



Registered Charity No 1196841

All the links in this month's newsletter will take you to a relevant page on the [Chatteris u3a website](#).

### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Suddenly, it is October again. What happened to this year?

In September, I had the opportunity to spend a week in Edinburgh and its surroundings, enjoying Scotland and testing the rumours I have heard\*. It is a beautiful town, but it is a town that is overwhelmed with people; since living in Fenland, I have forgotten how many people there are per square foot in cities. The other thing that impressed me is the bus service: buses are frequent and cheap (£2.00 per trip, with a maximum charge of £4.50 per day on your contactless card).

At our September open meeting, we had a fantastic speaker: Mark Carroll talked about DNA and related topics. He explained how genetics have evolved since the start of the twentieth century and how just four building blocks were used to build up the 23 pairs of chromosomes that can be used to determine heredity, the cross between nature and nurture, the risk of incurring many different diseases; the three-thousand million bases allow a fingerprinting that is capable of identifying a single individual with an error factor of 1 in 1000 million. He also spoke about how genetics can be used to identify both descendants and ancestors through two main groups: the Y chromosome, which is passed down from father to son, and the mitochondrial DNA, which is passed from mother to child, with no change (or very little change) for many generations.

The committee is sorry to see the resignation of Jan Bradford, our publicity secretary, who has done a fantastic job getting us into local events, including the Chatteris and Manea village fairs.

Finally, a quick reminder that, as we grow frail, we need to look out for ourselves and our neighbours. If you know someone who is lonely, depressed, anxious, you must remember that this is a condition that can be just as debilitating as physical ailments. Take time to talk about your worries; take time to listen to the concerns of others. We have a welfare officer who would be happy to help in any way she can.

Take care of yourself, ...

*Peter*

\*Some Scottish rumours: very few people actually take off their shirt as soon as the sun comes out; deep frozen Mars bars are quite nice (I had mine with some whisky ice cream); the beef is excellent; we did not see the monster in Loch Ness.

Previous "A Note from the Chair" messages are available via this [CHAIR NOTES](#) link.

### TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

**Burghley House Christmas Market** – Saturday 25th November, leaving Furrowfields Car park at 9.30am, Ticket £25.00 per person. Payment is needed by the October meeting, please.

The trip to **Newmarket Stud** has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

More details about these outings can be found on the [TRIPS](#) webpage.

For tickets and information, please contact **Jan Fieldhouse** via this [email contact](#) link.

### WEBPAGE WATCH

- [I SPY in Chatteris](#) – O2. To find out what, click [my little eye](#)
- [WELCOME PAGE](#) has two new informational links: [u3a – What Is It?](#) and [Chatteris u3a – What Is It All About?](#)
- [RECENTLY UPDATED](#) Interest Group webpages: [Arts & Graphics](#); [Banned Book Club](#); [Crafts](#); [Walking Here B](#)

## OPEN MEETINGS 2023/4

20 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>OCTOBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: <b>To Be Confirmed</b> – <i>Tax, Care And Toy Boys</i>
17 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>NOVEMBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: <b>Charlotte Paton</b> – <i>The History Of The Romany People</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> December  Please note the change of date.	<b>DECEMBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: <b>Melody Flyte</b> – <i>Singing For Victory – Forces Sweethearts Of WW2</i>  <b>Followed by Refreshments</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	<b>JANUARY OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC Exhibition on Safety and Security by the Fenland District Council
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	<b>FEBRUARY OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: <b>Peter Leeson</b> – “Is that meant to be me?”
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>MARCH OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

The **Table Tennis** group launched for Monday afternoons is being discontinued due to the numbers attending not making this a viable proposition for the future. However, it is great to pursue new Groups. The only actual test is starting a session and then monitoring accordingly. Any ideas for new groups are fully encouraged and can be explored with Georgina. The Tuesday morning session of **Table Tennis** has a new leader. The beloved Ken Robson has led this group for 10 years and will be replaced by the highly esteemed Paulette Church.

The **Crafts** Interest Group have recommenced after a summer break. The October meeting is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> where vases will be decorated. Please bring rulers, pencil, scissors, and paper. Glue will be provided. Remember that the **British Sign Language** Group are extending their meeting time by 30 minutes. The next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> October from 1.45pm until 3.45pm. All are welcome to the above activities. For other Interest Groups, contact Georgina Plumb or the respective Group Leader. Alternatively, search the various Interest Groups on the Website.

For more information, click on the [Diary](#) link.

## INTEREST GROUPS OCTOBER CALENDAR

GROUP	DATE	TIME	VENUE	LEADER
ART AND GRAPHICS	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BANNED BOOK CLUB	Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – 3.30pm	Chatteris Library	Peter Leeson
BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	1.45pm- 3.45pm	King Edward Centre	Sally Harper
CRAFTS	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Barbara Righelato Lindsey Marsden
CREATIVE WRITING	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Member's Home	Polly Howat
FAMILY HISTORY	Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
GAMES AFTERNOON	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Georgina Plumb
GOLF	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	A Morning Round	The Old Nene Golf Club	Stuart Newman
GUITAR	Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm – 3.00pm	Member's Home	Steve Wright
JEWELLERY FOR FUN	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Caroline Hopper
LIVING WELL WITH ARTHRITIS	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	King Edward Centre	Lesley Pomfrett
QUIZ EVENING	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm – 9.00pm	King Edward Centre	Jeanette Hipkins
SCRABBLE	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm- 4.00pm	Member's Home	Jan Fieldhouse
SINGING FOR PLEASURE	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Emmanuel Church	Joan Deller
TABLE TENNIS	Every Tuesday	10.00am – 12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Paulette Church
WALKING HERE A	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00pm	King Edward Centre	Phil Green
WALKING HERE B	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00pm	Furrowfields Car Park	Brian Windsor
WALKING THERE	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	As Arranged	Furrowfields Car Park	John Parry Brian Windsor
WHIST	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Member's Home	John Parry
WINE APPRECIATION	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm – 9.00pm	Member's Home	Barry Ransley
LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	As arranged	As arranged	Jan Fieldhouse
LUNCH ON THURSDAY	Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	As arranged	As arranged	Lesley Gibbs
COMPUTING HELP	By arrangement	By arrangement	By arrangement	Neil Shepherd

- Click this [A-Z GROUPS LIST](#) link to see a list of all our Interest Groups and links to their individual web pages.
- Click this [email contact](#) link to enable you to email **Georgina Plumb**, or our Group Coordinators.