



Registered Charity No 1196841

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

Don't forget your Flu and Covid jabs.
Contact your Health Centre or local pharmacy for details.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As we sink further into Autumn weather, I hope you remain safe and warm. Remember to contact our Welfare Officer if you need anything.

Our last open meeting was full of news and information. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad, I understand if you decided not to brave it. First, we had a very instructive talk on protecting your assets through carefully redacted wills and trusts and an ominous warning about the risks your heirs face if you don't do it correctly. I only wish I could remember half of his recommendations!

In other news, I had the pleasure of announcing three new initiatives starting in our next meeting (17th November).

From November, we will have a collection box for the local food bank. The Chatteris foodbank, supported by the Trussel Trust, delivers 10 to 15 parcels every week of the year without fail. Inflation, cost of living, rent increases, fuel increases, austerity measures, and so many other things have combined to create more need and despair throughout our area as in the country (1 in 5 people in the UK are below the poverty line, not something that you would expect in the fifth wealthiest nation in the world!). The food bank is critically vital in reaching out and providing to the neediest people in the area, and they need your help. Donations can include dry and canned foods, with a "best by" date at least three months into the future. Particularly in need are UHT milk and long-life fruit juice, tins (meat, fish, vegetables, beans), sugar, biscuits, rice pudding, coffee, tea, jam, pasta, rice, cereal, as well as toiletries (especially for women), baby supplies: nappies and baby products and general household cleaning supplies.

Also from November, we will start collecting blister packs. So if you take any pills that come in blister packs, please bring them; we will have a box to collect them and send them to Terracycle, who has organised this new opportunity with funding from Aldi. In my household, we go through quite a lot of these, and there is no reason for them all to end up in a landfill somewhere.

Finally, I am personally raising money for the MacMillan Cancer Support Fund. On 22nd December, the day of our end-of-year meeting, I will have my head shaven live at the meeting. I know very short hair does not suit me, and I accept to look ridiculous, so please be generous. Many of our members know about cancer through personal experience, and it will touch everyone at some point, in one way or another. The MacMillan people do a fantastic job but need whatever you can donate to continue. For my "Brave the Shave" challenge, I will collect cash donations at the next two open meetings, but I would rather you donate directly through their website by going to <https://tinyurl.com/ShavePL>.

Peter

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

WEBPAGE WATCH

- Click [MEMBERS INFO](#) and discover that this webpage has now had its contents compartmentalised into different categories that will, hopefully, make your information searches easier.
- Click [SOCIAL](#); [TRIPS](#); and [THEATRE](#) to find out what's happening in Chatteris u3a.
- Click [I SPY in Chatteris – 03](#) to see a really cool place in our town.
- Click [CONTACT](#) to email Phil (Green), the Webmaster, if you have any ideas as to how the website could be improved and/or if you might like to become involved in the running of it in some way.

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

Burghley House Christmas Market, Saturday 25th November – At time of print we still have 8 seats left for the Christmas Market, so if you fancy some present shopping, picking up those Christmas goodies, or just a wander round getting into the festive spirit and hopefully nabbing a few free samples then please let me know. You can pay at the November Open meeting as that's before the trip, the cost is £25.00 per person. We will be leaving Furrowfields car park at approx 9.30am.

Milton Keynes Theatre – And then there were none by Agatha Christie on Wednesday 7th February 2024. As usual we will leave plenty of time for you to get lunch and even wander around some of the shops. The performance starts at 2.30pm and should finish around 5.00pm. Tickets are £52.00 each, so if you fancy a good old "who done it" and a good lunch, come and put your name down at the next meeting.

Proposed for next November/December 2024 is a trip to **Thursford Christmas Spectacular**, I know it seems a long way ahead but to be able to reserve good seats, tickets must be pre booked in January 2024. A sign-up sheet is available at the Open meetings. If this might interest you, put your name down.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions for future trips, please let any member of the Trips committee know – Terry Hayward, Lesley Gibbs or Jeanette Hipkins or contact me, Jan Fieldhouse.

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

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

OPEN MEETINGS 2023/4

17 th Nov	NOVEMBER OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: Charlotte Paton – <i>The History Of The Romany People</i>
22 nd Dec Please note change of date.	DECEMBER OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Speaker: Melody Flyte – <i>Singing For Victory – Forces Sweethearts Of WW2</i> Followed by Refreshments
19 th Jan 2024	JANUARY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Exhibition on Safety and Security by the Fenland District Council
16 th Feb 2024	FEBRUARY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC
15 th March 2024	MARCH OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC
19 th April 2024	APRIL OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC

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

YOUR INTEREST GROUPS NEED YOU!!

If you already belong to an Interest Group, have you thought about joining any others?

If you don't belong to a group, perhaps you would think about joining?

The groups are a great place to meet people who have the same interests as you or to learn a new skill and make new friends. You will be made very welcome.

For the groups to continue at a reasonable cost, they need to have enough members attending each session to pay for hiring the room and for any outside input, such as speakers.

For more information please don't hesitate to contact the group leader, Georgina Plumb at any Open Meeting or check out our website or Chatterbox for more information.

If you already belong to a group, could you ask anyone else in u3a if they would like to join? Perhaps you could arrange car sharing as sometimes parking spaces are at a premium at the KEC.

Remember that the leaders give their time for free, so need to be supported if the groups are to continue.

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

Remembrance Day 11th November – Lest We Forget



"In Flanders fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row."

