whilst the sun shone it turned a tad chilly – but we coped! What a display of tulips! We could pretend we were in Holland! Overall a lovely afternoon for us to enjoy the company of fellow Chalfonts u3a members, admire the tulip field and of course sit with a cup

of tea and cake. What could be better?



25 June 2026 – Crossness Pumping Station

Interest for this outing was simply over-whelming and there had to be a ballot.

For those who didn't get a place for June don't be disappointed as we will definitely arrange another visit – or maybe even two.



17 July 2026 – A boat trip down the Thames with buffet lunch

Full details will be sent out.

Please note - with the popularity of many venues/trips we have to secure bookings a long way in advance and confirm with the coach companies. This means that we may put out excursion information a long way ahead of the date and ask for payment at the same time.

As always, thanks to those Cu3a members who have sent in suggestions for trips – do keep these coming in. It's always good to know what could be popular!

If you'd like to join the excursions group please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Val Smith & Kate Trotman, Joint Convenors

Textiles & Crafts Group



In April the Textiles Group had a donation of 50+ curtain rings, Sandra Dawson demonstrated how these could be converted into decorations such as these illustrated here.

Meanwhile others continued with ongoing projects, in this case making box cushions.

Paula Walker and Sandra Dawson, Joint Convenors textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Computer Clinic



The first Computer Clinic session was on 23rd April and lot of questions were answered and issues tackled for people who attended.

The group is aimed at helping you to resolve individual computer issues on a one-to-one basis on your own laptop/tablet/phone, **but it only covers Windows and Android devices.**

Sessions are normally on the 4th Thursday of the month (except in June) from 14.00-16.00 at the Misbourne Room in Chalfont St Peter Community Centre.

20 minute 'slots' are allocated in advance to avoid you having to wait a long time and potentially not being able to get help.

The next session, on 28 May, is already full, but people might drop out, you never know.

The session after, on 18 June, has spaces available, so book a slot for yourself and let me solve your annoying issues.

Sign up here: computerclinic@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Suzy Mills



Theatre Group

Our trip to see I'm Sorry, Prime Minister on 16th April was a great success with everyone enthusing about the script and superb acting by the small, but tight cast, with the principals, Griff Rhys Jones and Clive Francis, giving excellent portrayals of these once important men, as they dodder into retirement.

May sees us off to London again to see The Producers, and hopefully to enjoying another fun evening

After our trip to see My Fair Lady at Chichester in August, I will be standing down as Theatre Group Convenor. My place will be taken by Tim Brooker, who is already making plans for autumn outings.

Howard Dawson, Convenor theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science: Earth and Space Group

The next meeting is on Friday 1st May. We are looking forward to a talk from Prof. Hilary Downes speaking about **Asteroids and Meteorites** and why we study them, which includes enabling us to study the solar system's oldest and most primitive material and providing direct insight about our



planetary neighbours and how planets are formed.

The meeting will take place at 3pm in the Members room at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre.

If you would like to join us and are not already a member of the Science: Earth and Space Group, please email the co-

convenors Karen-Anne Devoil and Tony Micallef science@chalfontsU3a.org.uk.

Under 6 Mile Walking Group



On Tuesday 28th May, 32 members of our under 6 mile walking group did a lovely walk starting from The Stag pub in Herongate.

We went through Philips Wood, where there were lots of bluebells. We were lucky to see so many, so late in the year.



We then went through Bottom Wood, where a lot of the bluebells have been squashed. This was due to so many trees that have been felled because of Ash die back!!

We returned to the Stag where most of us had a very pleasant lunch.

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

Lawn Bowls Group

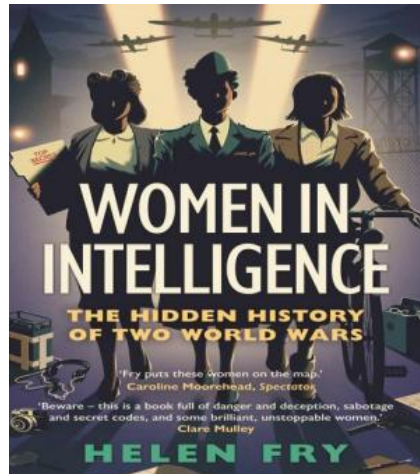
The u3a Lawn Bowls will start on the 12th of May at 10 o'clock at Chalfont St Giles Bowls Club and then on every other Tuesday.

If you are interest please contact: Mike Alderton, Convenor lawnbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Regional u3a Zoom events

Thames Valley Network



Women in Intelligence across 2 World Wars Tuesday 5th May 2.30 on Zoom

We welcome back Dr Helen Fry, who will give us her insight into a certain part of the 2 World Wars, which is her specialism.

She has authored and edited over 25 books covering the social history of the Second World War, including British Intelligence and the secret war, espionage and spies, and MI9 escape and evasion.

The fee for this event is £2.00 per device

To book a place for this talk visit our website 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>



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
Computer Clinic	Suzy Mills	computerclinic@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
Croquet	Sharon Duncan, Clyde Perkins	croquet@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