



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

Slowly, we are reaching the end of winter, and it is a time of renewal: the trees are starting to look greenish, the days are getting longer, and we need to plan our AGM (Annual General Meeting), which will be held in April.

At our AGM, the committee traditionally stands down and is thanked for their work, and a new committee is elected. This is important because the committee forms the board of trustees of your u3a and agrees to the activities and plans, as well as all the legal stuff. Various critical decisions need to be made; in particular, there is one that is being considered as a policy change requiring that no person serves on the committee for over nine years – which would mean that some of our longstanding volunteers would have to step down (perhaps we could wait until after the AGM for that). Importantly, we need more volunteers to take on some of the roles, so we were hoping you could consider this.

Being a committee member is not an onerous task; we meet for a couple of hours per month and discuss what is going on and the opportunities or issues that need to be discussed or decided upon. For instance, at the time of writing, we are trying to organise transport to and from the monthly open meetings. We know that some members cannot make it to the meetings for various reasons, and having a FACT bus pick them up and bring them home after the meeting would be a great help. Once we know how many would like to benefit from this, we can ask the FACT organisation for an estimate of prices, and it would then be up to the committee to decide whether this is something that should be entirely or partially funded by the u3a or charged back to the members.

Also, at the AGM, we will announce the winner of our poster competition. Can you create a poster (or a concept that could be turned into one) to tell the community about what we do? You have until the end of March to come up with something.

If you are interested in any of these points, please do get in touch – or perhaps you have another idea of something your u3a could do for you. We are here to listen to you.

Best wishes,

Peter

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

#### **Good News!!**

Subscription costs for 2024 are being held at 2023 prices!! Only £20 for a whole year of learning and laughing. 😊

### WEBPAGE WATCH

- **BRAND NEW WEBSITE – COMING SOON!** Click this [HERE](#) link for more details.
- Here are some recently updated **INTEREST GROUP** webpages: [Walking Here A](#) ; [Living Well](#) and [British Sign Language](#) .

## TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

**Spotlight Theatre** – The Addams Family, There are 6 places left for this trip to Huntingdon on Wednesday 10th April, tickets are £15.00 each and need to be paid for at the March Open meeting. Car share can be arranged if needed.

**CANCELLED** – Elton Hall and Bosworth Garden Centre – Unfortunately there is not enough interest in this outing to book a special group rate, it needed at least 30 people, So this will not be running and has been **CANCELLED**.

**Buckingham Palace** – Monday 9th September leaving Furrowfields Car Park at approx 8.30am, returning to Chatteris by approx 9.30pm. You will need your walking shoes for this. We only need 4 more people to have enough to make this a viable trip, so please if you are hoping to go sign up at the next meeting. **We are now taking payments for this.**

**Thursford Christmas Show** in November – there are still seats available for this – don't forget to sign up, once they are gone we cannot get extra's.

- 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 2024** For more information, click on the [Diary](#) link.

15 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2024	<b>MARCH OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Dr Trish Skinner – Survival, Suffrage, Service: Chatteris Women in an Age of Change 1880 -1950</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2024	<b>APRIL OPEN MEETING and AGM</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Deborah Maloney – Hearing Dogs for Deaf People</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	<b>MAY OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Matt Edwards – Shooting and the Consequences</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> Jun 2024	<b>JUNE OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Gwenda Kyd – Twelve Tremendous Trees</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b>JULY OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Paddy Lambert – Alconbury Archaeological Dig</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2024	<b>AUGUST OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Charles Garland – Dads Army</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024	<b>SEPTEMBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Andrew Spooner – History and Future of Chatteris Museum</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024	<b>OCTOBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Neil Kirby – Stainless Metalcraft</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024	<b>NOVEMBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Barbara Mayer – Conservation of the Seals of Norfolk</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024	<b>DECEMBER OPEN MEETING</b> 10.30am in the KEC <b>Ian Larkin – Funtime Music and Laughter Show</b>

## INTEREST GROUPS

- Living Well With Arthritis has evolved into **Living Well**. We are opening-up the group to cover all health matters and keeping the **EXERCISE** component which we all enjoy and does us good. We still meet on the fourth Friday of the month at the King Edward Centre 2 – 3.30. All welcome.
- The British Sign Language group now meet in a member's house. Contact the leader for more information.
- Georgina has been unavailable to attend any meeting so far in 2024 but plans to attend the March Open Meeting. In the meantime, she is available on the telephone and would welcome any calls about the Interest Groups.

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 email Georgina Plumb, our Group Coordinator.

Ted Croucher, long-time member of u3a, and his daughter have started a regular podcast about his 50 years of working at the Goodwood Motor Race Circuit.

<https://youtu.be/A3etZ-W6LWO?si=V3Rw49vIOGmhGwEp>