



Registered Charity No 1196841

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

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

One year ago, I got talked into accepting a nomination for chairman of u3a Chatteris. Steve Wright, my predecessor, had done a great job and left me with "big shoes" to fill. The job was daunting and I did not know if I was up to it. I had many failings of which I was aware. I cannot remember people's names, even when I meet them regularly. I tend to imagine perfection rather than dwell on the present, a consequence of which is that I might not be listening or aware of the issues that are presented to me because I am thinking of better ways to do things. I believe that technology presents inexpensive and simple solutions to many of the day-to-day issues that face any organisation, without considering that many in the u3a feel uncomfortable with the continuous advance of modern technology. I tend to trust that all change is good, either it improves things or it gives solid information as to why it should not be done, while the "way we have always done things" is usually unsatisfactory or incomplete. I am a relative newcomer to the region and know very little about the past of Chatteris or Fenland.

So, one year later, I must thank all the volunteers who have supported and guided me through my mistakes and hesitations. First, I need to thank the members of the committee, the trustees of u3a Chatteris, who have done such a great job in keeping the organisation running smoothly. I need to thank the organisers, facilitators and hosts of all the interest groups who have kept things going, strengthening the u3a principles of living, learning and laughing, available to all members. I need to thank those who have offered personal support to the various members who had needs and required support for driving, shopping, doctor visits, and more. I must not forget to thank Linda and Angela and the rest of the staff of the KEC, who have put up with my miscommunications, and changing requirements. Finally, I need to thank the members of the u3a who have continued to attend the monthly open meetings in increasing numbers and have been kind enough to laugh at my attempts at humour.

But the year is over, our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting. It is time for the committee members, including myself to step down and open up the election debate to replace us. This is your opportunity to offer your skills and services to your u3a and explicitly help to fix the things you believe we could or should have done better. This is not just a formality, this really is a request for each and every one of you to speak up and influence your u3a. The jobs that need filling are attainable: even someone like me managed to cope with a job like chair (chairman, chairperson, whatever it is called this week). The u3a is run by volunteers with little time on their hands, some have experience in what they are doing but most of us do not.

See you at the AGM,

Peter

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

WEBPAGE WATCH

- Check out our website for all the latest u3a news.

IMPORTANT DATES

Poster Competition

closes 1st April.

AGM on the 19th April.

Membership fees due May
2024.

TRIPS / THEATRE VISITS

FANCY A DAY OUT? THERE ARE SEATS AVAILABLE ON ALL THE TRIPS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF TRIPS ARE NOT SUPPORTED THEY WILL NO LONGER BE OFFERED – USE IT OR LOSE IT.

It takes a lot of time and effort from a small team to arrange these trips and it's disheartening when not enough people sign up to them.

If what we offer is not to your taste please let us know what you would like to do.

NEW++++ NEW++++NEW

NORTH NORFOLK STEAM TRAIN – Wednesday 5th June, leaving Furrowfields Car Park at 9.30am to travel to Holt. Aboard steam train and travel to Sheringham with coffee/tea and pastries included arriving around 11.40am. This will give you time to have a walk along the front and get lunch before coming back around 1.45pm to travel back to Holt to get the coach home to Chatteris. Tickets cost £48.00 per person. Please pay at next meeting

Buckingham Palace – Monday 9th September leaving Furrowfields Car Park at approx 8.30am, returning to Chatteris 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.

Get your Christmas shopping done early and join us for a trip to Bluewater Shopping Centre on Monday 28th October leaving Furrowfields car park approx 9.30am to arrive about 11.30am. Will leave Bluewater around 3.30pm to hopefully arrive back in Chatteris about 5.30pm, coach cost £30.00 per person.

Thursford Christmas Show Tuesday 12th November – there are still seats available for this – don't forget to sign up, once they are gone we cannot get extra's.

Think that's it folks, thank you for support and actioning where needed.

- *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.

19 th Apr 2024	APRIL OPEN MEETING and AGM 10.30am in the KEC Deborah Maloney – 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
19 th July 2024	JULY OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Paddy Lambert – Alconbury Archaeological Dig
16 th Aug 2024	AUGUST OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Charles Garland – Dads Army
20th Sept 2024	SEPTEMBER OPEN MEETING 10.30am in the KEC Andrew Spooner – History and Future of Chatteris Museum

INTEREST GROUPS

Unfortunately, the Craft and Creative Writing Groups will no longer be running as part of the U3A. Many thanks to Barbara, Lindsey, and Polly for running the groups over the past years.

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.

