



OPEN MEETINGS 2026

20th March 10:30am at the KEC

Dr Mike Pienkowski – When the Kite Builds – Why and How we restore Red Kites.

The talk describes how over more than three decades the Red Kite population was resurrected in Britain.

If you cannot attend the Open Meeting, you should (hopefully) be able to watch it using the following links (fingers and toes crossed!!!) 😊

- Notices: <https://youtube.com/live/bLwELU-jPC4?feature=share> starting at 10:30, publicly available
- Talk: <https://youtube.com/live/DOdL2kJq6lw?feature=share> starting at 11:05, not listed and only available through the link.

17th April

Evelyn Faucon – The History of Forensics

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

Ted Croucher on the TV

Ted will be featured in the show “Rich House, Poor House” on Channel 5 that will be screened on Sunday 15th March at 9:00pm.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Moving On

It was about three years ago that I read that there was a risk that Chatteris u3a might be at risk of closing down. The chairman was stepping down and there was no volunteer replacement. If a u3a does not have a chair, a treasurer and a secretary, it is required to close down, with remaining funds being distributed to other not-for-profit organisations with similar objectives - in most cases, this means another u3a in the region. As a fairly recent member, I was enjoying the discovery process of Chatteris u3a and the potential of all the groups I had not yet joined, so I gave an agreement with a significant caveat: "if no one else is available" - and so I ended up chairing the committee as well as volunteering for some other activities.

The Third Age Trust recommends that volunteers should not serve more than three years. As other chairs before me, I feel I have done my share and believe that there are other areas in which I could offer some beneficial experience and willingness. Chairmanship is not an onerous task: as it largely consists of understanding our constitution document and ensuring that the committee volunteers are acting for the good of the association and its members. This mostly means supervising other volunteers and encouraging them to complete their tasks in a timely fashion.

In April, we will be holding our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and electing our new committee, including a new chairperson. I will not be standing again.

Next month will be the last notes before the AGM, the "chair notes" are traditionally replaced by a committee note for this issue, in which the committee gives a wrap up of the main events of the past year and ideas for the coming year. So, this is the last chair's note I will write.

Thank you for your support over the past three years. I have tried to bring in some new ideas and concepts, failed in some, succeeded in a few. I am still hoping to conclude my chairmanship with a live broadcast of our meeting now that the KECC has increased the power of the Wi-Fi system - three years I have tried to do so, maybe at the last hurdle.

I close with a last plea that you don't let Chatteris u3a close down by not having the required volunteers to run it!

Regards
Peter

Available via this [Chair Notes](#) link

Who Wrote...

“All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others”

Answer on Page 6

Quiz Questions

1. What portable device is known as a “handy” in Germany?
2. How many keys are on a standard piano?
3. What did Bette Naismith Graham invent in 1950?
4. What is the name of the longest single span suspension bridge in Great Britain?
5. What is the oldest river in the world?

Answers on page 6

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS 2026

Thurs 26 th March	The Woman in Black – SOLD OUT
Weds 1 st April	Kinky Boots – SOLD OUT
Weds 27 th May	Bure Valley Railway – Norfolk £54.50 – a few spaces left
Thurs 9 th July	Mamma Mia – SOLD OUT
Weds 19 th Aug	Norfolk Lavender and Hunstanton £37.00 – a few spaces left
Weds 16 th Sept	Coton Manor Gardens – Northamptonshire £37.00 – a few spaces left
Mon 7 th Dec	Thursford Christmas Show – sign-up at next Open Meeting

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

National “Innings” - now showing twice monthly



Interest Group News

CRAFT GROUP – 21st March – Jewellery

ART GROUP – 6th March – Communal picture of the KEC

LIVING WELL – 27th March – Anne Chapman – Gadgets and Help with Arthritis

GAMES GROUP – will now be meeting on the 2nd Weds of each month 2-4pm at the KEC. All welcome 😊

An additional Lunch on Thursday will be starting this month on the 4th Thurs of the month. Please contact Lesley for more information.

There will also be 2 further Bereavement Support meetings starting this month. These will be on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-4pm. Please contact Brian for more information.

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

March				
Group	Date	Time	Venue	Leader
ART GROUP	Fri 6th	2.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP	2 nd & 4 th Tues 1 st & 3 rd Sun	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Brian Windsor
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	Thurs 19th	10.00-11.30am	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Weds 4th	1.45-4.00pm	Member's Home	Sally Harper
HISTORIC CHURCHES	7 th March St John the Baptist Church, Somersham			Pauline Smith
CRAFTS, ARTS & THINGS	Sat 21st	2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library	Jan Fieldhouse
DARTS	Tues 24th	1.00-3.00pm	Joe Perry's Club	Caroline Hopper
FAMILY HISTORY	Thurs 5th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
FRENCH CONVERSATION	2 nd & 4 th Fri	3.30-4.30pm	King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
GAMES/RUMMIKUB	Weds 11th	2.00-4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
GERMAN CONVERSATION	Weds 25 th	2.30-3.30pm	Chatteris Library	Gabi Leeson
GOLF	1 st & 3 rd Weds	Morning	The Old Nene Golf Club	Stuart Newman
JEWELLERY FOR FUN	Fri 13th	2.00-4.00pm	Group Leaders Home	Caroline Hopper
LIVING WELL	Fri 27th	2.00-3.30pm	King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
NATIONAL THEATRE	Weds 11th Sat 28th	6.30-8.30pm 2.00-4.00pm	Chatteris Library King Edward Centre	Peter Leeson
NATURE GROUP	8 th March Hunstanton & the North Norfolk Coast			Graham Cole
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 23rd	7.00-9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
SCRABBLE	Mon 9th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	Judith Bradshaw
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 16th	2.30-4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Graham Marsden
WALKING HERE A	Fri 13th	10.00-12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tues 10th	10.00-12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Weds 18th	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tues 10th	2.00-4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tues 3rd	6.30-9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Weds 25th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Dorinda Franklin
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thurs 19 th Thurs 26th	As Arranged	As Arranged	Lesley Gibbs
COMPUTING HELP	BY ARRANGEMENT			Neil Shepherd

WEBPAGE NEWS

INTEREST GROUPS

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

- [Art](#) Still Life Gallery
- [Book Discussion](#) Get some ideas on books you may want to read
- [CATs](#) Look what we made!!!
- [Historic Churches](#) Read about the visit to St Thomas a Becket Church
- [Nature](#) Read about the trip to Anglesey Abbey
- [Walking Here A](#) A Winter and Spring Flowers Walk

**Let us know about your Interest Group so it can be included in Chatterbox and the website. What was the longest Scrabble word, the best wine for a chicken dinner, who got a hole in one or which restaurants would you suggest for a lunch out with friends?
Email u3achat.newsletter@gmail.com**



**REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS *FORWARD*
ON THE 29TH OF MARCH – SPRING IS HERE!!!**

*“A green whisper
pushes through frost –
the earth remembers”*

Quiz Answers

- 1) Mobile phone
- 2) 88 (52 white and 36 black)
- 3) Correction Fluid
- 4) The Humber Bridge
- 5) The Finke in Australia (350–400 million years old)

**Who Said...
George Orwell in
Animal Farm**

**Want to listen to a local radio station?
Then why not try Radio Fenland.
You can listen on-line at [Radio Fenland](#)**

If you would be interested in visiting the studio in Whittlesey for an on-air discussion/interview about the Chatteris u3a, please let us know.

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL – GOLDEN AGE EVENTS

**Friday March 6th
Between 10am to 1pm at the King Edward Community
Centre**

Golden Age Fairs are open to anyone aged over 60, or those interested in opportunities, services and support for the over 60's.

Golden Age Fairs are free to attend and include:

- **stands staffed by organisations**
 - **free tea, coffee and cake**
 - **goodies to take away**

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

