

Welcome to the September Newsletter.

After complaining about the heat and the state of my lawn in last month's newsletter, we have at last had rain!

I think that it will take a while for the garden to recover, but I can see faint traces of green in the lawn, and it is now meteorological Autumn!



I promise not to mention the lawn again in next month's editorial! 😊 .

In each of our monthly newsletters, the last two pages list all the groups within our Chalfonts u3a.

This month we are trying something slightly different.

The main users of this list tend to be new members, looking for new activities or interests, and it can be quite frustrating to make contact with the group convenors, only to be told that there are no vacancies in the group.

So this month we have tried to indicate which groups are full by showing their group names with an (F) alongside the name.

Many groups have waiting lists, so if you would like to know more about these, please email the convenor. Wherever possible we do try to start additional and new groups.

Of course, the best person to contact to suggest new groups or talk about which groups are available is our Group Coordinator, Lyn Cameron, groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Committee News

A Date for your Diary!



After last year's inaugural quiz to raise funds for the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, we'll be repeating this successful event!

More details and how to book will be emailed out later this month. £15 per head to include a Ploughman's platter.

It promises to be a fun evening with a raffle and excellent quiz questions!

Howard Dawson & Team

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

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.twospoons.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.

11th November 2026 at 2pm - A Talk by Denise Beddows - Cosy Crime

Denise Beddows, author of the 'Misbourne Murder Mysteries' series, explores this increasingly popular sub-genre of crime, looking at a variety of series, including SJ Bennett's 'Her Majesty Investigates'; Richard Osmond's 'Thursday Murder Club'; Robert Thorogood's 'Marlow Murder Club'; Steph Broadribb's 'Retired Detectives' Club', and many more.

She examines the reasons for cosy crime's burgeoning appeal and suggests reasons why 'Midsomer Murders' and many of Agatha Christie's novels do not actually fit the conventions of the genre.

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

News from our Interest Groups

Crochet Group



This month a dozen or so of our keen crochet ladies gathered for our usual chat whilst creating some lovely pieces including this wonderful, but currently dismembered, animal on the left which I think may become either a mole or a sausage dog!!!

It's open for debate.



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

Textiles & Crafts Group



This month was a laid back 'bring your own projects' session.

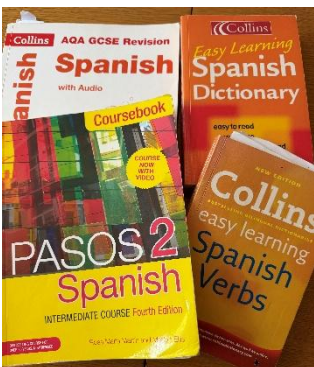
Some (including Jacqui, Vanessa & Margaret in the photo) continued making paper flowers under the tutelage of Sandra Dawson and, one of our talented group, Pat Holland, created this spectacles case in the space of just 2 hours.



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

textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Aspiring Intermediate Spanish Group



Would you like to pick up the Spanish that you learned whilst at school, practise in a relaxed way what you already know in Spanish, speak with others whilst learning via Duolingo or an adult learning course? If so, this might be the group for you.

At present we have 2 spaces for anyone who has some knowledge of speaking, writing and listening to Spanish. We are a friendly group who meet weekly on a Tuesday afternoon

in each other's houses & have fun learning together. If you are interested please contact me (below)

Nos encantaría conocerte

Please note that this group is not for beginners.

Ann Robinson, Convenor spanishpreintermediates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Lunch Group

We had a very enjoyable first Lunch Group meeting at The Pomeroy in Amersham on Wednesday, 5 August. Seven members attended, and the conversation flowed so easily that we all agreed it would be lovely to continue meeting regularly.

Our next lunch is going to be something a little different. One of our members has very kindly offered to welcome us to her home for a **Wine and Cheese Lunch**, which sounds like a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food and company in a relaxed setting.

Helen Farndon, Lunch Group Convenor lunch@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

New Experiences



The New Experience Group had 2 activities in August.

Eight members tried out water skiing at Rickmansworth Waterski Club.

Everyone managed to master it to some extent, and some were naturals.

An enjoyable day was had by all and one more new experience ticked off.



Secondly, on 19th August, 40 members attended a fun team games event which included egg and spoon races and dressing up relays.

Congratulations to the winning red team.

Angela Cranston and Sharon Duncan,
Joint Convenors

newexperiences@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



New Members' Meeting



The next New Member's Coffee Morning will be held on **Thursday 17 September 2026** at 09.45 for a 10am start in the café at The Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD. This is an opportunity to meet fellow new members and hear more about Chalfonts u3a and what's on offer.

Recent new members have already been notified by email but anyone who couldn't make a previous meeting is very welcome to come along. Just turn up.

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

Theatre Group

The day visit to Chichester to see *My Fair Lady* in August was a unanimous success and we are looking forward to planning a similar excursion in summer 2027.

The Autumn schedule is finalised with **The Truth** in September, **Sinatra the Musical** on 6th October and **The Cherry Orchard** on 24th November. If you are interested in any of these shows, do join the Theatre Group (if you haven't already!) and ask to go on the waiting list (as you never know ...)

In the New Year we will be going to see one of the most popular, emotional and spectacular musicals in the West End, **Les Misérables** on the 11th January. If you would like to go, please put a request in as a few tickets are still available.



The Theatre Group is then planning to see **Osage County** on the 18th March. This show stars two time Olivier Award winner and 2026 Tony Award winner Lesley Manville alongside Anna Maxwell Martin and offers a fierce, funny, and deeply intense look at a messy family forced back together in Oklahoma.

If you would like further information, or to join, contact:

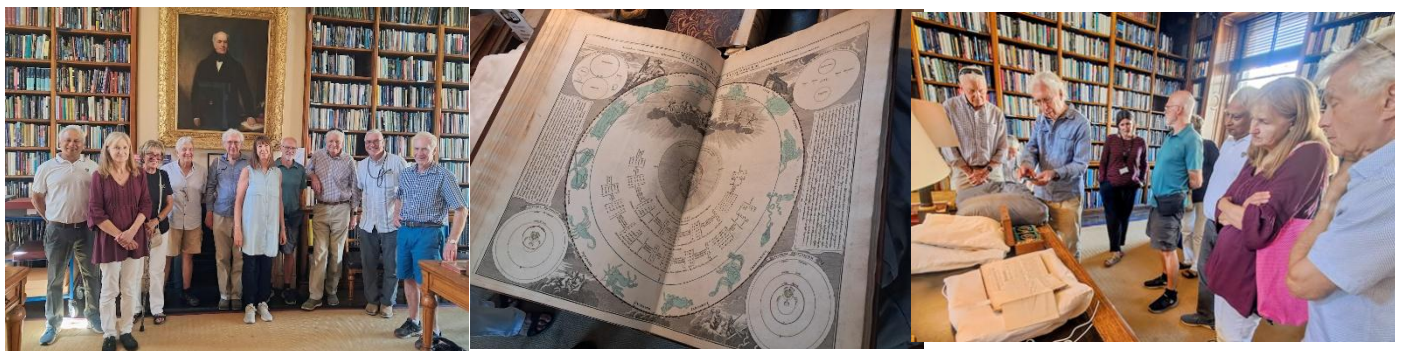
Tim Brooker Group Convenor

theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Science: Earth and Space Group

Members of the Science: Earth and Space group enjoyed a couple of summer outings in August.

Karen-Anne led a visit to the Royal Astronomical Society at Burlington House Piccadilly, where the RAS archivist and librarian gave us a wonderful tour of the precious historical treasures of the RAS, including original books and drawings from William Herschel, Isaac Newton and Galileo.



Tony led a visit to the 17th Century Lacey Green Windmill, the oldest working smock windmill in the country.

For our September Science: Earth and Space group meeting, we are delighted to welcome Richard Ghail, Professor at Royal Holloway, University of London.



Richard will be giving us a talk entitled '**Exploring Venus, Earth's Surprising Twin**'.



This meeting will take place at 3pm on Friday 4th September and, as usual, will be 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.

Excursions Group

Eastbourne

It all went well for our day at the seaside on the 24 August. The sun shone all day and the sky stayed blue.



It was perfect for a stroll along the pier, the sea-front promenade or further afield to Sovereign Harbour with lunch overlooking the harbour.

Harry Ramsden's fish and chips restaurant in the town seemed to be the order of the day for many and of course no-one can visit the seaside without having an ice-cream. But for one unlucky Cu3a member a seagull swooped down and flew off with his ice-cream cornet!



On the way back we stopped off at Beachy Head, which gave us the chance to walk along the cliffs and enjoy the distant view of Eastbourne town and pier and the famous lighthouse.

It was a perfect and fun day out. A few even paddled in the sea and say they are now available for autographs!

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



Regional u3a Zoom events Thames Valley Network

Wednesday, 16th September at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom

CHINA: The Red Dragon Awakes



Andrew Baker, a specialist in contemporary history, politics world affairs and cultural change, will be giving TVN a talk on the rise of China – global, political and how it affects us in the West.

Fee for this event is £2.

Please book electronically here:

www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Sunday 13th September

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

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

If you know which group/s you wish to join please contact the convenor direct.

A group shown with (F) alongside indicates it is full.

For waiting list information please contact the convenor.

Interest Group	Convenor(s)	Email
Badminton	Jacqui Robinson	badminton@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Ballroom Dancing (F)	Christine Hardwick	ballroomdancing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Bird Watching	Tony Micallef, Jan Sawyer	birdwatching@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 1 (F)	Carol Lyons	bookclub1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Book Club 2 (F)	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 (F)	Sharon Duncan, Clyde Perkins	croquet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords	Bob Leven	crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Cryptic Crosswords Too (F)	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 (F)	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 (F)	Jan Sawyer, Marguerite Fletcher	familyhistory@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Advanced (F)	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 (F)	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 (F)	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 (F)	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 (F)	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 (F)	Sharon Duncan	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Snooker (F)	Gio Pedalino	snooker@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Aspiring Intermediates	Ann Robinson	spanishpreintermediates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Conversation (F)	David Hillis	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis (F)	Gio Pedalino, John Park	tabletennis@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 2 (F)	Eileen Powell, Gio Pedalino	tabletennis2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis 3 (F)	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 (F)	Kathy Beattie, Sue Fisher	weekendgroup@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Whist	Lyn Cameron	whist@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation (F)	Grace Hunter	wineappreciation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation 2 (F)	David Hillis	wineappreciation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation 3	Rory Christie	wineappreciation3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga (F)	Geoff Clegg	yoga@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Yoga 3 (F)	Geoff Clegg	yoga3@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Zumba Gold	Lyn Cameron	zumbagold@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Groups with '(F)' after the name are full. For waiting list information please contact the convenor.

Chalfonts u3a Committee

Chair	John Krushner	chair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Val Smith	vicechair@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Kate Trotman	secretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Paul Hirszowicz	membershipsecretary@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Susan Graham	treasurer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Finance Officer	Jenny Brooke	financeofficer@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Beacon Admin	Paul Hirszowicz	beaconadmin@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Group Coordinator	Lyn Cameron	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	David J Powell	newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Speaker Co-ordinator	Robert Kiddy	speakercoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Venues Coordinator	Lesley Bedford	venuecoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	Les Klein	webmaster@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

General Information

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

