

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

# CHATTERBOX

Official Newsletter of the Chatteris u3a  
Registered Charity No 1196841

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## OPEN MEETINGS 2026

16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	John Thurman – Traditional Silhouette Artist
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Don Chiswell – Boudicca of the Iceni
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dr Mike Pienkowski – When the Kite Builds – Why and How we restore Red Kites
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Evelyn Faucon – The History of Forensics
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Dave Pinion – Antarctica
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Andy Smith – John, Paul, George and Me
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Ray Markham – From Score Box to Press Box: A Scorer's Odyssey
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	T.B.A – Commonwealth War Graves Commission
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Lucy Allen – On the Buses: Remembering a Comic Classic
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	T.B.A.
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	T.B.A.
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	T.B.A.

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

## **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

### **Go Create!**

The thing that differentiates humans from other animals is our creativity and our propensity to enjoy things simply for the pleasure of enjoyment. If you are to believe the traditional scriptures, the Creator created us in his image, meaning we are creators by nature. Birds have built their nests the same way for millennia, we have changed the world to fit our comfort.

If you are going to live your life to the fullest, you are called to create things, make art.

- Doodle and draw
- Write a rhyming poem
- Shape clay, plasticine, or dough into something strange
- Sing in the shower
- Pluck and strum guitar strings
- Play a tune on an elastic
- Bake a cake
- Wear crazy make-up
- Tell a ghost story
- Design a new building that could never be build
- Dress up to recite lines from a play
- Dance on your own to a melody no one can hear
- Plant a garden
- Write a best man's speech for the wedding of someone you don't know

Create, make art, discover the pleasure of having done something just for the joy of doing it. It doesn't matter if it doesn't live up to your expectations, nobody else than you needs to know you have done it, but if you don't go ahead and do it, you will never know the intense creative pleasure that makes us human.

Have fun!

Regards  
Peter

### Quiz Questions

- 1) What was the occupation of Henry Walker before founding Walkers Crisps?
- 2) What was the first televised boxing match on the BBC?
- 3) Which planet has the most moons?
- 4) What is the study of Mushrooms called?
- 5) Where did the game of Backgammon originate?

Answers on page 9

### Who Said...

***“She got her looks from her father..he was a plastic surgeon”***  
**Answer on Page 9**

### TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS 2026

Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> March	The Woman in Black – Peterborough Theatre £69.00
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Kinky Boots – Spotlight Theatre, Huntingdon £15.00
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Bure Valley Railway – Norfolk £54.50
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Mamma Mia – Norwich Theatre £87.00
August (T.B.C)	Norfolk Lavender and Hunstanton £37.00
Sept (T.B.C)	Coton Manor Gardens – Northamptonshire £37.00

### TRIPS REFUND POLICY

When a member buys a trip or theatre ticket they are making a commitment to both the other members going on the outing and Chatteris u3a that they will be on the outing, therefore, all tickets are non-refundable as refunds can cause an outing to be cancelled. If, for whatever reason, a ticket holder is unable to go on the outing, it is their responsibility to transfer or sell the ticket. Chatteris u3a will assist by promoting the availability of their tickets.

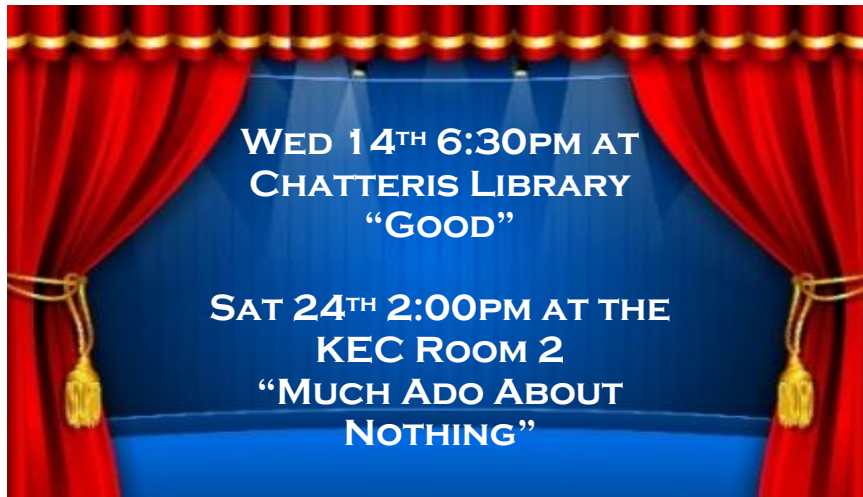
**Remember that trips using a coach can only go ahead if we get a minimum of 30 people signing up.**

- 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 GROUP INFORMATION 2026**

**Want a New Years Resolution that would be easy to keep and does not involve giving up chocolate or wine? Then why not join one of our Interest Groups?**

### **National “Innings” - now twice monthly**



### **Proposed Films for 2026**

Weds 11th Feb	18:30	<a href="#">A Streetcar Named Desire</a>	Chatteris Library (Vermuyden)
Sat 28th Feb	14:00	<a href="#">Amadeus</a>	KEC Room 2
Weds 11th Mar	18:30	<a href="#">The Brightening Air</a>	Chatteris Library (Vermuyden)
Sat 28th Mar	14:00	<a href="#">Antigone</a>	KEC Room 2
Weds 8th April	18:30	<a href="#">Waitress: the Musical</a>	Chatteris Library (Vermuyden)
Sat 25th April	14:00	<a href="#">Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</a>	KEC Room 2
Weds 13th May	18:30	<a href="#">Alterations</a>	Chatteris Library (Vermuyden)
Sat 23rd May	14:00	<a href="#">Coriolanus</a>	KEC Room 2
Wed 10th June	18:30	<a href="#">A Tupperware of Ashes</a>	Chatteris Library (Vermuyden)
Sat 27th June	14:00	<a href="#">A View from the Bridge</a>	KEC Room 2

The **Art group** is on the first Friday of the month from 2:30 to 4:30 at the KEC. Whether you are an experienced artist or hesitate which end of the pencil is supposed to be sharpened, you are welcome and we will help you discover your hidden abilities. While you are welcome to work on anything that interests you, we propose a theme to work on to bring variety. January will be winter scenes, February we will work on a still life, March is for a common puzzle painting...



*"Scrabble is a popular word/ crossword making game, which sometimes gets very competitive!*

*The U3a owns 3 Scrabble sets, and we usually play up to 3 games per session. The rules state 2 to 4 players, but sometimes we have everyone playing one game. This is usually at the end of the session and is fairly fast!*

*We're a friendly group with all abilities. There are no real expenses, so we don't charge anything."*



The **Book Discussion Group** is an open meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month in which we come together to discuss anything interesting we have read recently. Different books, styles, topics, genres are all welcome and up for discussion and recommendation.



## Proposed Activities for Craft Group 2026

Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Papercraft- bring scissors, ruler and pencil – project to take home	Chatteris Library 2.00-4.00pm
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Mosaic pots – bring a clay flower-pot, bean can or jar	
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Jewellery	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Doorstop – bring socks, glue, glue-guns, sewing thread and needles and rice	
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Book folding	
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Material Wreath	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Decoupage boxes/pot/container	
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Stain glass windows	
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Sugar Fondant	
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Glitter foam baubles	
No meetings in August and December		

### Interest Group News

**Living Well** – Mary Hutson from George Clare surgery will be with us on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2.00–3.30 at the King Edward Centre. She will be speaking about social prescribing and what's new at the surgery.

**New for 2026 – German Conversation Group** – the first meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2.30–3.30 at the library. All welcome.

**Guess What!!!** The Games/Rummikub group are giving it another go!!! So, if you are free on the 21<sup>st</sup> January from 2–4pm, then join us at the KEC!!

**Come and join us at any of the Interest group meetings...you will be made very welcome 😊**

- 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

January				
Group	Date	Time	Venue	Leader
ART GROUP	Fri 2nd	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 15th	10.00-11.30am	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Weds 7th	1.45-4.00pm	Member's Home	Sally Harper
HISTORIC CHURCHES	Contact Pauline, or check the website, for details of the next venue			Pauline Smith
CRAFTS, ARTS & THINGS	Sat 17th	2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library	Jan Fieldhouse
DARTS	Tues 27th	1.00-3.00pm	Joe Perry's Club	Caroline Hopper
FAMILY HISTORY	Thurs 8th	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
GAMES/RUMMIKUB	Weds 21st	2.00-4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
GERMAN CONVERSATION	Weds 28 <sup>th</sup>	2.30-3.30pm	Chatteris Library	Gabi Leeson
GOLF	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds	Morning	The Old Nene Golf Club	Stuart Newman
JEWELLERY FOR FUN	Fri 9th	2.00-4.00pm	Group Leaders Home	Caroline Hopper
LIVING WELL	Fri 23rd	2.00-3.30pm	King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
NATIONAL THEATRE	Weds 15th Sat 24th	6.30-8.30pm 2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
NATURE GROUP	Contact Graham, or check the website, for details of the next venue			Graham Cole
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 26th	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
SCRABBLE	Mon 12th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Judith Bradshaw
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 19th	2.30-4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Graham Marsden
WALKING HERE A	Fri 9th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tues 13th	10.00-12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Weds 21st	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tues 13th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tues 6th	6.30-9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Weds 28th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Dorinda Franklin
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thurs 15th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Lesley Gibbs
COMPUTING HELP	BY ARRANGEMENT			Neil Shepherd

## WEBPAGE NEWS

Why not make  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**  
to regularly visit our **Chatteris u3a Website**

On your phone, laptop or computer, an easy way to find our website is to do a Google search for Chatteris u3a. By clicking on a relevant result, you should then be taken to one of our site's webpages. Below you can see what our **Home** webpage looks like:



Under the blue *Name Bar* at the top of the page, you will see the **Menu Bar** which has links to the nine main webpages of the website. You will see this *Menu Bar* on any webpage that you visit which means it provides a good way of navigating around the site. I'll list below what you can expect to find on each of the nine webpages.

- **Home** – Welcomes visitors to the Chatteris u3a website.
- **Latest Notices** – Find out what's currently in the news at Chatteris u3a.
- **Groups** – A list of all our Interest Groups. Visit any group's webpage for more detailed information.
- **Open Meetings** – Details about forthcoming meetings including information about each Speaker's talk.

- **Trips/Theatre** – Information about Trips and Theatre Visits plus an email link to the organisers.
- **Newsletters** – Back issues of Chatterbox. Back issues of Chair Notes (*plus some Side Notes!*).
- **Join Us** – Information for potential members (but worth a visit to better understand “What is u3a?”).
- **Members Info** – Things you might find useful, e.g. Committee members’ names, Policy documents, etc.
- **Contact Us** – Links to enable you to email some of our officers, e.g. Chair, Secretary, etc.

If you would like to have a trial browse straight away, then please click this [Home](#) webpage link.

***N.B.** Remember that when on the website you can use the Menu Bar on any webpage to access any of the pages described above.*

\*\*\*\*\*

So, look at our website every week  
And you will find the answer that you seek

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Phil – Webmaster (and **POET!**)

### Quiz Answers

- 1) A Butcher
- 2) Eric Boon V Arthur Danar in 1939
- 3) Jupiter with 95 recognised moons
- 4) Mycology
- 5) Ancient Mesopotamia (Iraq)

### Who Said...

Groucho Marx

*Out with the old year  
And in with the new  
Cheers to the future  
And all that we do*

*Anon*



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."

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)

