



CHATTERBOX

Official Newsletter of the Chatteris u3a
Registered Charity No 1196841

OPEN MEETINGS 2025

Open Meeting: 17th October

KEC 10:30am

Speaker: Roger Neuberg – Mary’s Meals



Mary’s Meals is an established charity that feeds 2,429,182 children every school day across 17 countries. Its campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: “I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day.” Mary’s Meals began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. It grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR),

Dates for your Diary

21st November	John Vigar – Superior Seats, The remarkable story of seating in Churches
19th December	Xmas Special – Sean Moyes, The Banjo Man Followed by Christmas Refreshments, Quiz and a Raffle



For more information, and the dates of the forthcoming Open Meetings, click on the [Open Meetings](#) link.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Story Time

A few million years ago, several humanoid species existed on Earth. Different species, which were grouped into the "Homo" genus. They include the homo habilis, homo neanderthalensis, homo heidelbergensis and the longest living homo erectus.

Only one survived today: homo sapiens.

This was not the strongest of the animals that roamed the planet. Still, something differentiated it and gave it the opportunity to reign supreme over the planet, the other animals, and the rest of nature.

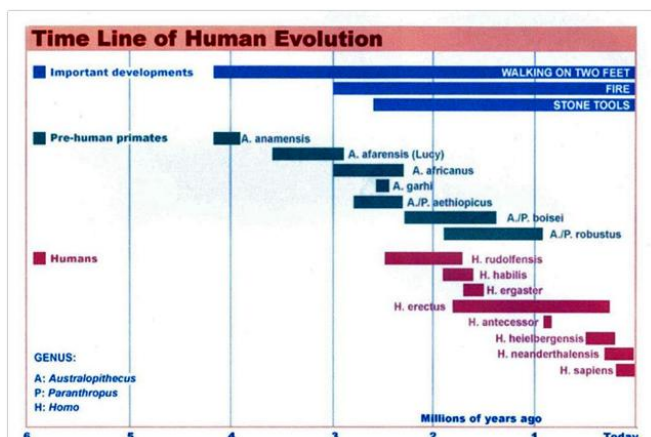
There are a variety of theories as to why this happened, and I thought I would present my personal one, for what it's worth:

We, homo sapiens, tell stories.

No other living animal tells stories, so perhaps the other hominids didn't either. Of course, like other animals, they could communicate that they were hungry, cold, angry, etc. But what about a good story? A story involves abstractions, imagination, and the ability to share those between individuals. We tell stories of our ancestors, our dreams and fears; we use gods and other forces to explain what we cannot understand. We educate our children through stories, sometimes with moral endings. We developed imagination and language in parallel and used them both to grow. Politicians gain power by telling stories; artists communicate stories in various formats. The main engine of our culture in the XXI century is based on storytelling: films, television, magazines, social media, and more. Businesses are built on the stories that the founders hope to create, Our own u3a monthly meetings are based around someone telling a story.

Why is this important? Because stories communicate ideas, transmit concepts. There is no learning without stories.

And, because we are human, we differentiate between stories and treat some with more respect than others: why is it that old men prophesy but old women tell tales? History is written and interpreted by the victors. Perhaps it is time for us to listen to stories and accept them for what they are: just stories.



Regards
Peter

Available via this [Chair Notes link](#)

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS



SANDRINGHAM CHRISTMAS CRAFT, FOOD & GIFT FAIR FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

***OVER 250 STALLS OFFERING HAND-CRAFTED ITEMS AND GIFTS.
AN ARRAY OF FOOD AND DRINK FROM BOTH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL
PRODUCERS AND RETAILERS.***

**£35 (INCL COACH FARE)
MONEY DUE BY THE OCTOBER OPEN MEETING AT THE LATEST.**

Remember that trips using a coach can only go ahead if we get a minimum of 30 people signing up.

- *The latest news and information about these, and other proposed outings can be found on the [Trips/Theatre](#) webpage.*
- *For tickets and information, please email the Trips/Theatre Team via their link on the [Contact Us](#) webpage.*

Quiz Questions

1. Janice, Lips, Floyd, Animal and Zoot are members of which group?
2. Which London Street and Neighbourhood takes its name from a type of lace collar?
3. What is Spelunking?
4. Which artist painted "The Lady of Shalott"?
5. What month and year did Chatteris Railway Station close?

Answers on page 6

Who said...

"Be yourself; everyone else is taken"

Answer on page 6

The clocks go back on Sunday 26th October, winter draws on and it's time to book your Flu Jab, which is available at your doctors or the local pharmacy.

Covid jabs are also available for those aged 75 and over, as are the RSV jab (75-79yrs) and if you are 65 and over, the Shingles and the Pneumococcal vaccinations.

INTEREST GROUPS

National Theatre "Innings"



Halloween Special: this is a 2011 adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel, directed by Danny Boyle, and starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller, who alternate as the professor and the monster. Spooky!!!

Interest Group News

Church and Interesting Building Visits – 4th Oct – meet at St Wendreda's Church, March.

Nature Group – 18th Oct – check the website for a report on the September meeting and the latest details of the next trip.

Crafts, Arts and Things Group – next meeting Sat 18th October – Lino Printing/Fabric Painting

Living Well Group – next meeting 24th October – Denise and Margery – Spiritualism

Jigsaw Club – next meeting 21st Oct. Do you enjoy "Jigsawing" and a chat? Then come along and join us. All welcome 😊

Interested in joining a German Conversation Group? Then sign up at the next Open Meeting or contact Gabi Leeson using the *Contact Us* link on page 5.

INTEREST GROUPS

October				
Group	Date	Time	Venue	Leader
ART GROUP	Fri 3rd	2.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Thelma Millard
BEREAVEMENT GROUP	2 nd & 4 th Tues	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Brian Windsor
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	Thurs 16th	10.00-11.30am	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Weds 1st	1.45-4.00pm	Member's Home	Sally Harper
CHURCH AND INTERESTING BUILDINGS VISITS	Sat 4th	11.30am	Meet at St Wendreda's Church, March	Pauline Smith
CRAFTS, ARTS & THINGS	Sat 18th	2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library	Jan Fieldhouse
DARTS	Tues 28th	1.00-3.00pm	Joe Perry's Snooker Club	Caroline Hooper
FAMILY HISTORY	Thurs 2nd	10.00-12.00pm	Chatteris Library	Georgina Plumb
FRENCH CONVERSATION	2 nd & 4 th Fri	3.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
GOLF	1 st & 3 rd Weds	Morning	The Old Nene Golf Club	Stuart Newman
JEWELLERY FOR FUN	Fri 10th	2.00-4.00pm	Group Leaders Home	Caroline Hooper
JIGSAW CLUB	Tues 21st	2.00-4.00pm	Small Hall Emmanuel Church	Lesley Gibbs
LIVING WELL	Fri 24th	2.00-3.30pm	King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
NATIONAL THEATRE	Sat 25th	2.00-4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
NATURE GROUP	Sat 18 th	Contact Graham, or check the website, for details of the venue		Graham Cole
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 27th	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
RUMMIKUB	Weds 15th	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
SCRABBLE	Mon 13th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Judith Bradshaw
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 20th	2.30-4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Graham Marsden
WALKING HERE A	Fri 10th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tues 14th	10.00-12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Weds 15th	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tues 14th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tues 7th	6.30-9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Weds 22nd	As Arranged	As Arranged	Dorinda Franklin
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thurs 16th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Lesley Gibbs
COMPUTING HELP	BY ARRANGEMENT			Neil Shepherd

- This [Groups](#) link will take you to our list of Interest Groups.
- You can email our Groups Coordinator via her link on the [Contact Us](#) webpage

WEBPAGE NEWS

1. LATEST NEWS

Click this [Latest Notices](#) webpage link to see what's in the news at **Chatteris u3a**. Included in the list this month are:

- October Open meeting. Find out about "Mary's Meals."
- A visit to St Wendreda's Church.
- Bereavement Group information.

2. MEMBERS INFO

Click this [Members Info](#) webpage link to delve deeper into **Chatteris u3a**. For example:

- [About Us](#) gives an outline of what we are and what we do, etc. etc.
- In the [Documents](#) section you will find our *Constitution* and other *Policy Documents*.
- You can find out who are the members of our [Executive Committee](#)

3. INTEREST GROUPS

Click on the link below to see a recently updated *Interest Group* webpage:

- [Nature](#) – Read about the group's *Last Outing* and discover where they're going on their *Next Outing*.

Quiz Answers

1. Dr Teeth and The Electric Mayhem (From "The Muppets")
2. Piccadilly
3. The exploration of caves
4. John William Waterhouse
5. March 1967

Who said.....

Oscar
Wilde

For General Enquiries email us at u3achatteris@gmail.com or Phone 07873537717

Visit our Web site for the latest Chatteris u3a news chatteris.u3asite.uk





NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance Local Drop-In Sessions, these sessions are free for NHS hearing aid users. No appointment necessary, just drop in! Please see below for the various venues local to Chatteris.

CHATTERIS – King Edwards Centre, 3 King Edwards Road, Chatteris, PE16 6NG

Every 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2pm until 3.30pm

Free Parking Available.

MARCH – St Peter’s Church Hall, High Street, March, PE15 9JR

Bi-Monthly 1st Wednesday every other month from 1.30pm until 3.30pm

2025 – Nov 5th

2026 – Jan 7th, Mar 4th, May 6th, Jul 1st, Sep 2nd & Nov 4th

Free Parking Available.

SOMERSHAM - Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, Somersham PE28 3JS

Every 3rd Thursday of each month from 2pm until 3.30pm

Free Parking Available.

NEW - WARBOYS – New Community Centre, High Street, Warboys, Huntingdon, PE28 2TA

Every 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2pm until 3.30pm – **STARTS 14 OCT 25**

Free Parking Available.

WHITTLESEY – Library, 31-35 Market Street, Whittlesey, PE7 1BA

Every 4th Tuesday of each month from 10am until 11.30am

Free Parking Available.

NEW - WISBECH – Queen Mary Centre, Queen’s Road, Wisbech, PE13 2PE

Bi-Monthly 1st Wednesday every other month from 2pm until 3.30pm.

Free Parking Available – Somers Road Car Park.

Dementia Friendly Film Screenings at The Light Cinema.

Cromwell Road, Wisbech, PE14 0RG

Tickets are just £5, and free for the accompanying carer.

Our dementia-friendly screenings have no adverts or trailers, and the lighting remains slightly raised throughout the film. Although these screenings are particularly designed for people living with dementia, they are open to the general public too.

Refreshments are served before the film to give audience members a chance to socialise and familiarise themselves with the venue, and guests are welcome to move around as needed.

Please be aware that pastoral care is not provided at these screenings and that a friend, family member or carer must also be in attendance.

Thank you to Iceland Foods who have kindly provided the refreshments for our Dementia-friendly screenings.

The screenings are monthly, on a Monday and start at 11.00am

6th October 2025 - Pride and Prejudice

3rd November 2025 - Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale

8th December 2025 - White Christmas

12th January 2026 - Willy Wonka

2nd February 2026 - Mamma Mia!!

[Dementia-Friendly Cinema in Wisbech](#)