

Welcome to the August Newsletter.

The hot weather continues – this is a picture of my lawn when I returned from holiday. I expect that yours looks similar and, with water shortages and a hosepipe ban, I don't expect it to improve any time soon.



As you will see below, our AGM was quite a success, thanks to all who attended and enjoyed the talk by Brian Greenan about his role as a Royal Toastmaster.

We have good news from Lyn Cameron with two new groups up and running and a possible third (see below) and several groups are open to new members (see pages 4 to 6). Thanks again to all the group convenors that make this all possible.

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

Chalfonts u3a AGM

Our AGM was held on 22 July and was very well attended.

We now welcome Jenny Brooke as Finance Officer and Paul Hirszowicz, already Beacon Administrator, who will now be taking on the additional role of Membership Secretary.



Jenny Brooke
Finance Officer



Paul Hirszowicz
Membership Secretary and
Beacon Administrator

We say goodbye to our retiring committee members:

Maureen Green – Membership Secretary and

Christine Hillis – Finance Officer

with thanks for all their hard work on behalf of all Chalfonts u3a members, which has been very much appreciated. We wish them well and a well-earned breather.

At the meeting, Chair John Krushner gave a short talk highlighting the activities of the past year and Susan Graham, Treasurer, fully explained how the finances of Chalfonts u3a operate. Copies of the accounts and notes thereto, were circulated prior to the meeting.

Group Coordinator

I'm pleased to report that both the **Whist Group** and **Seated Exercise Group** are now up and running, and have a few spaces if anyone else is interested in joining.

I've also had a suggestion for a **Walking Netball Group**. Please contact me if you're interested, and I'll see if there are enough people to get this going too.

Lyn Cameron groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

12 August 2026 at 2pm - The Secret Life of Bees - A Talk by Meriet Duncan



Meriet is a local Bee Keeper and author who gives an interactive talk which blends fascinating insights into the life of bees, inside and outside the hive with gentle storytelling, humour, and real-life experiences from her work as a bee keeper.



At its heart is the idea of bees as teachers, including what they show us about community, resilience, sustainability and

working together.

Meriet's talks are informative without being technical, uplifting without being sentimental and welcoming of questions and shared experiences.

Meriet will bring a demonstration hive (with no bees) and a selection of bee related items.

09 September 2026 at 2pm – A Talk on Tea by “Two Spoons”

Join the Two Spoons (named after their tea tasting spoons!), Mark Lawson and Giles Oakley, who will give their educational and entertaining talk on ‘The Story of Tea from Bush to Cup’.

Mark and Giles are co-founders of Chesham based Two Spoons Tea and professional tea tasters — which means they're two of the rare people who can claim to have drunk over a million cuppas and still call it work!

Over the past five decades combined, their pursuit of the perfect brew has taken them from the misty hills of China to the lush gardens of India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and beyond. As well as giving us a chance to taste a delicious Darjeeling tea, Mark & Giles will talk about everything you ever wanted to know about tea and how Two Spoons came into being. www.twopsoons.co.uk.

14th October 2026 at 2pm - A Talk from members of The HS2 Team

Blake Edmunds (Senior Project Manager, HS2) and Duncan Fallon (Senior Engagement Manager, Align JV), will be giving us an update on the progress of HS2 in the Chess Valley and Chalfonts.

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

News from our Interest Groups

Excursions Group

Thames River Boat cruise



On the 17 July eighty of us boarded the “**New Orleans**” boat, styled after the classic Mississippi paddle steamer, to go both ways along the River Thames from Henley.



Pete, the captain, gave a great commentary and all we had to do was sit back, lap up the sunshine and take in the sights. We passed boats that were used for D-day and renovated by enthusiasts and temporarily moored on the Thames.



The caterers did us proud with a buffet sandwich lunch – so all we had to do for the afternoon was enjoy the company of fellow Cu3a members and relax.

Day out to the coast– Eastbourne – Monday 24 August



By popular demand, we've organised a trip to the seaside. This year it is to **Eastbourne**, the Victorian seaside town in East Sussex which famously holds the record as the sunniest place in the UK.



There are a few places still free for this outing, costing £25 per head. If you are interested, please email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk as soon as you can.

This promises to be a good day out with plenty to do along the promenade and in the town. On the way home we'll stop off at Beachy Head to enjoy the views and take photographs.

Val Smith, Kate Trotman - Joint Convenors excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Snooker Group

A couple of spaces have become available in the Snooker Group.

We play in the GXCA on Mondays between 14:00 and 16:00 at a cost of £5 per session.

If you would like to have a go, please contact Gio Pedalino, Group Convenor on snooker@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Crochet Group



At our July meeting, our intimate crochet group enjoyed a chat and companionship whilst working on these lovely projects, including blankets and soft toys.

Our beginners continued challenging themselves at the start of their crocheting journey.

Kate Trotman & Paula Walker, Co-Convenors for the Crochet Group crochet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Textiles & Crafts Group



At our July meeting Sandra Dawson demonstrated how to make these beautiful paper flowers to the few who could make it, it being the 'silly' season.

NB: Our group has arranged a trip on Thursday 8th October to the Knit & Stitch Show at Alexandra Palace leaving CSP at

9am and arriving back around 5:30pm.



The cost of return coach travel, discounted entry ticket, drivers gratuity & parking is £45. Check out this link for more details about the show: <https://www.knitandstitchshow.co.uk/london>
We need 6 more people to fill the coach. Please email textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk if you'd like to join us.

Paula Walker & Sandra Dawson, Co-Convenors for Textiles & Crafts Group

Computer Clinic



If this is how you feel, **STOP**, join the Computer Clinic and let me help you.

The Computer Clinic's aim is to handle any issues, answer any questions and to help you do things better. The 30-minutes sessions are one-to-one on your own laptop or Android device.

The Computer Clinic started a few months ago and is now going strong, but new members are always welcome. It is held on the 4th Thursday of

the month from 14.00-17.00 at the Misbourne Room in Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. The 30-minute 'slots' are allocated in advance to avoid you having long waits or running out of time.

Please note, I can only help you with Windows laptops or Android devices.

Sign up here: computerclinic@chalfontsu3a.org.uk Suzy Mills, Computer Clinic Convenor

Mixed Walking Cricket Group



On Friday 17th July we played at a Walking Cricket Festival at Worcester County Cricket Ground. You will recognise some familiar names who played there, including Graeme Hick, Moeen Ali, Basil D'Oliveira and female player Katherine Sciver-Brunt - England Captain.



The setting was beautiful, with the cathedral overlooking the ground and the sun shining brightly for our first visit here.

Around 30 teams from all over the country played in this 8-a-side softball tournament.

The rules stated that there had to be a minimum of 2 women players in each team. We had 4 women in our team, but the majority of teams did not. So - we were at a disadvantage, but we managed to win all our games where there was gender equality!

Our next home fixture is on September 1st at Chalfont St Peter Cricket Club against Holyport CC.



New members are always welcome.

Eileen Powell - Mixed Walking Cricket Group Convenor mixedwalkingcricket@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Old Time Music Hall Group

We have had yet more successful and enjoyable months with our Old Time Music Hall events and we have received much appreciation from the local care homes where we performed to their residents.

Our u3a Old Time Music Hall group is looking for new members to join the fun. We warmly welcome everyone, but we are particularly keen to recruit a few more men to help balance the cast.

No previous performing experience is needed – just a willingness to join in, have a laugh and enjoy singing, acting and entertaining together.

Whether you are a seasoned performer or trying something new, we would love to see you. We sing in local residential homes on the first of the month and rehearse on the third Wednesday at the community centre 15.00-16.30.

Sharon Duncan & Richard Campbell Joint Convenors musichallsinging@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Cribbage Group

The cribbage group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at the Ethorpe Hotel in Gerrards Cross, 13.30-15.00 - you are just required to buy a drink.

Lessons are available for beginners.

Please contact David Burbidge or Sharon Duncan if you wish to come along for a trial session* on cribbage@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Singing for Pleasure Group

The Singing for Pleasure Group is very well supported. We now have a new keyboard player who is knocking us all in to shape with harmonies and proper conducting, not just Sharon waving her arms about enthusiastically.



Please contact Sharon Duncan if you would like to join us for a trial session *.

singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

RUG (Really Useful Group)

The RUGs are always looking for new helpers and it is a great way to get to know other members. We set up the hall, refreshment areas, sign in members and assist new members and those who are less mobile, for monthly meetings.

These meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month, but don't worry - you are not expected to attend every month, just when you are available.

We also help with other u3a events. If you would like to join us please contact Sharon Duncan via rug@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Croquet Group

The Croquet Group only have 5 sessions left this season.

The group plays at Hazelmere on the 2nd and 4th Monday 16.00-18.00 at Hazelmere recreation ground and the cost is £10 per session.

If you are interested please contact Sharon Duncan and Clyde Perkins, Group Convenors on croquet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



*** Please note that you need to be a member of Chalfonts u3a for any u3a trial session**

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

u3a Friends Extra

You may not have heard of u3a Friends Extra. This is an additional benefit for u3a members, giving them discounts on a whole range of goods and services such as retailers, insurance, restaurants and travel companies. (This service used to be called Click and Save).

These range from a 6% discount on retail purchases via a coupon system to up to 60% off some domestic appliances from Hotpoint and Whirlpool.

Currently they are offering discounts on AA breakdown cover.

For further details use this link: <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	bridge@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, Helen Walker	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
Lunch Group	Helen Farndon	lunch@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 (RUTT)	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@chalfontsu3a.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, Tim Brooker	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
Whist	Lyn Cameron	whist@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

Chalfonts u3a Committee

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