

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

# CHATTERBOX

Official Newsletter of the Chatteris u3a  
Registered Charity No 1196841

*SEASONS  
GREETINGS*



## CHRISTMAS OPEN MEETING 2025

Open Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> December  
KEC 10:30am

**Christmas Special – Sean Moyes, the Banjo Man**



Sean Moyes has been described as original, unique and quirky. His show provides World Class musicianship and easy-going entertainment, delivered with precision, humour and style.

Expect the un-expected!

**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



### Another Year Gone

It is surprising to suddenly find oneself in December, writing Christmas cards to distant friends and relations, wrapping gifts for nearby relations, and accepting that the cold is here to stay, awakening arthritis and other physical problems.

The end of the year is a good time to reflect on what has happened, learn from lessons, and start planning for the next one.

It has been a busy year for Chatteris u3a, but then, aren't they all?

In my opinion, there are two key components to a u3a, and I would not want to judge which one is more important. They are the open meetings and the guest speaker on one side, and the many and various interest groups on the other. These have two key things in common: they are entirely run by volunteers, and they have high and low points through the passage of time.

I believe that our speakers this year have been quite exceptional. I struggle to remember one that I really did not enjoy (perhaps there was one, but, in that case, they were not memorable enough for me to recall who or why. Even our November speaker, for whom I did not really expect much, gave us a well-structured, interesting and at times amusing history of seating arrangements in British churches - a topic that, at first sight, would not have got me out of bed on a cold winter morning.

Last year, we launched the idea of broadcasting and sharing our meetings with those who were not able, for whatever reason, to come to the KEC on a Friday morning. We got a grant and some high-quality material, then ran a series of failures for various reasons. The strength of the internet connection at the KEC does not allow us to broadcast live, but we seem to have worked out a way to film and upload the talks after the event. Still some glitches, but we're getting better. (November meeting, the camera started its automatic tracking of the speaker, which meant we lost the illustrations that were being projected).

Interest groups have grown, died, been reborn, and/or continued throughout the year. Some groups, such as the [games](#) and [puzzle](#) groups, have been stopped due to a lack of participants; others have restarted in an attempt to regain interest. Over the past couple of months, the [National Theatre group](#) has gained some additional members, which has encouraged me to keep it going for another year. The [Living Well](#) group continues to attract interesting speakers every month. The monthly [Quiz](#) evening remains our most popular interest group. The recent [Bereavement](#) group has been very favourably received, and participants speak encouragingly of the support and comfort they found. The [Church visit](#) group has also had an encouraging start, with some very interesting visits to local churches

The [trips and outings](#) committee continue to plan and organise a large variety of events, with theatres, markets, gardens and more.

So, what about next year?

First, we need you. We need you to continue to participate in events, but we also need you to volunteer because, without volunteers, we will close down. I have said that I would not remain in the chair for another year; we need new blood, new energy, new ideas to revitalise and move our u3a forward; other committee members have also announced that they would like to step down... If we cannot find the volunteers, we may have to close Chatteris u3a, which I hope you also think would be a shame.

What about new groups? Is there something you would like to see happen? Could you put together a new group or help with the organisation of one of the existing ones? I recently heard mentions of fishing, cinema outings... Do you have knowledge and/or experience that you could format into a presentation (we can help you get prepared)?

Don't be shy. We need you.

Regards  
Peter

Available via this [Chair Notes](#) link



## Christmas Quiz Questions

- 1) What must have item did Tom Smith invent in the early 1860's?
- 2) What is the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
- 3) What is the name of the shortest day of the year?
- 4) Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day 1642?
- 5) Which Christmas song was the first to be broadcast from space?

Answers on page 7

## Christmas Crackers



My Christmas cooking tip?... Let someone else do it!!!

The best part of Christmas?... when all the family visits you but then leaves!!!

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, but if the white runs out, I'll drink the red!!!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?... He was picking his nose!!!

What is every elf's favourite school subject?... Learning the *elf-abet*!!!

How do Christmas trees keep in touch?... They *log-in*!!!

## Who Said... Answer on page 7

*"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving"*

## 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



From January 2026  
The National Theatre "Innings" will be  
twice a month:

2<sup>nd</sup> Weds at the Chatteris Library  
from 6:30pm

4<sup>th</sup> Sat at the KEC from 2:00pm

Check the website for details of the  
films to be shown.

### Interest Group New

**Art Group** – December 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Cards (or anything else you want to make) using watercolours.

**Living Well Group** – No Meeting this month.

**Crafts, Arts and Things Group** – No Meeting this month., but you can read about the November meeting on the website.

Unfortunately, the Jigsaw and Rummikub/Games Clubs will no longer be running due to lack of interest. 😞

- 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

December				
Group	Date	Time	Venue	Leader
ART GROUP	Fri 5th	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 18th	10.00-11.30am	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Weds 3rd	1.45-4.00pm	Member's Home	Sally Harper
HISTORIC CHURCHES	Sat 6 <sup>h</sup> December 11.30 St Peter's Church Wimblington.			Pauline Smith
CRAFTS, ARTS & THINGS	No Meeting this month		Chatteris Library	Jan Fieldhouse
DARTS	Tues 23rd	1.00-3.00pm	Joe Perry's Club	Caroline Hopper
FAMILY HISTORY	Thurs 4th	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 12th	2.00-4.00pm	Group Leaders Home	Caroline Hopper
LIVING WELL	No Meeting this month		King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
NATIONAL THEATRE	No Meeting this month		King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
NATURE GROUP	Contact Graham, or check the website, for details of the next venue			Graham Cole
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 22nd	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
SCRABBLE	Mon 8th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Judith Bradshaw
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 15th	2.30-4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Graham Marsden
WALKING HERE A	Fri 12th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tues 9th	10.00-12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Weds 17th	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tues 9th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tues 2nd	6.30-9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Weds 24th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Dorinda Franklin
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thurs 18th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Lesley Gibbs
COMPUTING HELP	BY ARRANGEMENT			Neil Shepherd

Please check with the leaders that the groups will be held in December, as they might be busy helping Santa!!!

## WEBPAGE NEWS

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all our BROWSERS

#### 1. LATEST NOTICES

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

- Fun, laughter and mince pies at the *supercalifragilistic Christmas Open Meeting*.
- Extra screenings by the **NT at Home** group
- Problems for the **Rummikub** and **Jigsaw** groups

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. INTEREST GROUPS

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

- [Book Discussion](#) – In addition to his monthly report, the leader speaks about his enjoyment of the variety of people, books and topics that *intermingle* in this group.
- [CATs](#) – See the wonderful results of the Craft group's Christmas Wreath making session.
- [Historic Churches](#) – Discover which local churches have been visited so far.
- [NT at Home](#) – Find out how the group is expanding its range of National Theatre films to appeal to a wider audience.

**Who Said...**  
Mother Teresa

#### Quiz Answers

- 1) Christmas Crackers
- 2) Advent
- 3) Solstice
- 4) Isaac Newton
- 5) Jingle Bells

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.u3aite.uk](http://chatteris.u3aite.uk)



# CALM

Come **A**nd **L**earn **M**ore

Come to Chatteris and learn, have fun and socialise!

Hear interesting lectures by inspiring tutors!

Definitely no home-work or exams!!

## Voices From a Floating World - Japan

**Tutor:** Julian Sedgwick

**Five-week course:**

**January 7, 14, 21, 28 (2026)**

**February 4 (2026)**

### Course Content

A personal overview of Japanese culture, history, visual art, literature and belief.

Lectures will be held at **The King Edward Community Centre** in Chatteris

Wednesday mornings 10am – 12noon. Course cost: £30.00



For further information,  
please contact Liz on 01354-652160

Find us on Facebook as:



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