The most notable aspect of the past quarter has been launching Chess Valley U3A. As many will be aware, the ‘start-up’ meeting in the Drake Hall in September attracted literally a ‘full-house’. With 214 seated including some on the stage and a number of others listening to the proceedings in the corridor, the stewards had to put up the ‘Sorry we are full’ notice. With the National Development and Education Officer, Mike Long, and his assistant, Zazia Pratt, covering the development of the U3A movement in the UK and identifying the assistance available from the National office, the audience was also addressed by Noel Brown, the CDC Cabinet member with responsibility for Health, Housing & Community Safety as well as a notable contribution from John Carleton, my opposite number in Watford & District U3A. It was gratifying to realise that the local Council does value the role our organisation plays in the community and that it has been positive in assisting the establishment of another U3A in the locality. I am confident that, in a similar manner to our earlier development, the new U3A will have the Council’s support as it develops its base in Chesham.

I suppose the ultimate situation allowing your Committee to signal ‘objective wholly achieved’ would be an announcement in the next newsletter that there was no longer a membership waiting list. That is unlikely. But it does highlight the point of any Chiltern U3A members who, through easier travel arrangements and other reasons, could contemplate changing their allegiance to Chess Valley. John Carleton made a very pertinent plea to the meeting in the Drake Hall. His message was in reality simple, viz: to become established any new U3A needs the support of its prospective members; without their allegiance and commitment to the organisation, a new Committee would find successful establishment delayed at best, if not impossible. As reported over, consideration was given to creating an ‘associate member’ status and rejected by your Committee. Thus, to those members who are in the position of having to think whether they should join Chess Valley, I would ask them to take on board John’s entreaty in coming to what, for each one, will be a purely personal decision. The inaugural meeting of Chess Valley U3A was held in Chesham Town Hall on 8 October when 190 registered as members. A Committee under the chairmanship of Peter Westby was formally elected and, on that basis, I can sit back and say “Chiltern U3A’s initiative has successfully brought another viable U3A into being.”

Before closing on the topic, I do have to place on record the work of all those who assisted me in the ‘Working Group’; Jeremy Duffy, Nigel Lanning, Angela Dexter and our co-optee, Tony Biddle. I also know of the many members who have responded to requests from the ‘Steering Group’ for help and ‘words of wisdom’ - not least to the effort of our Webmaster, David Pearson, thereby assuring Chess Valley will have an efficient communication system at a far earlier development stage than did Chiltern. Equally I acknowledge the financial support given by Chiltern District Council in which they matched £ for £ the sum we had set aside to meet the print, postage and other expenses involved in communicating with all on our waiting list and in setting up the meetings, etc. To you all thanks for helping to get ‘Chess Valley’ off to a flying start.

To members who dutifully showed membership cards at September meetings, again my thanks. At least a couple of anomalies were brought to light and thus, in the context of ensuring our insurance isn’t compromised, the exercise was valid.

The visit to Liverpool was another success for the Excursions team and for Margaret Stickland in particular. I am pleased to note that arrangements are in hand for continuity of the excursions programme by the current team. Although Margaret will continue on the Committee, eventually the link-person between the Committee and the ‘team’ will be provided by Gerry Taylor.

By now many of you will be anticipating a night of Ceilidh ‘fun and frolics’ organised on 14 November in Dr Challoner’s school hall. For me, this will indicate the seasonal festivities are upon us. Personally, 2008 has been a notable family year. A bonus was the participation in Chiltern U3A and to have the support and friendship of so many. Margaret joins me in sending you seasonal greetings. To all a Joyous Christmas; may you enjoy peace, goodwill thro’ 2009.

Bob Meredith
COMMITTEE MATTERS

Throughout the quarter July to September, discussions took place in relation to arrangements for the continuity of the excursions programme; detail for establishing another U3A locally and a review of policy on arrangements for handling groups’ money. A policy document was agreed on the latter and a new section in the ‘Convenors’ guidelines’ is being prepared for implementation from January.

July meeting
Approval was given to purchase a new net for the ‘table tennis’ group. Two financial points of note; the ‘Gift Aid’ claim arising from subscriptions amounting to £5,550 had been paid by HM Revenue and a claim on our ‘Third Party Liability’ insurance policy had been accepted by the insurers – this has resulted in a £250 excess being met from our funds.

August meeting
A new ‘flower arranging’ group has formed; the ‘patchwork & quilting’ group has been revived with Catherin Orr-Ewing as convenor and the ‘MOTO’ group is now meeting twice a month. Attendances at general meetings had reduced during the summer and consideration was given to having only one meeting per month during this period. It was agreed that the programme of 2 monthly meetings continue (see box p.4). In addition to recording that refreshments following the ‘general meetings’ would continue, there would be a ‘seasonal flavour’ to meetings in December, including refreshments. The creation of an ‘associate’ membership as an interim arrangement to cover any member wishing to transfer allegiance to the Chess Valley U3A was considered and rejected. The Committee resolved that any member who wished to change allegiance should subscribe to the new U3A; they would continue to enjoy membership of Chiltern U3A and its activity groups until their current subscription expired. Subsequently, if a member wished to have continuity with a Chiltern U3A activity group(s) and also join another U3A, then two subscriptions would be payable.

September meeting
The Pottery Room heating would be renewed before winter. A full and interesting programme for the general meetings through 2009 was noted. Through CDC, facilities for reprography work at favourable rates were being investigated as was the potential for a ‘video & media’ group. That we were now part of the revised South-East region of U3A was noted together with a number of proposals being placed before the national AGM. The Committee confirmed the decisions taken not to vote in the election for Vice-Chairmen (the candidates were unknown to us) but to concur with the proposal to increase the capitation fee by £1 per head w.e.f. 1 April 2010; also, rather than the formation of large area networks, to encourage development of informal “working links between [neighbouring U3As] where it is to their mutual benefit”. Following further discussion on members’ spouses in relation to the waiting list, the Committee confirmed that the current principle should stand; namely, existing members’ spouses or partners applying for membership should not receive preferential consideration over other applicants on the waiting list.

U3A NATIONAL & REGIONAL NOTICES

Notification of the following events has been received. Further details are with the convenor of the group identified or with Bob Meredith (u3achairman@chiltern-u3a.org.uk)

12 November: ‘Climate change’. A Thames Valley network study afternoon at Reading University. Topics include several aspects relating to climate change. Fee to Chiltern U3A members £15. (u3achairman@chiltern-u3a.org.uk)

14 January 2009: ‘Pioneering Women in Egyptology’. A ‘Shared Learning Project’ at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL Bloomsbury. Project exploring, from archival material, the lives of two early women Egyptologists, Amelia Edwards (founder of the Egypt Exploration Fund and whose bequest founded the museum) and Margaret Murray (her first student). Morning introductory session followed by 5 fortnightly sessions.(Ancient Cultures & Archaeology Groups).

Ongoing: Open University’s ‘OpenLearn’ project. 400 units of learning material taken from OU programmes from ‘Introductory’ to ‘Masters’ level are available free. U3A wishes to use the website to create a ‘U3A Learning Club’ so U3A members can achieve optimum benefit both as individual and group users.

Electrical Equipment Set-up Contacts for Drake Hall and Pottery Room are: Alan Jeffery (729361) and Ted Jackets (433141). email: u3aequipment@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS
(at 14.30 in Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre)

There is a loop system in Drake Hall and members their hearing aids may switch them to the “T” position to hear speakers more clearly.

WEDNESDAYS

19 November: Ted Sutton – The Mary Rose
Ted Sutton is a member of the Mary Rose Information Group, an amateur marine archaeologist, and a keen yachtsman. The Mary Rose was Henry VIII’s favourite flag ship and was the first English warship capable of firing a broadside. In this illustrated talk he will explain the original building of the Mary Rose, her loss, recovery and conservation. The Trust was successful in its application for a Heritage Lottery Award, and now boasts a new Museum.

17 December: Keith Baldwin – Christmas Entertainment Package
Keith is a former Household Cavalry soldier, retired Senior Police Office, Micro light Aircraft Pilot and rambler! In a repertoire developed over a number of years, Keith has a fund of humorous anecdotes and stories. His Christmas Entertainment package should provide a happy and humorous start to the Festive Season.

21 January: Stephen Bungay – The Most Dangerous Enemy
Stephen is a Director of the Ashridge Strategic Management Centre, he is an academic, historian and author who has made a special study of the Battle of Britain. This talk is based on his book of the same name, it is an authoritative history of the British battle that most grips the imagination and symbolises the destiny of a nation; giving a fascinating insight into a crucial event in European history.

18 February: Roger Fletcher – Cuba, Another Island in the Stream
Roger will be known by many of you as a fellow Chiltern U3A Member. He first became interested in Cuba through his career in education. Roger has visited the island of Cuba several times and has accumulated many coloured slides of this romantic and exciting island, together with many surprising facts and opinions. This afternoon he will show us a selection of slides, and discuss with us a largely unknown and generally isolated Cuba; both positive and negative aspects of that situation will be intrinsic to the discussion.

18 March: Jill Fraser – More Tea, Less Vicar or How to Survive in an English Country Vicarage when you’re not the Vicar!
In 1980 Jill was a reporter for Newsround and Breakfast Time on BBC1 and Woman’s Hour on Radio 4. She also presented two religious programmes on ITV. Since moving to the countryside and having 3 children, she now works part-time as a reporter/researcher for Heart of the Country on ITV. In November 2007 her book ‘More Tea Less Vicar’ was published; prompted from personal experience when she and her family moved into “The Old Vicarage”. They had no idea that their new home came with several strings attached including hosting the annual Fete, inviting 50 carol singers in for mince pies etc. This (apparently) is only the start as, hindered by a mad aunt and a fanatical sister in law, the bewildered villagers can only look on in disbelief as the chaos unfolds.

THURSDAYS

6 November: Gordon Casbeard and Tony Brown - A Touch of Glass
This is a Victorian Magic Lantern Show which looks back on Victorian Times using an original Victorian Magic Lantern and original slides. An opportunity to sit back and look at a bygone age.

4 December: Dr Tony Maisey - Spare Parts
A humorous look at modern medical technologies and a serious consideration to some of the problems regarding spare part surgery. Dr Maisey says he is a retired and tired general practitioner, always interested in talking and in the last few years found people interested in listening. Previously a sportsman but now accepting the ravages of time and plays from his armchair.

1 January: New Year’s Day No meeting.

5 February: David Keen - The History of the R.A.F. Museum, Hendon
David Keen is an old boy of Hemel Hempstead Grammar School who went on to become a Headmaster in Hertfordshire. He then had a career change and is now Access Development Manager of the R.A.F Museum at Hendon. His talk includes the history of the Museum and the early days of flying that took place there predating its foundation.

5 March: Lt. Col. David R. Gilbert - Would You Believe It?
David Gilbert’s talk explores some notable impostors and hoaxes. He first worked for ICI and then for over thirty years with Hawker Siddeley becoming Legal Director towards the end of his career. He spent thirty seven years, mainly as a reserve, with the Intelligence Corps which gives him an insight into the subject matter of his talk.
General meetings. There is some confusion on attendance at General Meetings. When the Thursday General Meetings were introduced to relieve the congestion occurring at the Wednesday General Meeting, there was an understanding that, ideally, members should only attend one of the meetings each month. However, it was always the intent that members should be free to attend any of the meetings in which they wished to gain knowledge of, or had an interest in, the subject of the talk. That principle stands –do not feel inhibited if you do have an interest in attending both General Meetings in a month.

Bookings for the Pottery Room can be made with Anne Pierce Jones
Tel: 01494724749 or annepiercejones@aol.com

ACTIVITY GROUP REPORTS

ANCIENT CULTURES-Elaine Ring-Tel: 01494 864848
We continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 14.00 in the Pottery Room at the Amersham Community Centre. Our studies of the Romans in Britain and have already discussed the history of the invasion; villas and villa life; and slavery with particular reference to evidence of slavery in Roman Britain. We intend to continue by looking at Roman towns in Britain (particularly Colchester, the Roman port of London, Bath and St Albans); we also hope to discuss the Roman army, Hadrian’s Wall and the Vindolanda tablets; and religions in Roman Britain. Dates for future meetings are:
18 November; 16 December; 20 January; 17 February; 17 March.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES-Beryl Massa-Tel: 01494 784407
The group meets on the second Thursday in the month from 14.00 in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre.

13 November: Anything in Blue and White
11 December : Our Xmas Lunch with Quizzes
8 January: Our ever popular Table Top Sale

In August we had another talk by Claire on Gem Stones with pictures and details of diamonds (no free samples though). In Sept our talk on Clocks was cancelled until a later date. Instead we did some brain-storming of ideas for our calendar for 2009. Oct was a very interesting talk by Julie on Vaseline Glass, she brought with her a torch and Geiger-counter to highlight the fact that the glass contained uranium.

ARCHAEOLOGY-Anne Marshall-Tel: 01494 725952
Meetings are held on the first Monday in the month in the Lounge, Amersham Community Centre from 14.00. The next meeting will take place on 3 November, when the topic will be Roman Villas. The following month we shall meet on 15 December (please note the change from our usual week of the month): members of the group will contribute short talks on topics of interest to them. On 5 January we shall begin a series of sessions on the archaeology of Northern Europe with a look at the archaeology of the Vikings.
For the past two months we have allowed ourselves some respite from our usual intense intellectual activity. In August the weather was kind enough to let us enjoy our annual garden party outside in the garden, although it was touch and go. In September we followed up our interest in matters Indian with a visit to the Swaminarayan Hindu Temple in Neasden. The visit was extremely interesting and enjoyable thanks in no small measure to Guru Guruswami who organised for us not only the visit but also lunch in the adjacent cafeteria.

ARCHITECTURE 1-Sydney Howlett-Tel: 01494 726316
Usual day of meeting is the fourth Monday in the month in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre from 14.00-16.00. Please note that meetings are now held in the Pottery Room. Programme:
24 November – Members to talk about buildings and places visited during 2008.
December – No Meeting.
During the last three months we have moved ahead with our study of modern architecture. In particular we have considered a number of avant-garde architects and their radically new models for development of the Modern City, during the first three decades of the twentieth century. We have also looked at a variety of buildings from around the world, constructed during this period.
Meeting Notes on subjects covered are often provided for new joiners at modest cost.

Back issues of Handouts can be usually prepared in advance of each meeting to ensure that members have resources available for reference or for practical application at home. New members are very welcome; if you would like to receive details of meetings, send an e-mail to the address above.

In October seven members gave short talks on Gothic buildings and structure. It was a very interesting meeting. I feel everyone enjoyed either taking part or listening to different people's views.

We meet at 10.00 on the first Friday of each month, in the Pottery Room at Amersham Community Centre. We are still at capacity for members but will keep the situation under review and anyone interested in joining can be added to a waiting list. The convenors will liaise accordingly. The Group remains fortunate in having in its midst a number of active participants who are prepared to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. Thanks go to Sydney Howlett, for his well researched and presented talk on Henry Moore. In addition, Stephen Palmer, with Beryl Shaw, organised a memorable excursion to the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham. Beryl also arranged a visit to the home of Mary Orram, a well-known local artist. This may be repeated next Spring. Beryl has also organised a visit to the exhibition “Faces of the Renaissance” at the National Gallery. This is scheduled for Monday, 24 November and members wishing to join it should be sure to bring the £9 ticket cost to the 7 November Art Group meeting. The forthcoming programme is:

- 7 November – Edward Hopper; life, times and influences - a talk by Bill Barrow.
- 5 December – Eastern Promise - a talk by Mike Baldwin. This will be followed by the ever-popular Christmas Quiz, set by Beryl Shaw.
- 2 January – L S Lowry – Words, Pictures and Music – we shall discuss the ballet “The Simple Man”, a dance representation of the works of Lowry.

The Pottery Room has a broadband internet connection which gives us the potential to demonstrate a wide range of subjects. Members receive an e-mail prior to each meeting, giving details of the forthcoming programme. New members are very welcome; if you would like to receive details of meetings, send an e-mail to the address above.

We have been conducting a Programme Development Survey to help determine the content of future contributions. Initially we are planning for the sessions to comprise a combination of a talk on understanding computers, one or more presentations from members on interesting applications, a question and answer session and news updates. The person leading the session will normally demonstrate a topic or give a presentation using a laptop and projector. Participation is encouraged but not demanded. The Pottery Room has a broadband internet connection which gives us the potential to demonstrate a wide range of subjects. Members receive an e-mail prior to each meeting, giving details of the forthcoming programme. New members are very welcome; if you would like to receive details of meetings, send an e-mail to the address above.

Next meetings: 18 November, 16 December, 20 January

We have been conducting a Programme Development Survey to help determine the content of future contributions. Initially we are planning for the sessions to comprise a combination of a talk on understanding computers, one or more presentations from members on interesting applications, a question and answer session and news updates. The person leading the session will normally demonstrate a topic or give a presentation using a laptop and projector. Participation is encouraged but not demanded. The Pottery Room has a broadband internet connection which gives us the potential to demonstrate a wide range of subjects. Members receive an e-mail prior to each meeting, giving details of the forthcoming programme. New members are very welcome; if you would like to receive details of meetings, send an e-mail to the address above.

Next meetings: 25 November; No December Meeting; 27 January

New joiners with membership always welcome, just drop in. Meeting Notes on subjects covered are often provided at each meeting, sometimes with Exercises/Projects, all charged at printing costs only. Handouts are usually prepared in advance of each meeting to ensure that members have relevant instructional notes of what was included, to use either for reference or for practical application at home. Back issues of Handouts can be provided for new joiners at modest cost.
CROQUET—Robin Barry—Tel: 01494 873775, email: u3acroquet@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
We play at two o’clock on every Monday, except during the winter months of November to March inclusive. Our lawn is 40% of the full linear size with wide hoops and so is ideal for newcomers. Please ‘phone or preferably email to book for next year.

CURRENT AFFAIRS – Roger Murphy – Tel: 01494 766605, email: halice37@aol.com
We meet each month on the fourth Tuesday at 14.00 in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre. The quarter’s programme is:

25 November: Economics and the Economy - Frank Fermor  
December: No meeting.  
27 January: Political correctness. Over sensitivity, dishonest or a good thing? - Gerry Taylor

DIGITAL IMAGING–Jim Lukmanji–Tel: 01494 715187, email: u3adigital@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
The group meets in the Pottery Room at 14.30 on the third Friday of the month. In future our meetings will have two parts. Before the break we will have a talk on some aspect of Digital Imaging given by one of our more experienced members. After the break all members are encouraged to bring along examples of their own work to share and discuss. These may be images that show a particular technique, ones where you would like some feedback on how they might be improved, where you have a problem that you would like solved, or ones that you would simply like to show off. New members are very welcome. If you have any questions about digital photography just come along and we will do our best to help.

21 November - Tutorial – How to pop colour; Early tea break; 2008 RPS DIG Exhibition.  
19 December - Tutorial – Sharpening members’ images  
16 January - Tutorial – Colour management – how to get prints to look like the screen; 2007 RPS Projected Image Exhibition – just a selection to fill 45 minutes  
20 February - Tutorial – Histograms and Levels; Members’ images

EMBROIDERY-Penny Vardy–Tel: 01494 785016
Work continues with some new projects starting. New members are welcome. Just give me a ring for directions. Our December meeting will be for pleasure only, so the start time and venue may well be different. Please contact me nearer the time for more details if you are not sure. Meeting Dates:  
18 November, 16 December; 20 January

EXCURSIONS-Margaret Stickland–Tel: 01494 431698, email: magspet@tesco.net
Thursday, 13 November: CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL TOUR. Leader: Althea Godfrey. Tel: 01494 874846. Full.  
27-29 November: YORK - CHRISTMAS MARKET & CHATSWORTH HOUSE. Leader: Margaret Stickland. Tel: 01494 431698. Full.  
JANUARY: No Excursion.  
The day starts with a tour of a fine Thames meadow villa built for a Royal mistress of George II. In addition we learn of the horror of the Georgian beauty regime, how to curtsey, and to flirt with your fan. Free time for lunch in Richmond where there is a good choice of eateries. In the afternoon we visit the Musical Museum in nearby Brentford where we will have demonstrations of automated and mechanical musical instruments from a pre-wireless world. Price includes. tea/coffee/biscuits before leaving the Musical Museum, coach, and driver’s tip.

FAMILY HISTORY–Anne Morrogh–Tel: 01494 721992, email: anne.darshan5@ntlworld.com
We meet on the second Tuesday from 10.00-12.00 in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre.  
11 November: tba  
Wednesday, 19 November: Visit to TNA at Kew - hopefully by bus.  
9 December: Michael Gandy is giving us another talk entitled ‘Seeing it through their eyes’. We are instructed to come prepared to enjoy ourselves and to sing along.  
Tuesday, 16 December: Christmas Lunch at The Chartridge Golf Club.  
13 January: ‘Jolly memorials for when you pass away’ by Peter Powell and one of David Corfield’s talks - possibly ‘The Careless Corfields’. 

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FOLK DANCING–Ian and Val McFarlane; Tel: 01494 672782, email: val@msf107.com
We meet on the fourth Thursday at 15.00-16.45 in the Drake Hall Amersham Community Centre. If you enjoy that you might like to come to our session on 27 November. You only need a pair of comfortable shoes. We change partners and Ian and Val are available to dance so come alone or as a couple or in a group, all will be welcome. Future dates are:
27 November; We shall not meet in December; 22 January; 26 February; 26 March & 23April (What an auspicious day on which to do English social dancing). We look forward to seeing many of you at the U3A Ceilidh on 14 November at 19.00

FRENCH–Graham Lewis; Tel: 01494 763859
We meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at members’ homes from 14.00 to 16.00. The emphasis is on conversation and speaking, with everyone taking part. We talk of personal news and activities, read and translate a variety of texts, including articles from the French press and use the grammar book, “Living French”, and its linked tape.

FRENCH 4 IMPROVERS - Jean Newhouse - Tel: 01494 726915, email: u3afrench4@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
We meet in members’ houses from 14.00–16.00 on the first and third Mondays of the month. We use a grammar book and enjoy a varied programme of translations, word games, shared experiences, role play, prepared talks, discussions and videos. We think our French is improving.

FRENCH REFRESHER 1-Nicole Franses - Tel: 01494 763095
The group continues to make progress and to have fun at the same time. We meet on fourth Mondays. No meeting in December

FRENCH REFRESHER 2-Neil Richardson -Tel: 01494 866910, email: nr4@btopenworld.com
Our group meets in members’ homes at 10.00 for around 2 hours on usually the first and third Wednesdays of each month, being modified when this arrangement does not suit. Activities include translation, discussion, reporting personal activities, watching and listening to French-language videos, artistes, etc. The level is pitched to suit those who already have some knowledge of the language and wish to improve both their active and passive use of it, written and spoken. We limit group numbers to 10, otherwise individual participation becomes difficult, and currently have a vacancy for one more member.

GARDEN INTEREST GROUP–Helen Farndon, Tel: 01494 762027, email: h.farndon@ntlworld.com and Kenneth Bodman, Tel: 01494 722450, email: kennethb.bodman@btinternet.com
Our recent events included:
July - Geffrye Museum, London. The small walled garden reflected the changes in attitudes to garden design through the ages; ranging from herb gardening to a series of period garden rooms. This complimented the period rooms reflecting furniture and domestic interiors of the urban middle classes dating from 1600 to the present day. We had two talks; one an introduction to the museum and the other a more detailed history of the museum and plans for the future.

August - Hatfield House. We were able to visit both the gardens and the magnificent house which dates back to 1611, a house that is still occupied by the Salisbury family. The house and its owners have played prominent parts in History. The garden at Hatfield House dates from the early 17th century when Robert Cecil employed John Tradescant the Elder to collect plants for his new home. Tradescant was sent to Europe where he found and brought back trees, bulbs, plants and fruit trees, which had never previously been grown in England. We were amazed at how neglected the gardens were, and even more disappointed with the East Garden which was in a similar condition. However, we enjoyed the elegant parterres, topiary and a new topiary of two mammoths joined by the trunk with a little one in tow. Strange to think that London is only 30 miles away.

September - Imagine experiencing 330 years of botanical and medical history and seeing the present day planting. Well that was our experience when we visited London’s oldest botanic garden, Chelsea Physic Garden. Our guided tour informed us about the many uses of rare and tender plants, from life-saving drugs to the “ordinary” tea plant and we learnt so much about English and world history with many amusing anecdotes. We saw Europe’s oldest rock garden. Lunch was absolutely delicious and with so much choice.

October - Our visit to Waddesdon Manor was blessed with the warmth of an Indian Summer day. The gardens are considered one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, obviously as time passes some changes and restoration work are undertaken. The gardens are magnificent which many interesting features. There is much consternation at the moment due to the blight that is attacking the horse chestnut trees and putting them under danger. This blight is widespread across Europe. At this time of the year the gardens are ablaze with autumnal colours, well worth a visit.
Forthcoming Events:

Friday, 7 November: General Meeting at The Small Barn, Amersham Community Centre, 14.00. This will give us an opportunity to review our events of the past year and to consider our draft programme of events for 2009.

Friday, 5 December: Our Christmas Lunch, 13.00 in The Small Barn, Amersham Community Centre. Ken and Helen will prepare the lunch. Donations for the raffle will be gratefully received.

Please note that the decision has been made to change the name of the Chiltern U3A Gardening Group to “Garden Interest Group” as this name reflects the direction the Group is now taking.

GEOLOGY GROUP–Joe Ibbett Tel: 01494-431941, email: u3ageology@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
The Group meets in the Pottery Room at 10.00 on the third Friday of the month. Our programme is:
21 November: The Founding Fathers of British Geology
December: No meeting
16 January: The Geology of New Zealand
Trips to sites of interest will be arranged on an ad hoc basis to suit as many members as possible.

GERMAN CONVERSATION–Gerlinde Dunkley Tel: 01494 771809
We meet on the first Monday of each month between 10.30-12.30 at 108 Berkeley Avenue, except for Bank Holidays. We converse in German, discuss wide ranging topics, have fun and end the session by singing a German folksong. For those who want to combine conversing in German with walking, there are two organised walks a month:
   A walk of 4-5 miles on the third Monday of the month from 10.00-12.00.
   A walk of 9-11 miles around the Chilterns on the fourth Friday of each month from 09.30, with a stop en route for a Pub lunch.

GLORIES OF HOLLYWOOD–Helen Ash Tel: 01494 872054
There will be no film in November so the December one will be the last one of the year and this time it is on Monday 15 December. Helen hopes to get a new colourised print of “Holiday Inn” to show on this occasion but if it is not out in time something happy will be shown. This will be the last one until next April so I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE–Pam Fiddimore Tel: 01494 783472
This small group meets monthly, on flexible dates to suit, in members’ homes. We now have a fluent Greek-speaking tutor and are aiming to improve generally our conversation, also gaining knowledge of Greek cultural background. This enables us to understand and communicate more, obtaining further benefit as greekofiles.

HISTORY, GENERAL–Kathleen Bailey Tel: 01494 724283
We meet at Amersham Free Church on the first Wednesday of each month 14.00-16.00. Dates of next meetings:
5 November; 3 December; 7 January; 4 February
At our last few meetings we have done further work on the Industrial Revolution and its consequences. We discussed the work of Telford and Brunel and other notable people, including Fox-Talbot. We have also investigated what really happened during the Wars of the Roses, including the fate of various people such as Henry VI and the Duke of Suffolk. Facts about the battles provided the background to an interesting talk about the Paston family which included extracts from their letters. We plan to go on to study Tsarist Russia but other topics will be covered in a Historical Miscellany.

HISTORY, LOCAL–Pat Kent Tel: 01494 772455 and Diana Lawson Tel: 01494 721175
We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00 in the Owen Room at the Amersham Free Church unless an outside visit has been arranged. Will members please consult the notice board at the U3A General Meetings or contact Pat or Diana for information. Our next meetings are:
13 November: An illustrated talk by Sydney Howlett on The Civil War in Bucks.
11 December: Chiltern Pubs - Members Presentations followed by a plate lunch. NB This meeting will be held from 11.00 to 13.00.
8 January: An illustrated talk by Keith Fletcher entitled The history of Brick Making in the Chesham Area.
In August the group visited Gorehambury House, a hidden gem, followed by lunch and free time in St Albans In September we were welcomed at Hulcott by Honor Levington, who took us on a fascinating walk around her village. October saw the final outside visit for the year. The group had a very interesting guided tour of Quainton village visiting the tower mill and church.
HISTORY, LOCAL 2 - Chris and Nina Middleton – Tel: 01494 433704
We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 10.00-12.00 in the Pottery Room at Amersham Community Centre unless an outside visit has been arranged. Our programme is:
27 November: Jim Cuming will continue his talk about being an evacuee from London during the 39-45 War. His talk is entitled “Bullets in the Beech Trees”. This is a rearranged talk by Jim who had to cancel on a previous occasion due to ill health.
25 December: No meeting.
22 January: Garry Marshall will give an illustrated talk about research into the Chesham Manor Court Rolls, that indicate how people may have lived in the Middle Ages.
Nina and I would like to thank Audrey and Mike Elliott for acting as convenor during our absence in August and September. Audrey also arranged the visit to Latimer House. We gather that both visits were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

INVESTMENT GROUP (Chiltern Investors) – John Deakin – Tel: 01494 866178

ITALIAN BEGINNERS 1 – Jackie Boulter: Tel: 01494 865890
We meet on the second & fourth Monday from 14.00 to 16.15 in the Committee room, Amersham Community Centre. We are a small group, still in need of a leader and we would welcome any assistance in locating someone willing to guide us.

ITALIAN BEGINNERS 2 – Flavia Mann: Tel: 01494 433564
Our group has now been going strongly for a year and half. We continue to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Friday. The group has 6 people and occasionally students have been replaced by new comers if they had to drop out. We meet in my home for ‘two hour’ sessions. Lessons will re-commence after the summer holidays towards the end of September (date tbc).

JAZZ APPRECIATION – Mike Pratt – Tel: 01494 712354, e-mail: u3ajazz@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
We meet on the third Monday of each month from 14.00-16.30 in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre.
17 November: BRING AND PLAY DAY. Another chance to share your favourite jazz recordings. Tracks from CDs, audio tape or 33 & 45 vinyls.
15 December: NO MEETING (Christmas Dinner with Live Jazz 14 Dec)
19 January: MY JOURNEY THROUGH JAZZ: Mike Baldwin, one of our members, will introduce his friend GEOFF CRONIN, who will give us a talk focussing on the UK Jazz Scene.

KEEP FIT GROUP – Nicole Roze Houghton – Tel: 01494 874867
We exercise regularly every Tuesday from 12.45 to 13.45 in the Drake Hall. Our group is meant to keep people mobile by special methods of breathing, stretching and revitalising our body and mind. We gradually build up our muscles in order to protect our bones. We do Pilates, Yoga and Aerobics. We work on our hips, knees and shoulders. It is all done in a very relaxed atmosphere. We play a ball games for our reflexes. We all have a good laugh and feel 10 years younger at the end of the session. We provide an elastic band at the cost of £5 (half the price in shops). Non-slippery footwear, water and a mat are required You are welcome to join us.

MAH JONG, LEARN TO PLAY – Erika Atkinson – Tel: 01494 890714
We meet every Thursday afternoon in the Lounge from 13.30 onwards for an enjoyable game. If you are interested in joining us give me a ring or just turn up. We welcome new members.

M.O.T.O GROUP – Jennifer Jeacock – e-mail: jeac@msn.com & Daphne Bromley – Tel: 01494 434111, daphne.bromley@ntlworld.com
The group meets on the first and third Saturday of the month, from 10.00, in the Pottery Room. In between there are regular pub lunches arranged for weekdays and Sundays. Members sign for these at the Saturday meetings and are asked to contact the organizer if they have to drop out for any reason - we do not want to leave our organizers alone in a pub! Members enjoyed a coach outing to Kew in October and the next major event is in December to The Mill at Sonning. Anyone on his/her own is invited to drop in to one of our Saturday Meetings for coffee and meet us - there is no commitment involved. If there is something you would like to do bring your ideas with you. We always need fresh suggestions. All meetings in December and January will take as usual.
MUSIC APPRECIATION - Ivan Hirsh  Tel: 01494 727473 and Tony Davis  Tel: 01494 763164, email: u3amusicalappreciation@chiltern-u3a.org.uk

We continue to meet at 10:00 on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pottery Room of the Community Centre. In that venue we can enjoy a mixture of DVDs and CDs. The next few meetings will be on:

5 November, 3 December, 7 January, 4 February.

There is no need to ‘phone beforehand unless (near the time) you would like to know what is going to be shown or played.

MUSIC MAKING - Rosalind Aspinall  Tel: 01494 862331

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Owen Room at Amersham Free Church. We arrive at 09.30 to set up and tune up so that we may begin playing promptly at 09.45. We play as a small orchestra with a conductor having a wide range of instruments from string, woodwind, brass, recorder and keyboard sections. However we are short of a viola player so if there is anyone who would like to fill this position we would be delighted to meet you. Our aim is to enjoy playing rather than to perform for an audience.

OPERA APPRECIATION - Stephen Palmer  Tel: 01494 723171, email: u3aopera@chiltern-u3a.org.uk

Opera is a glorious art form which encompasses all human experience and emotions. Our group has excellent visual and sound facilities, and we try to make opera accessible and enjoyable by using a range of presenters with a broad spread of opera experiences. Our meetings are held generally on the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting at 10.15 in the Owen Room at the Amersham Free Church. For those wishing to borrow recordings we have a wide selection of videos and DVDs available. Our planned programme is:

26 November  -Wagner’s ‘Tannhauser’
31 December-Verdi’s ‘The Masked Ball’ (not 24 December)
28 January 2009-Berlioz’s The Trojans

ORNITHOLOGY - Richard Tomlin  Tel: 01494 774682, email: u3aornithology@chiltern-u3a.org.uk

College Lake – Friday, 25 July – It is an ideal place to visit at this time, many birds are very quiet; butterflies and dragonflies are at their peak of activity, and there are many wild flowers still in bloom. There were many Lapwings, with a few still looking after young; a few Common Tern chicks around, but most of the young had departed. We saw several of the gorgeous Pyramidal Orchid still in bloom. Butterflies were represented by Gatekeepers, and both Large and Small Skippers. There were also some of the magnificent Brown Hawker dragonflies around, together with many Common Blue damselflies.

Wilstone Reservoir – Friday, 22 August – At this time of year migrant waders are attracted to the mud; which is extensive this year, but apart from about 200 Lapwings in front of the hide, and two distant Greenshanks there were none. An adult Great Crested Grebe was fishing just below the reservoir bank so that we could see it swimming underwater. Along the canal we were treated to a repeat performance by a young Little Grebe, that was catching tiny fish. We saw a Whinchat in autumn plumage – a migrant from northern Britain to Africa - joined on top of a bush by a male Whitethroat.

Ivinghoe Beacon – Friday, 26 September – We met on a beautiful early sunny morning, made more so by the wonderful views of a sea of fog over the Vale of Aylesbury. A pair of Ravens flew over, probably part of the family that have bred near Whipsnade for several years. A large flock of about 300 Goldfinches made a pretty sight feeding on patches of thistles. Meadow Pipits were abundant everywhere. There were also several Stonechats. Some Jays in a scattered flock were aimlessly drifting around. The surprise of the morning happened when Sheila Harley drew my attention to a tight flock of birds. They had long bills and legs, and prominent white wing bars and rumps - Black-tailed Godwits – probably Icelandic breeders.

College Lake Bird Race – Sunday 5 October – For the second year our group entered a team for this annual sponsored event – David Buckley, Cliff Robinson, Beryl Shaw and myself. In very difficult weather conditions we went around the reserve for a morning, finding a grand total of 41 birds. This was not nearly enough to win but thanks to David’s sterling efforts we provisionally made over £150. The money will be split equally between College Lake, and the RSPB reserve of Otmoor. Many thanks to David, the other team members, and to all those U3A members who sponsored us.

Forthcoming Programme (provisional):

Friday, 24 October – Lee Valley reserves (Herts) for wildfowl and possibly Bittern.
Friday, 14 November – Joint meeting with the Wildlife group, the Barn Hall (see details elsewhere).
Friday, 28 November – Little Marlow Gravel Pit for wintering wildfowl
Monday, 29 December – Otmoor near Oxford – Afternoon trip for wintering wildfowl and waders. Note date change.
PAINTING & DRAWING 1-Jean Ogilvie-Tel: 01753 885103
We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in The Small Hall, Amersham Community Centre but if the weather allows we make arrangements to paint outside at a suitable venue. Please check with the convenor for details.

PAINTING & DRAWING GROUP 2-Cathie Orton–Tel: 01494 776873, email: u3apainting2@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
We are a friendly group. Some have done no drawing or painting since schooldays and others paint every week in art groups etc. We help and encourage each other and some are so enthusiastic that they were drenched by torrential rain when they made efforts to paint outside a few weeks ago! Meetings, usually on the third Friday, in the Small Barn Hall but no meeting on 19 December as we intend going out for a Christmas lunch.

21 November - Look at vase design and make out own personal designs.
16 January - Studies of Animals in different media.
If interested in joining us in, please get in touch with the convenor.

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING - Catherine Orr-Ewing Tel: 01494 864689, email: c.o.eotts@btinternet.com
This is a friendly group of people who like to get together on a regular basis to work on their patchwork, quilt, help each other, and share ideas and experiences. Our projects are varied. We work both with machines and by hand, or a combination of both. We cannot offer tuition, but there is usually someone who can solve a problem, if only with encouragement! We welcome anyone interested in sewing to join us. We will be meeting in the Lounge at the Community Centre at 14.00 on both Friday, 7 November and Friday, 5 December. Dates for 2009 are yet to be fixed, so members should keep in touch with the convenor.

PHILOSOPHY – Greville Jones - Tel: 01494 766817
We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 14.00-16.00 in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre.

PHOTOGRAPHY–Brian D Dunn–Tel: 01494 762719, email: u3aphoto@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
We meet on the first Friday of each month from 14.30 to 16.30 in the Pottery Room. Meeting format:
Set Subject – Members’ Images (2-4 images on flash drive); Tea Break and Expert’s Assistance/Members Compilation - Expert’s Assistance is open to any Chiltern U3a Member. Bring your questions or problems for advice at every meeting. N.B. please bring the USER MANUAL when seeking help with specific cameras; Tutorial – Members’ Subject Choices.
Meeting dates:
7 November: (1) Royal Photographic Society (2) DVD Production-Guru Ganeswamy
5 December: Digital Help Day for ANY Chiltern U3A beginners.
16 January: (1) “I was a beginner once” (2) Montage Construction- Alan Jeffery
NOTE:- December Meeting is a SPECIAL where Group Members will give help and advice to on, for example, buying the right camera, how to operate your camera, how to improve image quality, how to use computer software to improve or change images. A warm welcome awaits you. No prior arrangement is necessary, simply turn up.

PILATES–Pamela Turner–Tel: 01494 864863, email: turnerpe@btinternet.com
The group continues to be well attended - from 11.30 in the Drake Hall on the first, third and, where applicable, the fifth Tuesdays of the month. The sessions continue to be well supported and on occasions the Hall has been quite full. New members are still welcome but please contact the Convenor before coming for the first time. In view of the popularity of Pilates, anyone already on the register who has not attended for more than three months, without explanation, will be taken off the register.

PLAY READING & THEATRE STUDIES–Joyce Tapley–Tel: 01494 714183
We meet in the Pottery Room on the second and fourth Wednesday each month at 14.30. Our plays vary in subject and we hope to please everybody. Where are all the men out there! We could do with a few more male voices. You could be the next Hamlet. Give it a try.

POETRY–Doreen Bowler Tel: 01494 724969
We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. Recently some members of the Poetry Group joined Readers Group 2 on an outing to Batemans, Rudyard Kipling’s delightful house in East Sussex. Sadly it rained all day but this did not detract from our enjoyment of the house and the Kipling memorabilia. He was our chosen poet for October. The November meeting falls on Remembrance Day and we shall be choosing our readings to suit the occasion. Our future programme is:

11 November – The War Poets; 9 December – Great Things; 13 January – Poems in Translation
READERS GROUP 1–Ruth Verity–Tel: 01494 714593
We continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month, in members’ homes at 10.15. The group is full at the moment. We enjoy reading a range of novels both classic and modern, with the occasional biography – each book being selected by a member, who then presents it to the group. The books for the next two months are as follows: 6 November: *The Photograph*, Penelope Lively; 4 December: *Shakespeare*, Bill Bryson
No book in January as we will be discussing other books we have read, and planning future reading.

READERS GROUP 2–Mavis Turl–Tel: 01494 786859
Our meetings take place in members’ homes on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 10:15. For our annual outing, we went to Bateman's in Sussex, the former home of Rudyard Kipling. This was enjoyed by all, including those who joined us, in spite of the wet conditions. Our programme plan is as follows:
- 4 November. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid
- 2 December. *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett
- 6 January. *The Road Home* by Rose Tremain

READERS GROUP 3–Rita Fermor–Tel: 01494 862097
The Group meets in the Pottery Room on the second Thursday of the month, from 10.30 until 12.00. Over the next months, we shall be reading:
‘As I walked out one Midsummer Morning’ by Laurie Lee; ‘Eve Green’, by Susan Fletcher; ‘A Gathering Light’ by Jane Donnelly; ‘Medea and other plays’ by Euripides
The group is now full.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY– Edmund Hall–Tel: 01494 763627
The Science Group meets regularly in the Pottery Room on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00, unless otherwise stated. We range widely over subjects from both the physical and biological sciences, and also mathematics. New members are very welcome; just turn up (please bring membership card). While some of our members have scientific backgrounds, as many don’t so don’t worry if you aren’t a Phd or an “ologist”. All you need is an interest in the science and technology that permeates our modern lives. Future topics: 20 November – Bell’s inequality, 18 December - Christmas Novelties, 15 January - Young Person Royal Lecture. We have our own space on the U3A web site which gives our full programme for 2009.

SCRABBLE & RUMMIKUB–John Frankel–Tel: 01494 765781
The Group meets in the Pottery Room, Amersham Community Centre , on the second and fourth Friday of each month (but see below *) from 14.00 to approximately 16.30. Dates for your diary are as follows:
- 14 & 28 November; 12 December; 9 & 23 January
*There will be no meeting on Boxing Day, 26 December. Do feel free to join our dedicated band of stalwarts!

SHORT MAT BOWLING–Edmund Hall–Tel: 01494 763627
This group meets each Friday afternoon from 14.00-16.00 at The Whitehill Centre, Chesham. If you are interested please ring me. It doesn’t matter if you have never played before.

SINGERS–Brenda Liddiard–Tel: 01494 727775, email: brendaliddiard@onetel.com
We meet on the second and fourth Fridays at the Free Church from 09.45–11.30. The Group continues to enjoy singing a wide variety of songs, both old and new. We presented a mixed programme at the Burford House Care Home, Chorleywood in July, which was greatly enjoyed by the residents. We are now preparing for our Christmas engagements - at The Kings Lodge Residential Home in Amersham on 12 December and at the U3A General Meeting on 17 December.

STRIDERS GROUP - Ruth and Jeremy Duffy, Tel: 01494 775446, email: ruth-and-jeremy.duffy@virgin.net.
Monday, 3 November: ‘Cholesbury’ - up to 8 miles. Leader: Andrew Clark, Tel: 01494 783035, email: ajclarku3a@hotmail.co.uk. A delightful walk around the Bucks/Herts border. Meet in the car park on Cholesbury Common by the cricket club, OS Map 181, GR SP933072. Start time: 10.15. Details of this walk appeared in the August newsletter.

Wednesday, 12 November: ‘Venus Hill and The Twelve Apostles’ - 9 miles. Leaders: Ruth and Jeremy Duffy, details above. This not too strenuous walk takes us from Chenies up to Flauden and Venus Hill, and on to Belsize for lunch. Please park around The Green in Chenies or along the road leading to the school, OS Map 172, GR SU016984. Start time: 10.00.
Thursday, 20 November: ‘Two Rivers and a Lake’ - 11 miles. Leaders: Helen Clews and David Pearson, Tel: 01494 721813, email: webmaster@chiltern-u3a.org.uk. The rivers are the Thames and the Jubilee River and the lake is Dorney Lake, venue for the 2012 Olympic rowing competitions. This is a new departure for an H & D walk - no hills, no stiles and no mud (well, not much). However, there will be plenty of miles - at least 11. Lunch at the ‘sandwich pub of the year’, with a choice of 1005 different sandwiches. Meet in the car park near Boveney Court on the Thames, OS Map 160, GR SU938777. Start time: 09.45.

Tuesday, 25 November: ‘Not Crick’ - 10.7 miles. Leader: Kevin Beaumont, Tel: 01494 763516, email: kevinbeaumont@ntlworld.com. A walk in and around the Hambleden Valley, through some pretty villages and affording some delightful views. There is a moderately arduous climb right at the start. This is a shorter version of Kevin’s May walk, ‘Not Cricket’, hence the shorter title! Start in the car park in Hambleden, OS Map 171, GR SU786865 - clearly signed from the village centre. Start time: 10.00.

Friday, 5 December: ‘Part Hertfordshire now Buckinghamshire’ - 9.5 miles. Leaders: John and Peggy Mills, Tel: 01494 873009, email: millsjwmc@tesco.net. A delightful walk through woods and fields into a former part of Hertfordshire, which is now Buckinghamshire and close to Amersham. The walk is moderate with fine views of the countryside around Winchmore Hill and Coleshill. Meet at the car park in Hodgemoor Woods off Bottrells Lane which runs from Chalfont St Giles to the A355 opposite the Mulberry Bush pub, OS Map 172, GR SU968939. Start time: 10.00.

Monday, 8 December: CHRISTMAS WALK AND LUNCH - JOINTLY WITH THE WALKING GROUP - 4.5 miles. Organisers: Ruth and Jeremy Duffy, details above. Our Christmas lunch this year will be at the Pink & Lily, Parslow’s Hilllock, near Lacey Green. OS Map 181, GR SP826018. It is open to any Striders Group/Walking Group member, but to qualify, you must have walked with us this year. The lunch will cost £21.50. Numbers are limited, so please book early. Drinks can be ordered and paid for individually on the day, either at the bar or at the table. House wine is available at £12.50 a bottle. The pub will not add on a fixed service charge and we will have a collection for the staff at the end of the meal. The booking form is enclosed on a separate sheet and this gives the full menu choices. Please complete the booking form and send it with a cheque for the full amount, made payable to Chiltern U3A and return it to us at Hollybank, 97 Fullers Hill, Chesham, HP5 1LS. Bookings will be made in the order they are received, but forms should be posted to arrive no later than 14 November. After that, please telephone first to check if there are still places available. Please note that refunds, less a non-returnable deposit of £10, may be made for cancellations after Friday 28 November; but there will be no refunds for cancellations made less than 48 hours before the lunch, unless the person cancelling has found somebody else to take up his or her place(s). Please park in the pub car park or along the road - car sharing would be helpful. The walk meanders through Hampden country - there are 3 stiles, 2 moderate hills and it will inevitably be muddy in places. We should arrive back at the pub at about 12.30 and aim to be seated by 1.00. If you want to come for lunch but not on the walk, please let us know on the booking form, or, if you have to change plans, by ‘phone/email. Start time 10.00.

Friday, 12 December: ‘A Winter Perambulation’ - 9 miles. Leader: Nigel Lanning, Tel: 01442 833938, email: nigel_lanning@hotmail.com. This walk takes us along the edge of Bovingdon, then Flaunden and down to the Chess Valley. We then climb up to Sarratt, and on to lunch at the Cart and Horses at Commonwood. After lunch we skirt Chipperfield Common on the way back to our starting point. The walk starts and ends at Nigel’s house, Harts Hill Farm, Flaunden Lane, OS Map 182, GR TL023024 There is plenty of parking in his field. This is a repeat of Nigel’s ‘Autumn Perambulation’ in October last year. Start time: 10.00.

Friday, 9 January: ‘The Apostles Adventure’ - 9 miles. Leader: Lesley Parrott, Tel: 01494 772678, email: lesley.parrott@hotmail.co.uk. Starting (we hope) from Latimer House, via Flaunden to Chipperfield Common returning via Belsize and the Chess Valley. Lunch at the Cart & Horses, Commonwood. Car park may change but please share cars. Unless advised to the contrary, please park at Latimer House, OS Map 172, GR SU500989. Start time: 10.00.

Friday, 16 January: ‘The Chess Valley in Winter’ - 10-12 miles depending on the weather. Leader: Heather Wild, Tel: 01494 774911, email: hbwild@globalnet.co.uk. A circular walk from Ley Hill through Latimer and Chenes, with lunch at the Red Lion. Some hills and stiles. Please park on Ley Hill Common near the Swan and Crown pubs, OS Map 181, GR SP989018. Start time: 10.00.
Friday, 23 January: ‘Coombe Hill - Dunsmore - Cadsean Ridge’ - approx 10 miles. Leader: Mike Tracey, Tel: 01923 775423, email: fjgray@fsnet.co.uk. Good views across Aylesbury Vale with at least two climbs. Park at the top of the hill in Coombe Hill car park, OS Map 181, GR SP852062. From Wendover, turn left at Butlers Cross; after half a mile, turn left again towards Dunsmore. Lunch at The Plough at Lower Cadsean. Start time: 10.00.

Friday, 30 January: ‘A Jan/Joy Jaunt passing Pimlico via Water and Wind’ – approx 9.5 miles. Leaders: Joy Fletcher and Janet Hyatt, Tel: 01494 773555, email: u3aleaderjoy@chiltern-u3a.org.uk. The walk starts along the Grand Union Canal from Hunton Bridge, then along tracks and woodland paths to Bedmond for lunch. Back through lanes and across fields with open views of surrounding countryside, Along to the canal path and the start. No stiles! Parking by the church or the cricket ground car park opposite. This is at the traffic lights at Hunton Bridge (near Abbots Langley) on the A41, OS Map 182, GR TL081005. Please share cars as parking is limited. Start time: 09.45.

Friday, 6 February: ‘West Wycombe to Fingest’ - 10 miles. Leaders: Bob and Sandra Empson, Tel: 01494 727699, email: u3aleaderbob@chiltern-u3a.org.uk. Expect the usual, undulating Chilterns terrain, with some ascents and descents. Meet in the Garden Centre car park in West Wycombe, OS Map 172, GR SU826947. Start time: 10.00.

STROLLERS GROUP-Jean Edmonds- Tel: 01494 783542
The Strollers Group was formed to cater for those who like to walk but not at the pace or over the distances covered by the established Walking Group. We average around 3 miles over terrain that is not too taxing with as few stiles as possible. Waterproof clothing and strong footwear are essential. The safety guidelines given for the Walking Group apply equally to Strollers. If you wish to take part in any of the walks please contact the leader and let them know if you are staying to lunch. Volunteers to lead Strolls are always needed – please contact the Convenor with details of your walk (to be received by 15 January) for inclusion in the next Newsletter to be published at the beginning of February.

Tuesday, 11 November. A gentle stroll from Wigginton. Leader: Margaret Maund. Tel: 01494 729962
Approximately 3 miles with 1 Stile and a slight incline towards the end. Meet in the Greyhound Pub Car Park in the centre of Wigginton if staying for lunch. Food to be ordered prior to walking. 10.45 start. From Chesham take the Vale Road towards Cholesbury turning right just passed the Full Moon Pub. This will take you to a T Junction after about 1.5 miles where you will turn left. This will lead to Wigginton village and the pub is on the left.

Monday, 24 November. Wendover and Coombe Hill. Leader: Jean Edmonds. Tel: 01494 783542
Meet in the Rear Car Park of the Shoulder of Mutton Pub which is next to the entrance of Wendover Station. A gentle incline from Wendover to the top of Coombe Hill, from where there are outstanding views over Aylesbury Vale, returning to Wendover downhill through woodland. Approx. 3.25 miles – no stiles. Lunch afterwards at the pub. Approach Wendover from the A413 turn left at the mini-roundabout and the pub is a few yards along on the right. 10.00 start.

Wednesday, 10 December. An easy walk around Asheridge, near Chesham. Leader: Jean Edmonds. Tel: 01494 783542
An easy circular stroll from the Blue Ball pub through Widmore Wood. 2.5 miles and no stiles! Lunch at the pub afterwards for a pre-Christmas get together. Meet in the pub Car Park for a 11.00 start. From Chesham approach along Bellingdon Road to the bottom of Hivings Hill where the road forks at a garage. Take the left-hand fork, firstly going through the industrial estate and onwards through countryside until you reach the Blue Ball on your right. Approximately 2 miles.

Tuesday, 30 December. Blow the Cobwebs away and walk off your Christmas Excesses with this old favourite along the Chess Valley. Leader: Jean Edmonds. Tel: 01494 783542
Approximately 2.5 miles and no Stiles! Walk through the woods from Chenes Village to Latimer returning along the Chess Valley. Lunch afterwards at the Red Lion, Chenies. Park in the road outside the pub for a 11.00 start.

Wednesday, 7 January. A Stroll around Chesham Bois. Leader: Sydney Howlett. Tel: 01494 726316; email:syjv.h@btinternet.com
A repeat of the walk of April 2007. An easy stroll with much woodland for most of the way, although in the later stages we climb up Jacob’s Ladder, the steepest hillside in the parish – 47 m. (150 feet) over a distance of 200m. Meet at Chesham Bois War Memorial, the junction of North Road and Bois Lane for 10.30 start. Parking on nearby roads. Please let Sydney know if you will be staying for lunch, which will be at the Boot & Slipper public house, corner of Rickmansworth Road/Chesham Road.
Wednesday, 14 January. Outskirts of Chesham 2.5 miles. No Stiles. Leader: Pam Brennan. Tel: 01494 431409
An easy circular walk. Meet at the Hen and Chickens Pub, Botley where parking is available. From the centre of Chesham go up White Hill turning right into Botley Road at the roundabout at the top. Please let Pam know if you will be staying for lunch – food to be pre-ordered before walking. **Start time 10.45.**

**SWIMMING GROUP** - Jill Davis - Tel: 01494 763164
As from 4 November we meet at the Amersham Pool, 10.00-11.30 every Tuesday. Bring a coffee snack if staying for a chat afterwards. There is no swimming on the following dates: 16 December to 6 January inclusive (Christmas break). We restart on 13 January.

**TABLE TENNIS** - Jeanne Woodrow - Tel: 01753 400055
We have a table of our own now, donated by the neighbour of a member. It’s condition is much appreciated by us all. Thanks to the committee for purchasing the new net. We meet at Chalfont St Peter Leisure Centre in Nicol Road on the first, third and fifth Thursdays from 11.00-12.30. Parking is Free. Bus 355 brings you to the door! We play from 11.00-12.30. We welcome all abilities. Bring Gym Shoes and a drink. Forthcoming dates: 6 & 20 November; 4 & 18 December; 15 & 29 January

**TAI CHI GROUP** - Jane Acaster - Tel: 01494 725618, email: jane.acaster@btinternet.com
We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 11.30 in the Drake Hall. In order to give the general U3A Membership an idea of what we are working on in our Tai Chi class, there will be a demonstration on the stage, by some of our members, before the start of two General Meetings in the New Year. The likely dates are Wednesday, 21 January and Thursday, 5 February. So we must keep practising!

**TEN PIN BOWLING** - Kathie & Brian Jones - Tel: 01494 725627, email: kaj42@btinternet.com
If you enjoy an afternoon of fun and good company, join us on the second Wednesday of every month for Ten Pin Bowling. We meet at 13.45 for a 14.00 start at Hotshots Leisure World, Jarman Park, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 4JW. New members are made very welcome and at £6 for 3 games and free parking the afternoon represents excellent value. Previous experience is not a requirement, we play for enjoyment (although it must be admitted that a certain amount of rivalry creeps in between the teams). Car sharing makes sense and members organise this between themselves. If you let us know 2/3 days in advance if you will be attending, either by e-mail or telephone, that is very helpful. **No meeting in November and December.** Forthcoming dates: 14 January; 11 February and 11 March.

**THEATRE GROUP** - Diana Atkinson - Tel: 01494 433301
Thursday, 15 January "BILLY ELLIOTT" at the VICTORIA PLACE THEATRE. Matinee commencing at 14:30. A funny, heart-warming celebration of one boy's triumph over adversity. Since its movie release in October 2000, the story of Billy Elliott has captured hearts and minds the world over. Director Stephen Daldry and writer Lee Hall, are joined by music legend Elton John in creating the most exciting musical of the decade. Good seats in stalls, £30.00 includes Ticket, Coach and Drivers tip. **Closing date: 12 November.**

**WALKING GROUP** – Janice Foster – Tel: 01494 725850, Mobile (for emergency use only): 07973 206901, Skype username: ‘chilternwalker’; email: chilternwalker@dsl.pipex.com

Please note: The Walking Group does walks of 4-6 miles in length. For details of longer walks, please see Striders Group. For easier walks at a slow pace, for those who cannot manage the Walking Group walks, please see Strollers Group.

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**Note for New Members:** These Walks, including ‘Free for All’ walks, are for members of the Walking Group only. If you would like to join the Walking Group or Striders’ Group, please talk to either Convenor at a U3A monthly meeting or New Members’ Meeting, or telephone a Convenor to discuss joining. Our walks are on uneven and sometimes hilly ground and paths are often muddy, so good walking boots are essential for most walks. We must be satisfied that you are able to do the walks without problems: for the Walking Group, you should be used to walking at least 4 miles at a good pace. Suitable warm and waterproof clothing is necessary – we do not usually cancel in case of rain! We can often arrange for you to come with other members for the first time, if you would like to.

Members accept lifts and come on walks at their own risk and should be responsible for their own safety when crossing roads or climbing stiles and carry their own simple first-aid kit, water etc.
Walks Programme:

IMPORTANT: Apart from those walks marked ‘Free for All’, please remember to contact the Leader to book a place and say if you are staying for lunch: some pubs are a bit particular about how many people are coming for lunch and parking in their car-park and we have to respect their wishes, so if the leaders tell you they cannot take any more, please do not embarrass them by coming anyway. If you are on the list but you can’t come after all – or if you can’t stay to lunch after all – please let the leader know beforehand, even on the morning the walk takes place, as it may enable someone else to go on the walk or to stay for lunch: it is disappointing for the leaders and other members (and it upsets the pubs!), if those on the waiting list don’t get a chance to take someone’s place. Walks get booked up very early, but people often drop out nearer the time and you may well get on a walk if your name is on the waiting list. Map references given refer to the Ordnance Survey Explorer maps, unless otherwise stated – a map of each location can be seen if you click on the grid references in the Walks descriptions on our website www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk.

Volunteers to lead walks are always needed if we are to keep offering a full programme of shorter walks! Even if you have never done it, why not get together with a friend or partner and try out some walks (and a few suitable pubs!) There are plenty of Walks Leaders to give help and advice if you need it and all walks arranged are much appreciated by members.

Tuesday, 4 November: ‘Through Penn Country’ – 5 miles. Leaders: Sheila Harley, Tel: 01494 727838, email jfharley@talktalk.net, and Ann Terry. Please meet at the Red Lion pub, opposite the pond at Penn/Tylers Green, on the B474 Hazlemere to Beaconsfield road, OS Map 172, GR SU907936. Parking is available round the pond and along local roads. Arrangements for booking lunch will be given when you book. Start time: 10.15.

Wednesday, 12 November: ‘Thames Walk in Autumn’ – 4.5 miles. Leader: Glenys McHale, Tel: 01494 722963, glenysmchale@btinternet.com

Fairly easy walking over Winter Hill – no stiles, but lots of gates! Please meet at the (free) NT car-park on Cookham Moor, OS Map 172, GR SU894854. Lunch has been arranged at the King’s Arms in Cookham – there is parking there if members prefer to drive there after the walk. Start time: 10.15.

Monday, 17 November: ‘Four Miles around the Fairmile’ – 4 miles. Leader: Janice Foster, details above.

A trip out to Henley, hopefully with some autumn colour and good views. Please meet at the Old White Horse pub, Northfield End, on the righthand side just as you leave Henley-on-Thames on the A4130 towards Nettlebed, OS Map 171, GR SU759831. The car-park is alongside the pub. Please arrive early enough to order lunch. Start time: 10.30.

Thursday, 27 November: ‘Keep right on to the End of the Lane’ – approx. 4 miles. Leader: Janice Foster, details above.

Lane End is tucked beside the M40 to the west of the Handy Cross roundabout – it can be reached via Booker or via West Wycombe and Wheeler End. Please allow time for parking. There is a public car-park on the B482 in the centre of the village, on the right just past the pedestrian lights when heading to Stokenchurch, OS map 171 or 172, GR SU807917, but it is small and may be busy. There are a couple of pubs to try for lunch, (Old Sun, Grouse and Ale) so I suggest that if you are staying for lunch you choose your pub before the walk and park in their car-park. You may also be able to find a space for the odd car on a local road just off the centre. Please meet up near the small duckpond in the centre of the village, on the corner of the B482 and The Row. This is a ‘Free for All’ walk open to all Walking Group members – no need to book – just turn up! Start time: 10.15.

Monday, 8 December: CHRISTMAS WALK AND LUNCH. Ruth and Jeremy Duffy are organising the Walkers and Striders Christmas Lunch this year. Please see the full details under the Striders Group Programme.

Wednesday, 7 January: ‘Chesham Bois and the Beech Hangers’ – approx 4 miles. Leaders: Jill & Peter Metcalf, Tel: 01494 434243, email: pm@themetcalfs.co.uk.

This is a repeat of the walk Andrew Clark ‘proofed’ for Chesham Community Vision in November 2007 but starting from a different pub this time! The walk has some fine views of Chesham and in part follows the River Chess by sites of the old water mills and the watercress beds before turning back into Bois Wood. Meet in the Boot & Slipper car park on the mini roundabout at the junction of Chesham Road (A416) and Rickmansworth Road, OS Map 172 GR SU963988. Please advise if you are staying for lunch and aim to arrive early enough to choose your lunch before the walk. Start time: 10.15.
Monday, 12 January: ‘Happy Valley in Reverse’ – 4 miles. Leader: Janice Foster, details above. We have done this walk before, but in the other direction! We shall walk up Happy Valley, then through the local woods and back through the Harleyford Estate – nothing strenuous! Please meet at the Hare and Hounds pub on the outskirts of Marlow on the A4155 towards Henley, OS Map 172, GR SU838858. Start time: 10.30

Thursday, 22 January: ‘Back Ways of Beaconsfield’ Leader: Janice Foster, details above. Free for All. Easy local winter walking in town and country on local paths around Beaconsfield. Please park in the off-street parking area near the church in Windsor End, Beaconsfield, OS Map 172, GR SU945899 (or if busy there you can park in nearby roads). There are several places nearby for lunch. This is a ‘Free for All’ walk open to all Walking Group members - no need to book – just turn up! Start time: 10.30

Tuesday, 27 January: ‘Past the Vineyard and Brewery to the Pub!’ - 5.5 miles. Leader: Tricia Longdon, Tel. 01494 863559, email u3aleadertricia@chiltern-u3a.org.uk. Meet in the car park beside the Stag and Huntsman pub in Hambledon village. Hambledon is off the A4155 Marlow to Henley road, OS map172, GR SU784865. [This is a repeat of the walk first done last September.] Start time 10.00

WILDLIFE GROUP– Jill & Peter Metcalf-Tel: 01494 434243, e-mail: pm@themetcalfs.co.uk Future meetings are planned as follows. Please contact the leaders as soon as possible for each event if you wish to go and if, where applicable, you are staying for lunch.

GROUP VISIT TO BOTTOM WOOD

We saw this and this but not this!

Friday, 14 November: The Secret Chilterns – Contact Andrew Clark. Tel: 01494 783035, e-mail: ajclarku3a@hotmail.co.uk Trevor Lawson will be giving a talk on The Secret Chilterns. It is a beautifully-illustrated exploration of the wildlife of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He comes highly recommended so please make every effort to attend. This is a “must”! As at the November meeting last year we will have a buffet so please bring some food and drink (not too much!) to share round There will be a small charge of £2 per head to be collected at the door. 20.00 in the Barn Hall.
Thursday, 4 December, “Gardening for Wildlife” - Contact Jill & Peter Metcalf, details above
This promises to be a very interesting talk from Lawrence Trowbridge on a very topical subject at a time when the habitat for garden birds is threatened. Many of you will remember Lawrence’s fascinating talk on Bats and our evening meeting up at Ashridge earlier this year. Lawrence is NOT speaking in his capacity as a National Trust Warden and there will be a small charge of £1.50 per head at the door. **10.00 in the Pottery Room.**

Monday, 22 December: Social “Get Together”. Contact Jill & Peter Metcalf, details above
Come and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine (or tea or coffee). Please also bring your ideas, comments, suggestions and offers to organise an event with you. Venue: Jill & Peter’s, 2 Long Park Close (behind the hedge with the topiary ducks!), Chesham Bois. Time: 14.30 - 16.30.

Friday, 23 January 2009: London Wetlands Centre Contact Catherine Orr-Ewing, Tel: 01494 864689, e-mail: coe.etg@btinternet.com A coach trip to one of the 9 centres run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, acclaimed as the best urban site in Europe for watching wildlife. This is a joint trip with the Ornithology Group. A licensed restaurant serves a selection of hot and cold food. The coach will leave Chesham FC car park (£1) at 08.45 and pick up at the Amersham Community Centre at 09.00. We will leave Barnes at 16.30. The cost of the coach, including the driver’s tip, is £10.00 per person. The concessionary entry fee to the Centre is £5.70 per person and this amount will be collected on the coach from those who are not members of WWT, who enjoy free admission. Cheques payable to Chiltern U3A for the cost of the coach should be given to Catherine in advance. Please also let Catherine know of your chosen pick-up point at the same time.

**WINE TASTING GROUP–Kevin Beaumont–Tel: 01494 763516, email: kevinbeaumont@ntlworld.com.**

GROUP TRIP TO BORDEAUX

Before or after the tasting? BN

Tastings are usually (but not always) held in the second week of the month, at 14.30 on the afternoon of a day convenient for the member arranging the meeting. It is most important that members wishing to attend book with the person arranging the meeting. As meetings are usually held in members’ homes, capacity is necessarily limited and we are unable to accept new members at present.

Unusually, at the time of writing we are in a sequence of three meetings, none of which is an “at home”! In August, Patricia Longdon organised an informative and enjoyable trip to Luxters Vineyard in the Hambledon Valley, where we were joined by our sister group, Wine Tasting Too. In September, sixteen of us spent three nights in Libourne and visited properties in the St Emilion, Cotes de Castillon and Fronsac appellations; the quality of both the wine and the presentations was excellent. And, by the time you read this, we expect to have spent an enjoyable evening at Filipetto’s Italian Delicatessen in Little Chalfont, organised by Gill Kirkpatrick.

19 November: Winter Wines - please contact Brian Nichols, Tel: 01494 763558
11 December: Christmas Dinner - please contact Brian Nichols, as above
7 January: Bordelais Wines from the summer trip - please contact Andrew Clark, Tel: 01494 783035
WINE TASTING TOO – Frank Fermor - Tel: 01494 862097
Since our launch in January we have now had eight highly successful monthly tastings in the relaxed atmosphere of members’ houses and have also gained experience from two “field trips”, to a local vineyard and to the Vinopolis wine museum and tasting experience in London. We are learning as we progress and particularly benefit at our tastings by being able to taste many wines (including uncommon varietals) that we would not normally otherwise encounter. Over the next few months our programme will comprise:

18 November – “Luxembourg’s Finest” by Peter Metcalf.

? December – a joint meeting in the Pottery Room with our founder group, when we will all be sampling wines from the Loire.

? January – Hopefully a New Year Dinner (with very select wines), if we can all agree on a suitable venue. We normally charge a fee of £6 at each tasting, to cover modest samples of up to 8 wines together with snacks and as we gain confidence more of our members are volunteering to present and host a tasting, possibly on a joint basis.

WRITING FOR FUN – Sheila Mathers - Tel: 01494 863236. & Brian Hammond - Tel: 01494 778224.
Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday in the month from 10.00-12.00, in the Pottery Room. Our group is now one year old and we can all look back with growing confidence and on friendships. A strong bond has been formed between us and a desire to improve our writing skills. We look forward to our meetings where we have fun listening to each others’ efforts and continuing to get to know one another. We write mainly from personal experience but have also been able to use our imaginations to create many an interesting story. Each month a challenge is set to which we all aim to aspire. Our group is full but it is possible that another group may be formed.

YOGA – Hilary Roy - Tel: 01494 764217, email: hilaryroy@btinternet.com
Our two groups meet on the first and third Mondays of the month in the Barn Hall at 12.15 and 1415 respectively. At present we are pretty full, but new members can still give me a ring and I will start a waiting list for 2009. Dates for the next few weeks are: 3 & 17 November; 1 & 15 December. There will be no meetings in January as I shall be out of the country, but we should be starting back as usual in February 2009

U3AEQUIPMENT@CHILTERN-U3A.ORG.UK
Is the nom de plume of Ted Jackets and Alan Jeffery who look after the groups’ electrical equipment. Slide projectors, DVD players, Hi-fi systems, Audio cassette players, Video-cam, VHS cassette recorders, computers and digital projectors - An impressive list. Ted mainly handles the bookings and maintains the Google calendar.(see the u3a convenor’s web pages for how to view it), which confirms equipment allocation. If at all possible he prefers to receive e-mail bookings, but to those without computer access he can be contacted on Tel: 01494 433141. Alan is more involved with the equipment itself, maintenance, making it available when required, and providing help and assistance where necessary. Need help setting up your DVD player, need to check presentation or available software on the computer, or find out how to use the Video-cam? Give Alan a call on Tel: 01494 729361 to book a session which could solve your audio/visual problems. A plea please to be more vigilant over Pottery Room security, blinds have been left open, lights on and on one occasion the door left unlocked. I have pinned a check list to the back of the door – please take a moment to make sure all is secure.

JIGSAWS are available at most general meetings to take, add to or exchange. There is no charge; no records are kept, so please just help yourselves! If you have any queries come and see Penny Vardy. If you would like to assist by keeping some of the collection (which grows monthly!) and bringing it along to the monthly meetings, I would be glad for some help. Ring Penny on 01494 785016.

DISCOUNTS FOR U3A MEMBERS
I am putting together a portfolio of local suppliers who are prepared to give members of the U3A discounts on their goods and services. To make this really effective and to reflect the needs of our group I would like some feedback from you. Please contact me with any ideas or organisations you would like me to contact. Do you already receive discounts via other organisations? Obviously we will meet with varying degrees of success and it may take some time to put things in place but I do look forward to hearing from you. Andrew Clark, Tel: 01494 783035, email: ajclarku3a@hotmail.co.uk
May I remind you again that the returned form with details of work completed is essential for the service to continue. If I am not available I will respond as soon as possible. Please leave a VERY clear name and number, as recordings are seldom as clear as one-to-one speech and it is often difficult to decipher the messages. Thank you for your continuing assistance.

**Scheme Objective:**
The aim is to collate details of services, so that U3A members can have some guidance as to previous members' experiences. This should include reporting an efficient, reliable and cost-effective service, and a pleasant manner from the provider.

**Areas Of Scheme Operation:**
*Professional:* e.g. Will making-Conveyancing-Probate-Financial advice-Architect-Planning applications etc.
*Building services:* e.g. Decorating-Extensions-Plumbing-Electrical-Drainage-Roofing repairs and new build etc.
*External:* e.g. Gardening and-Estate work-hedges-trees-drives-fences etc.

**Using the Service:**
The success of this service requires that complimentary reports (or otherwise) be fed back to the co-ordinator.

**Making a recommendation:**
Without recommendations this scheme will not work. However, before filling in a form consideration should be given to the following: What was the nature of the work, giving a brief description; When was it completed; Name, address and phone number of provider; Your name, address and phone number.

**To obtain details of recommended providers:**
Please contact co-ordinator between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, with details of who you need. In an emergency contact may be made at a reasonable time. If there is no reply, please leave a clear message with name and telephone number.

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**YOUR COMMITTEE**

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**CHILTERN U3A WEBSITE**

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CHILTERN U3A STRIDERS’ AND WALKING GROUPS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2008

THE PINK & LILY, PARSLOW’S HILLOCK, NR. LACEY GREEN

Please indicate your choices below:

STARTER:

Roasted Tomato & Pearl Barley Soup (v)………
   served with warm bread
Duck Liver & Brandy Pate…………
   served with warm toast & a pear & ginger chutney
Cheese & Onion Beignets (v)………
   served on a bed of tossed leaves with a red pepper coulis
Sliced Scottish Smoked Salmon………
   Served with a horseradish dressing accompanied by brown bread & butter
Baked Flat Mushroom with Black Pudding & Air Dried Ham………
   accompanied by a redcurrant jelly

MAIN COURSE:

Roast Free Range Local Turkey………
   served with all the traditional Christmas trimmings
Fillet of Pork Filled with an Apple, Cinnamon & Raisin Stuffing………
   wrapped in bacon served with a chestnut cream
Baked Whole Trout………
   napped by a meuniere butter with toasted almonds
Oxford Blue, Fig & Walnut Tart (v)………
   served with a port gravy
Asparagus, Truffle & Butternut Squash Risotto (v)………
   with a basil oil dressing

DESSERT:

Citrus Tart (v)………
   served with clotted cream
Christmas Pudding (v)………
   served with brandy sauce
Winter Fruit Pudding (v)………
   served with warm custard
Chocolate & Truffle Tort………
   served with a mango coulis
Baked Vanilla Cheesecake (v)………

Coffee & Mince Pies(v)………
CHRISTMAS LUNCH BOOKING FORM

I/we would like to book 1/2 places for the Striders’ and Walking Groups Christmas Lunch on Monday, 8 December.

My/our meal choices are indicated overleaf. If you are ordering for 2, please let us know WHO is having EACH course.

I/we enclose a cheque for £21.50 per person, made payable to Chiltern U3A.

I understand that this will not be refunded on cancellation after 6 December unless the place(s) can be taken up by someone else.

Signed………………………………....   Tel………………………………..

Name(s)……………………………............................................................

NB Please make cheques payable to “Chiltern U3A” and enclose an s.a.e. if you would like an acknowledgment.

Please make a note of your meal choices!