



Registered Charity No 1196841

All the links in this month's newsletter will take you to a relevant page on the [Chatteris u3a website](#).**HAPPY NEW YEAR and WELCOME TO 2024**

A NOTE FROM THE COMMITTEE

2023 was certainly an eventful year, with the Coronation and the increase in the cost of living. There were also some significant changes to Chatteris u3a, with a new Chairman and additional Committee members, as well as updating to Beacon and make-overs to our website and newsletter. We also transferred our policy documents to the suggested templates to ensure our paperwork was up-to-date and followed u3a standards and guidelines. It was also decided, after some lively discussions, that to comply with data protection laws we should not include the minutes of our committee meetings or policy documents on the website until we could ensure they could not be accessed by non-members. We have still to decide on the best (and easiest) way to achieve this, so in the meantime, they are available to members by emailing the secretary.

Most things did stay the same, though. The Committee continued to meet monthly, our Open Meetings provided a varied selection of speakers, and our wide range of Interest Groups still offered excellent opportunities to Live, Learn and Laugh. Our trips covered wide-ranging events and destinations and continued to be popular. Membership numbers were steady, as were the numbers attending our Open Meetings and, despite the rise in the cost of living, we have maintained our membership fees unchanged.

Looking forward to 2024, topics for the Open Meetings for the first 6 months range from Armed Policing to Trees!!! The Interest Groups will continue to offer the chance to learn new skills (and probably a coffee and chat!). Still, they will need your continued support to keep them viable. You could make it your New Year's resolution to join a new group!

Although we all like life to be predictable, change can be a good thing, so as a committee, we have some ideas that we hope will improve the enjoyment and local exposure of the Chatteris u3a in the coming year.

Do you have suggestions for a speaker, interest group, trip, event venue, or something else you would like to see? Perhaps you would like to join us in a more active role? If so, please get in touch. Also, if you know anybody who isn't a member, encourage them to come to any of our Open Meetings.

As a Committee, we are very grateful to all the volunteers who run the Interest Groups, provide help and refreshments at our open meetings and social events, support the activities on offer regardless of the weather – if you cannot attend open meetings or an interest group, due to the weather or difficulties with mobility or transport, please get in touch.

Remember that whatever changes are made, our vision stays the same – to continue to offer a friendly and inclusive place for people to meet and make friends.

The Committee

OPEN MEETINGS 2024

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

19 th Jan 2024	JANUARY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Wayne Bent – Cambridge Search and Rescue Exhibition on Safety and Security by the Fenland District Council
16 th Feb 2024	FEBRUARY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Peter Leeson – Is That Meant to Be Me?
15 th Mar 2024	MARCH OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Dr Trish Skinner – Survival, Suffrage, Service: Chatteris Women in an Age of Change 1880 – 1950
19 th Apr 2024	APRIL OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Deborah Mahoney – Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
17 th May 2024	MAY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Matt Edwards – Shooting and the Consequences
21 st Jun 2024	JUNE OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Gwenda Kyd – Twelve Tremendous Trees

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

The trip to Milton Keynes to see "And then there were none" on Wednesday 7th February, the theatre tickets have been bought and if you have changed your mind and decided you want to go it may not be possible to get tickets or sit with the main group, but we would try. If however you fancy a shopping afternoon in Milton Keynes, with time for some lunch, there are spaces available on the coach. The cost will be £22.00 per person.
Please sign up at the next Open Meeting.

Spotlight Theatre – Wednesday 10th April 2024
– Tickets £15.00 – Car Share, which will be arranged as needed. 25 Tickets reserved on first come first served basis.

More details about these outings can be found on the [TRIPS](#) and [THEATRE](#) webpages.
For tickets and information, please get in touch with **Jan Fieldhouse** via this [email contact](#) link.

WEBPAGE WATCH

- Click [I SPY in Chatteris – 04](#) to reveal "The Stones".
- For easy access to the u3a website, simply centre your smart phone camera on the QR code and open the browser link. *(With thanks to Terry Bosworth)*

INTEREST GROUP NEWSNEW YEAR...NEW INTEREST

New Year is the time most of us make a resolution, so why not make one that will be fun to keep...join a u3a Interest Group!!!

The motto of u3a is Live, Learn, Laugh and our Interest Groups certainly provide all of these.

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

Or if you already belong to one, have you thought about joining any others?

The groups are a great place to meet people who have the same interests as you or to learn new skills and make new friends.

You will be made very welcome.

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

- 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 email Georgina Plumb, our Group Coordinator.

Many thanks to all who donated goodies to the Christmas Food Bank, all of which went to people in need of support in Chatteris.