



# CHATTERBOX

Official Newsletter of the Chatteris u3a  
Registered Charity No 1196841

## OPEN MEETINGS 2025

**Open Meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> November  
KEC 10:30am**

**Speaker: John Vigar – Superior Seats**



John has been a professional historian and speaker for over 40 years with a special interest in the study of church architecture and associated topics. Noting demonstrates the social history of England as well as the changes that have taken place in our parish churches over the last 1500 years. Seating in churches has gone from the solid stone benches to monumental private pews. The pew we know today only really dates from the nineteenth century. We will discover periods when you couldn't attend church without paying for your seat and when box pews went with your house.

## **Date for your Diary**

**19<sup>th</sup> 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

### Let's Do Something Fun Together

If you have ever had the "pleasure" of living with teenagers, you may have had the opportunity to "enjoy" listening to the complaints of someone moaning about boredom, but refusing to do anything that may be suggested; possibly, that same person has expressed dismay at seeing that there is "nothing to eat" while looking into an overflowing refrigerator.

It is not just young people, though. I am often frustrated at the sight of politicians who are not in government complaining about the fact that the government is not doing anything, when they could but aren't taking possible constructive and corrective actions themselves. I know some who are happy to point out that a painting is hanging crooked but will not get out of the chair to straighten it themselves.

One of the key ideas behind the u3a is that we are not like that.

We have the abilities necessary to make the world a slightly better place. Of course, we cannot solve all the issues, but we can have an impact on our community and the people we encounter in our daily lives. A smile and a cheery "good morning" are not demanding concessions but leaving a shop assistant or supermarket cashier a little less desperate than when we arrived might make all the difference for them. We are surrounded, both in our immediate vicinity and in the wider world, by people who are worse off than we are, and we should consider whether we can help them. One of the things that I love about the British is the manner in which we send and receive Christmas cards that benefit some charitable organisation. We can send cards to support charities that help medical research or outreach to some disadvantaged group. You may be surprised to know that this is not common in other nations.

So, how can you best use your time to reach out to someone? Of course, you could consider volunteering for your local u3a. I know we are not the only ones who need your support, but I am not here to promote other organisations. We have some interest groups that are looking at closing down due to a lack of participation; we have people suggesting new groups that could be started. There are so many activities we do not yet cover. Should we start a line-dancing group, a current affairs discussion group, science and technology, acting, classic films, scrap-booking, sewing and knitting,...

Can you put together a group for our members? I know you know something that I don't. What could you teach me?

Regards  
Peter

Roger Neuberg from Mary's Meals has written to thank us for the donations we made at our October Open Meeting. The sum of £249.60 was raised for Mary's Meals for use in the Kasupe School in Zambia.

Thanks 😊

### Quiz Questions

1. Harrison Ford played the retired police officer Rick Deckard in which film?
2. Triton is the largest moon for which planet?
3. Who wrote the "Barchester Chronicles"?
4. What is the last event in a decathlon?
5. Which politician was known as the "Prince of Darkness"?

Answers on page 6

Who said...

*"It is never too late to be what you might have been."*

Answer on page 6

## TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS OF THE PROPOSED TRIPS AND VISITS FOR 2026**

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.

## INTEREST GROUPS



### **National Theatre “Innings”**

#### **Important Announcement**

**This may be the last National Theatre “Innings” as unfortunately there haven’t been sufficient participants to cover the costs.**

**This is a chance to see London Theatre shows without having to travel to London!! So, come along so that we can keep this Interest Group performing!!!**

### **Interest Group News**

**Crafts, Arts and Things Group** – 15<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Wreath with Alison Robson. Please contact with Jan Fieldhouse ASAP if you wish to attend as you will need to bring some of your own decorations and greenery and have paid £15 for basic supplies.

**Living Well Group** – 28<sup>th</sup> November – Tai Chi with Marion Bickham

**Art Group** – 7<sup>th</sup> November – Autumn Colours

**German Conversation Group** – The group currently has four people interested, but we need at least six to make the group viable. Would you be interested? If so sign-up at the next Open Meeting.

**Last Chance for the Rummikub/Games Group!!!** Come along to the Games group, which has now moved to the afternoon (2:30–4:30) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. If there isn’t sufficient support this month, it will have to close 😞

**Nature Group** – “The venue for our October trip was not decided until the very last opportunity. This was a part of the plan for this trip, which coincided with the autumn migration. I had hoped that a stunning rare bird would arrive on the North Norfolk Coast in a location easy to get to and stay until the day of our trip....”

Read more about this trip and details of the next one on the website.

**INTEREST GROUPS**

November				
Group	Date	Time	Venue	Leader
ART GROUP	Fri 7th	2.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
BEREAVEMENT GROUP	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Brian Windsor
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	Thurs 20th	10.00-11.30am	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Weds 5th	1.45-4.00pm	Member's Home	Sally Harper
CHURCH AND INTERESTING BUILDINGS VISITS	Contact Pauline, or check the website, for details of the next venue			Pauline Smith
CRAFTS, ARTS & THINGS	Sat 15th	2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library	Jan Fieldhouse
DARTS	Tues 25th	1.00-3.00pm	Joe Perry's Snooker Club	Caroline Hooper
FAMILY HISTORY	Thurs 6th	10.00-12.00pm	Chatteris Library	Georgina Plumb
FRENCH CONVERSATION	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	3.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
GOLF	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds	Morning	The Old Nene Golf Club	Stuart Newman
JEWELLERY FOR FUN	Fri 14th	2.00-4.00pm	Group Leaders Home	Caroline Hooper
JIGSAW CLUB	Tues 18th	2.00-4.00pm	Small Hall Emmanuel Church	Lesley Gibbs
LIVING WELL	Fri 28th	2.00-3.30pm	King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
NATIONAL THEATRE	Sat 22nd	2.00-4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
NATURE GROUP	Contact Graham, or check the website, for details of the next venue			Graham Cole
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 24th	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
RUMMIKUB/GAMES	Weds 19th	2:30-4:30pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
SCRABBLE	Mon 10th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Judith Bradshaw
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 17th	2.30-4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Graham Marsden
WALKING HERE A	Fri 14th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tues 11th	10.00-12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Weds 19th	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tues 11th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tues 4th	6.30-9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Weds 26th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Dorinda Franklin
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thurs 20th	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

### LATEST NOTICES

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

- **November Open meeting**. Guest Speaker, John Vigar, looks at the story of church seating through the centuries. A much more varied subject than you might expect! Don't miss it.

### TRIPS and THEATRE VISITS

Click this [Trips/Theatre](#) webpage link to find out what exciting plans the **Trips/Theatre Team** have in store for you in **2026**.

### INTEREST GROUPS

Click on the links below to see some recently updated **Interest Group** webpages:

- [Art](#) – See what the new group leader has planned for the next three monthly sessions.
- [Nature](#) – Read about the group's recent expedition to *Cley Marshes* on the North Norfolk coast.
- [Book Discussion](#) – At the October meeting, members gave a mark out of ten to their recently read books. Which book was "Top of the Lot?"

### Quiz Answers

- 1) Blade Runner
- 2) Neptune
- 3) Anthony Trollope
- 4) 1500 Metres
- 5) Peter Mandleson

Who Said?  
George Eliot

For General Enquiries email us at [u3achatteris@gmail.com](mailto:u3achatteris@gmail.com) or Phone 07873537717

Visit our Web site for the latest Chatteris u3a news [chatteris.u3asite.uk](http://chatteris.u3asite.uk)



**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY  
9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 11.00AM**

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.



**Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November (and the weekends before and after) and make sure your pets feel safe.**



**CHATTERIS CHRISTMAS NEWS**

SAT 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS CRAFT  
AND FOOD FAYRE 10:00-2.00 AT  
CHATTERIS PARISH CHURCH

SAT 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
BIG SWITCH-ON 4:30