

CHATTERBOX

The Official Newsletter of Chatteris u3a



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



December already? What happened to that year? Where did it go?

At our November meeting, our speaker told us about the Romani people, sharing pictures of their rich culture. She led us through their history, traditions and culture. How they were welcomed when we needed additional hands to help in fields and factories, then cast out when no longer needed. She also reminded us that not every traveller is a Romani and that we should not confuse them, blaming one tribe for the illegal activities of another.

You proved yourself extremely generous at our new "community involvement table".

I was overwhelmed by your generosity in my appeal to recycle blister-pack wrappers. I must admit I thought most would forget, but the u3a members are better than that! I am now looking for members who can help with this effort by signing up to the [The Aldi Blister Pack Envelope Recycling Scheme · TerraCycle](#), and out two (postage-paid) labels per month to bring to the open meeting.

The foodbank collection was also well received and, on behalf of the Chatteris food bank and its users, I would like to thank you all for your donations. Please note that there will be no collection in December because of the dates when the food bank is open to accept donations. We will resume with this effort in January.

And that brings us to December. We will have an extraordinary Christmas meeting with a Christmas buffet, a (free) raffle, and entertainment. I will fulfil my pledge to have my head shaved to raise funds for the MacMillan Cancer Support Trust. Thank you to those who have already donated. If you would like to support this cause, there will be a collection box and a sign-up sheet at the meeting, or you can use the dedicated website: <https://www.tinyurl.com/ShavePL>. As usual, we will meet at the KEC on the **22nd of December** at 10:30 and overrun until 2pm.

See you then, and, in the meantime, take care of yourself.

Peter



22nd Dec
2023

DECEMBER OPEN MEETING

10.30am till approx. 2.00pm in the KEC

Speaker: **Melody Flyte** – *Singing For Victory – Forces Sweethearts Of WW2*

Followed by a Members only Lunch Buffet/Tea and Coffee from 12.00

Peter "Braves the Shave"

Entertainment from the Sign Language and Singing for Pleasure Groups
Raffle

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

On behalf of the Theatre and Trips sub-committee Terry, Jeanette, Lesley, and myself, I would like to thank all members for supporting us during 2023, I know for some it has not been easy getting back to going out and mixing with people, which has meant that some of the trips haven't been able to take place. Nevertheless, we have been to the theatre, visited places of interest and attempted a trip on the river which due to bad weather wasn't totally successful.



We do have our first trip in 2024 arranged to go to Milton Keynes theatre in February and will soon be working on what we can offer for the rest of 2024. Suggestions so far have been Elton Hall, a day at the seaside and lunch and Thursford for November/December 2024 so if you have any other ideas please do speak to any of the people who sit at the back of the hall at the open meetings, and we will see what we can arrange.

Enjoy the festive season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year

INTEREST GROUPS



There is a general call to all members that **"Our Interest Groups Need You"** Some groups have seen attendance numbers falling, therefore, continued support for all our interest groups would be very much appreciated.

The **Crafts** group are tweaking their format. Instead of a designated project, members are now invited to bring their own project. Help, support, encouragement, and advice will be gladly provided at the monthly meetings.

Requests for a Language Interest Group have regularly been made. A leader for a

German Language Group has now been identified, so can you please express your interest in this group by talking to Georgina at the December Open Meeting. Thank you.

Enjoy all the December u3a meetings that you attend.

WEBPAGE WATCH

Remember to use the u3a website for all the up-to-date news and information on trips, interest groups and Open Meetings as well as links to the Committee Members and Chair Notes.



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



What do you call Santa's little helpers?

Subordinate Clauses.

What kind of photos do elves take?

"Elfies!"

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?

Santa walking backwards!

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose!

Keep warm, keep safe, keep smiling!!

Chatteris Christmas Lights Switch On
4.30pm on Saturday 2nd December