

Welcome to the October Newsletter.

The Quiz Night and our new groups have proved very popular with several becoming fully subscribed very quickly, but new ones are still available (see below).

Do you fancy a day at the races? On page 3 you will find an opportunity to fill the gap between Christmas and the New Year with a day at Newbury Racecourse.

David Powell, newsletters@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Committee News

Groups Coordinator

Family History Group 2

There has been some interest in trying to reinstate this group. If you think you would like to join, or find out more, please let me know. The Convenors of Family History Group 1, have kindly offered to come along to help in setting up a second group. I would point out that this new group would require a Convenor.

Pickleball Group 3

It may be possible to start another Pickleball group. Please let me know if you're interested, and I'll see if we can get this going. It will be reliant on finding a Convenor, and a mutually convenient time to hire a court.

Whist Group

There are still places available in the Whist Group.

Seated Exercise Group

This activity has proved extremely popular, and the group is now full. However, if you're interested in joining, please contact me, and I'll try to start a second group.

Lyn Cameron, Groups Coordinator - groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Quiz Night



A message from Howard Dawson and the quiz organising team: - We are pleased to say that response to join the CSPCC Fundraising Quiz on the 13 November has been excellent.

If you have any items suitable for the raffle these all help and would be gratefully received.

quiznight@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Chalfonts u3a Monthly Meetings:

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

HS2 Blake Edmunds (Senior Project Manager, HS2) and Duncan Fallon (Senior Engagement Manager, Align JV), will give an overview of the construction that has taken place to date, focusing on the Chiltern tunnel and the Colne Valley viaduct.

This update will cover several aspects of the project including the engineering, environmental works and reinstatement of the land impacted by the construction along with an outline of the future activities in this area.



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.

9th December 2026 at 2pm – Christmas Entertainment from The Harrisons

Come along and be entertained by the Harrisons with a feast of anecdotes and music on a seasonal theme. Christmas songs from the Golden Age of Hollywood musicals combine with humorous tales about the artistes. They also take a look at the origins of some of our Christmas traditions and how one of them was (and still could be) illegal.

The Harrisons have performed musical entertainments for the following u3as in the past couple of years, Thame and District, Verulam, Watford Park, Chinnor, Aston Clinton, Harpenden, Mid Bucks and Western Turville.

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

News from our Interest Groups

Here's a chance to have a fun day out between Christmas and New Year!



Join us for a day out at Newbury Racecourse on Monday 28th December – open to all!

Who needs an excuse to spend a day at the races? The first race will be at 12.05 and the last race at 15.55.

The cost will be approximately £78 and this includes coach travel and “Premier Plus” race tickets (giving access to the Sky Sports Racing Lounge, private bar facility, table service for food, reserved seating in lounge, reserved terrace course-facing seating overlooking the finishing post and complimentary race card).

Just email excursions@chalfontsu3a.org.uk to let us know if you're interested.

Theatre Group

We kicked off our Autumn season with **The Truth** – a tangled web of love, infidelity and dishonesty that had the audience laughing, squealing and gasping in delight.

This will be followed by the extravaganza **Sinatra the Musical**, the story of the singer who saves his career from going into a tailspin with his heart felt blockbusters.

In November we will see **The Cherry Orchard**, a tragicomedy about a Russian landowner who returns home only to find that his estate is being auctioned off.

In the new year (on the 11th January) we are going to see



one of the most popular, emotional and spectacular musicals in the West End, **Les Misérables**,

This is followed by **Osage County** on the 18th March, which offers a fierce, funny, and deeply intense look at a messy family forced back together in Oklahoma.

On April 15th, we are having our first visit to the National Theatre on the South Bank to see **Suddenly Last Summer**, a gripping and sometimes upsetting exploration

of truth, grief and repressed trauma.

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.

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

Tim Brooker, Group Convenor, theatretrips@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Garden Visits Group

Following Tom Hart Dyke's well received "Captivity to Castle" talk to the Garden Outings group spring lunch in March, a visit to Lullingstone Castle and The World Garden took place in September.

On a beautiful September morning 52 members of the Garden Visits group set forth for Eynsford in



Kent. Lullingstone Castle is the ancestral home of the Hart Dyke family, Tom being the 20th generation to call Lullingstone home. It is a Tudor manor house with a beautiful red brick gate house.

On arrival and after enjoying the refreshments provided, we met up with Ann, our blue badge guide, who took us into the Norman-built, St Boltoph's parish church, home to stained glass windows created by the first Flemish artists in the UK (in the 14th century). That these windows still

remain is a miracle, as during the Second World War a dummy airfield was built opposite the gatehouse to draw attention away from Biggin Hill.

The tour then continued into the Manor House with family heirlooms on view and tales of the house being home to a silk farm. Toms' great grandmother had thousands of silk caterpillars feeding on white mulberry leaves housed in the rooms - they made such a noise munching the leaves that visitors were kept awake. The silk produced from the cocoons was used in the creation of both of Queen Elizabeth II Wedding Dress and her Coronation Robes.



After a lovely sandwich buffet, we were entertained by Tom himself. His enthusiasm is infectious. How he could talk, non-stop for nearly two hours, whilst escorting us around his wonderful world garden is beyond me. He explained how the garden had come to develop, following his return from capture by FARC guerillas in Columbia while hunting for rare orchids in 2000.



He explained that many of the plants come from donations, but others simply come from garden centres and how the garden has developed over time and is still a work in progress. He also proudly showed us his magnificent greenhouse, which is full of tropical plants that

would not survive our winters.

To round the day off, members were able to buy plants from the shop, proceeds of which are ploughed back into Lullingstone funds. A project currently managed by one particular volunteer. Judging by the number of specimens on the coach, people enjoyed a wonderful day out, returning with lovely horticultural mementos.



Julie Hallam on behalf of the Garden Visits Group gardenvisits@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

2 - 6 mile Walking Group



Andrew Hill Lane and back to Hedgerley via Kiln Lane. We then crossed Village Lane, up to St Mary's church and along the bridle path to Hedgerley Green.

After crossing the fields around Church Wood, we made our way back to The White Horse for refreshments and an excellent lunch.

Finally, here is a photograph of a European Hornet that we came across on our walk (there was some discussion about this). According to Wikipedia these hornets are protected in some European countries and in Germany, where since 1987, a person found guilty of harming them or their nests can be fined up to €50,000.



Every day a school day.

Photo credits to Mike Wilcox

Chris Franklin, on behalf of the Walking (less than 6 Miles) Group

walking2-6miles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Crochet Group



At our September meeting one of our talented ladies showed us her latest completed projects, a lovely crocheted jumper for her grandson and a crocheted top for her granddaughter.

Aren't they stunning?

Kate Trotman & Paula Walker, Co-Convenors for the Crochet Group

crochet@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Textiles & Crafts Group



At our September meeting, over two hours of painstaking concentration, a dozen of us created these lovely (partially completed) mosaic tiles as shown in these photos.

It was a fun afternoon with a very satisfying outcome.



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

textiles@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Lunch Group

The Lunch Group recently met in a restaurant in Chalfont St Peter, where nine members including three new members, enjoyed a very sociable lunch.

We were immediately impressed by the restaurant, although we politely declined the invitation to sit at the rather striking marble-esque table, which appeared to have its own mysterious uplighting! We decided that lunch was quite exciting enough without adding a light show!



There was a good choice on the set lunch menu and, when the food arrived, we were pleasantly surprised by the generous portions. The food was enjoyed by all, but, as always, it was the company and conversation that made the occasion special.

Conversation flowed throughout the lunch, covering a wonderfully eclectic mix of interesting topics, stories and anecdotes. There was plenty of laughter too, and our three new members were warmly welcomed and quickly settled in and joined the conversation.

Another enjoyable Lunch Group gathering – good food, good company and, most importantly, new friendships being made along the way.

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

Science: Earth and Space Group



For our October group meeting we will be coming back down to Earth with a timely talk about the fascinating world of Fungi titled '**The Importance of Fungi for the Environment and Humans**'.

The talk will explain what fungi are, how they evolved, and reproduce, and particularly their vital role in maintaining critical ecosystems across the world.

It will also illustrate the importance they have in building soils, and in food production.

The talk will also highlight how some of our important medicines including potential cancer drugs come from fungi, and lastly their importance in the treatment of waste materials.

The talk will be illustrated throughout with photographs of some of the fascinating fungi found in the United Kingdom – just a few of some 15,000 recorded.

The meeting will take place at 3pm on Friday 2nd October as usual is 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.

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

Interest Group	Convenor(s)	Email
Badminton	Jacqui Robinson, John Park	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)	Carol Saalfeld, 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
Family History 2	Awaiting convenor	groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Advanced (F)	Heather Glasgow	frenchfluent@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Intermediate 1 (F)	Sandy Oldham	frenchconversation1@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
French Con Intermediate 2	Ray Luker	frenchconversation2@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Garden Visits	Julia Edwards, 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 (F)	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 (F)	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
Seated Exercise Group (F)	Lyn Cameron	seatedexgrp@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Short Mat Bowls	Sheila Woolgar	shortmatbowls@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Singing For Pleasure (F)	Sharon Duncan	singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Snooker	Gio Pedalino	snooker@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Aspiring Intermediates	Ann Robinson	spanishpreintermediates@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Spanish Conversation	David Hillis	spanishconversation@chalfontsu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis	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.

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