

June 2018

It is a mystery

Once upon a time, there was a group of people who decided to meet up once a month. Then they split into groups of people who liked the same thing. This was successful so they decided to write about it, but not everyone wanted to do that, so only half the groups reported on how they were getting on and the others kept quiet. So, what went on with the quiet groups? That is the mystery, we don't know!

Does this sound familiar? Why don't half our groups write about their activities? We want to know what they are doing. We are interested. This is why the first words out of members mouths when they arrive at the meeting are "Is the newsletter here?" PLEASE Group Leaders, ask someone in your groups to write a few words for the newsletter. Imagine you are telling a friend what went on at the meeting and what a laugh you had, then write that down. If you don't have email then ring us up and dictate it. WE NEED MORE INFORMATION!

From your frustrated Newsletter Editor



Chairs ramblings

A number of you have been unsure why we ask for your name and not your membership number when you book in. Partly, this is because you are more than a number, you are a person and we do try to get to know your names. It is also for Fire regulations – much easier to have a name rather than a number! You need your number when you are a member of a group as the group leader needs to record this. Also, the colour and possibly the design of the membership cards alters every year as you may have noticed, so that you know when your membership has expired.

We do need someone to take over from Margaret Hall and the Lunch Club. Grateful thanks to Margaret for all she has done and we do appreciate the success she has made of it. This is just once a month, so if you want to have a go at continuing with it, please speak to Margaret or myself. Numbers are at the back of the newsletter.

If you have any ideas for new groups, please let Pat Johnson or Ros Bridges know.

We have had a lot of new members this year which is fantastic. Please keep encouraging your friends to join us. The more the merrier!

Finally, many thanks to all those who turn up every meeting and help out. Most of them are not on the committee but still arrive early and ready to arrange trips, sell books, meet and greet etc. We couldn't manage without you!



Play Reading

This month we chose an unfamiliar playwright in Derek Benfield's comedy play 'Off the Hook'. It was a good choice, with plenty for everyone to get their teeth into. From convicts to robbers and Magistrates to unwilling maids, and various bedroom combinations! We had a lot of fun exercising our language skills, and once again the ladies abilities to adapt to male voices. A good afternoon topped off with tea and biscuits from Rosalind.

Carlene Lee

Gardening club

"Although our numbers were small this month, we had an enjoyable morning looking at gardening magazines, focusing this time on herbs. This was our main subject, although our discussions were quite wide ranging. After our tea break, as the weather was good we enjoyed looking at Chris & Peter's garden with its variety of flowers, fruit and vegetables, all looking very healthy. We came away with little pots of herbs and some very nice rhubarb."

Greta Cheshire

A Free telephone number for Directory Enquiries is: 08001183733

Knit and Natter

A full house at the last meeting as we hadn't met for a month due to the Bank

Holidays. Lovely to see everyone and check up on what we had all made. The scarves for Age UK are adding up which is great. It was lovely to see Yvonne at the last meeting and know that she is on the mend from her stroke. Sylvia Dale

Painting day at Warkton

Catherine came earlier in the month this time to instruct us on 'Ink versus watercolour', which gave us amateurs an insight into more diverse ideas for pictures than we had previously thought of doing. An interesting and informative morning.

Later in the month, she joined us for a lovely day drawing and painting the various sights in the pretty village of Warkton, Sylvia provided a magnificent lunch which we all did justice to before returning to complete our masterpieces. The sun shone on us all day which completed the experience. We spent a couple of mornings during the month doing our own thing and some beautiful art was produced. Catherine came again towards the end of the month and we enjoyed a messy morning trying out a new form of watercolour. A busy and productive month.

Carlene Lee

Book Club

We spent May enjoying Victoria Hislop, Cartes Postales from Greece, a wonderful travel story that made you want to travel to Greece to experience this colourful country for yourself. A young girl named Elle living in a dingy bedsit in London receives a collection of postcards from Greece sent to someone

else. Elle creates a montage of the postcards which gives her the inspiration to travel to Greece, also a travel journal of the writers' own story arrives just as she is catching the plane to leave which makes it very intriguing. Obviously, it does have a happy ending and we would recommend anyone who enjoys travel to read the book.

In June we read 'The Street Cat named Bob' by James Bowen. A very enjoyable book regarding a young man and his cat called Bob. This is a true story of James, a drug addict. His moving story of the fight to look after Bob and himself in London, and how he managed to take care of them both, with his busking and selling the Big Issue. We also were able to watch the film of the same name, it was intriguing to see how his story had been portrayed in the film.

Margaret Hall

Theatre Trip

Unfortunately, the trip to London to see the Lion King in November has been cancelled due to lack of support. Any money received will be refunded.

White Christmas on 9th January is now full with a waiting list. Payment of £40 is due at August meeting.

Joyce Williams



Music Appreciation

We met on Thursday 14th June to share music relating to "Numbers". Popular

music included 1, 2 Buckle my Shoe, 3 Coins, 9,000,000 bicycles in Beijing, Route 66 and 54321.

“Classical” items were Weber’s “Sharpshooter” (7 Bullets), “Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2” (a bit of a cheat), “Don Giovanni” (boasting about 1,000s of conquests) and “Tea for 2”

(Shostakovich version). Jazz numbers were “5 Brothers”, “Blues in 3rds”, “Route 49” and “Opus 1”. Musical Show items were “1/2 a Moment” (“Jeeves”) and Who am I (Jean Val-Jean’s prison number from Les Miserables). Another pleasant musical and social afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th July (2:00 to 2:15 pm start). The agreed theme - “Westerns”.

Ken Bridges

Discussion Group

We met on Wednesday 6th June at 2pm. The first discussion was whether we thought that Unions were still relevant. The answer was a resounding YES! Next, was the Jury system still fair? We didn’t reach a conclusion as we all had differing opinions – hard eh! Just like a Jury!

Should we have just one Northants County Council, developed into a general chit-chat over tea and biscuits.

It all sounds quite serious, but we do have lots of laughs as well. The next meeting will be held on July 4th at 2pm.

Linda Miller

Short Walk

Again, the weather was sunny but not too hot for walking. Wendy suggested

Barnwell Country Park which was beautiful. Thank you, Wendy. There were nine of us and Teddy the dog this month. We walked round the outside then up the middle and then decided to have coffee at the Kingfisher

Cafe’. The cafe’s outside deck overlooking the water is a great place to be! We then walked back round the outside the other way. The group is so friendly and we do lots of chatting. Bob and I are enjoying seeing what Northamptonshire has to offer, The country parks are all worth a visit and we expect to visit most of them over time. The next walk is on JULY 19th 2018. Sywell Country Park NN6 0QX. Meet in the car park at 10am. £3 for up to four hours parking. Wanda and Bob Moffatt

Beginners Camera Group

The group met at the usual venue with both Elaine and Pat attending. The subject was taking photographs through water. After discussing this we went out into the garden to experiment. Pat also brought some bubble stuff so that we could try taking photographs through or with the bubbles, but this was not really successful. There is not a meeting in July so the next date will be 14th August at the usual venue.

Julie Bates

Trips

BBC Gardeners World visit 15th June:

Although we could not make this trip, everyone who went seems to have had a good day. Many thanks to Isobel Collins for taking over the coach duties.

Cambridge visit and river cruise with cream tea 5th July: by the time you read this we will have been to Cambridge, so we are hoping it will be a good day for everyone. We have 50 members going.

Melton Mowbray and Gates Garden Centre, 11th September. The price is £12.50. We will be collecting the monies for Melton Mowbray at the August meeting. There are still some spaces and friends are welcome.

Worcester Christmas Market November 30th: the list will be out at the August meeting. Please put names down if seriously interested. The price will be £14. Members only initially. Julie and Jessie

News from the groups.

We are very happy to report that the new Keep Fit Group will begin on Wednesday 25th July at The Bowls Club in Burton The time will be from 10.am to 11.30am and the cost will be £3per session. The teacher will be a lady called Betty, and the U3A Group Leader will be Lin Ray Tel.01536 418975. Thank you to all those 19 people who signed up as being interested. We now need to know who is able to attend, as we need a minimum of 10 per session. If you didn't sign up at the last meeting you will be able to sign up at the AGM. The exercises will be tailored to the ability of the class and if you need to be seated that will be ok. It is advisable to wear loose clothing and to bring a bottle of water with you.

Please can I also remind everyone that if you can't attend your group for

whatever reason, please let your group leader know.

Pat Johnson and Ros Bridges

Camera Group

We spent a lovely sunny day at Jordan's mill near Biggleswade. It is a water mill which was used by the Jordan's cereal company until the technical revolution. The mill building has been turned into a working museum and our guided tour included a switching on of the machinery. The noise and movement were fascinating and we also took some photos which you will see at next month's meeting. Pat and I will be away next month so, as Kirby hall is closed on a Monday, the task will be to take photos of a stately home in your travels and we'll meet again at St. Mary's road on Monday 20th. August, as in the programme.

Jenny Goddard

Ten Pin Bowling.

We met as usual with diminished numbers owing to a clash with a trip. Not one of our best examples of bowling skills, but Dypsey managed a personal best!!

We are still open to new members and welcome them into a happy, gregarious and supportive group. No experience is necessary.

Dai Johnson.

Speakers

August 14th The Abdication Crisis – Mrs Wallis Simpson by Roy Smart

September 12th “You cannot be serious”, Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire 1988 – 2012

Speaker Alan Gray



This month's Handymen are:

Aerial Services.TV **01536 388073/03330 063003**

Our member writes

*'Excellent service, did the job without
Trying to talk me into things I didn't need.
Reasonable rates. Very happy.'*

Masefield Ceramics, Tiling, flooring and bathroom installations

Kris Stirzaker on 01536 412395/0779965528

Our member writes

*'I have had a bath out and a shower cubicle in.
Not as straightforward as a complete refit.
Tidy clean worker. On time.
Careful approach in a domestic situation.
Confident worker. All rubbish taken away.'*

Ukulele Group

We have just had our 5th session. We have found the correct way to say Ukulele (oo-coo-lay-lee) and how to play 3 chords – not very expertly as yet. Some of us practice a lot. Some of us not so much (you know who you are!) but we are having fun learning and no-one has dropped out yet. We are concentrating on three songs – Amazing Grace, Lilly the Pink and Hound Dog and building up our rhythms, while taking instructions from You-tube videos.

Computer Club

We are currently learning how to produce address labels for our Christmas Card list. Names and addresses are placed in a spreadsheet and then merged into a Document for printing. We use LibreOffice since this is a free alternative to Microsoft Office and does most of the things Office can do.

Alan

Songs for a Summer Evening

Variations Choir & Soloist

At the United Reformed Church
London Road, Kettering
Saturday 21st July
At 7.30pm

Adults £6
Children under 12 £3
Refreshments included

*All proceeds from this concert
will be donated to the Guide
Dogs Charity*

Tickets available at the door.

Activity Groups and Leaders

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
Monday					
Art Group	Martin Dale	01536 411865	Mind Centre, Russell St	Weekly	10am-12 noon
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Varies	3 rd Monday	2pm
Camera Club (advanced)	Jenny Goddard Pat Johnson	01536 482972 01536 483396	3 St Mary's Rd	Monday following Monthly meeting	2pm-4pm
Canasta	Margaret Hall	01536 512215	Kettering Bridge Club	Every Monday	2pm-4pm
Knit and Natter	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865	Dorothy Stocks house	Alternate Mondays	2pm-4pm
Mah Jongg/scrabble	Margaret Hopkins	01536 503308	Varies	2 nd & 4 th Monday	2pm-4pm
Play reading group	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741466	Venue and date vary	Normally 1 st Monday	2pm-4pm
Swimming	Isabel Collins	01536 520971	Kettering swimming pool	Every Monday in term time	9am-9.45
Basic Maths	Chris Crick	07490 591224	Home	2 nd & 4 th Monday	10-12
Tuesday					
Camera Club (beginners)	Julie Bates	01536 725538	home	2 nd Tuesday	2pm
Computer club	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Chris Ditri's house	Fortnightly	10-12
Walking (medium)	John Sumpter	01536 722198	Varies	Last Tuesday	10am
Ukelele Group)	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Home	Fortnightly	10 am
Travel	Geraldine Hardwick	01536 481203	Varies	3 rd Tuesday	2pm
Wednesday					
Country Danciong	Janice Angles	07768 169490	St Andrews Hall	2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays	10.30 – 12 noon
Gardening	Chris Ditri & Sandra Tecklenberg	01536 723145 01832 733419	Varies	1 st Wednesday	10 am
Lunch club	Margaret Hall & Patricia Stokes	01536 51225/724342	varies	3 rd Wednesday	12.45
Short Walk	Wanda & Bob Moffatt	01536 659236	Varies	3 rd Wednesday	10 am
Discussion Group	Linda Miller	01536 483773	Home	1 st Wednesday	2pm
Thursday					
Music Appreciation	Ken Bridges	01536 741455	Home	Varies	2-4pm
Spanish	Geraldine Hardwick	01536 481203	Hertford Community Centre	1 st & 3 rd Thursday	2-4pm
Short Walks	Wanda Moffatt	01536 659236	Varies	3 rd Thursday	10am
Friday					
Making Music	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Home	Weekly	2-4pm
Singing for Pleasure	Jill Dee	01536 514054	Fuller Church	Fortnightly	10-11.30
Ten Pin Bowling	Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Thunder Bowl	Friday following monthly meeting	10am
Ballroom Dancing	Matilda Harvey	01536 522196	St Edwards Church Hall	Weekly	11-11.45

Pop in for Coffee – the Thursday after the main meeting and a fortnight later. Venues change so look for the current venue in the newsletter.

Days arranged by individual group

Day trips Julie Bates 01536 725538 and Jessie Mills 01536 722421
Theatre Visits Joyce Williams 01536 482566 and Jean Issitt 01536 513218
History Group Geraldine Hardwick 01536 481203 arranged after each meeting

To all members

If you are aware of anything affecting one of our members such as an important birthday, anniversary or illness and feel that a card from the U3A would be appropriate please contact Lynne on 01536 618001



Newsletter Editor:

This is now Martin Dale. Please send contributions by 5pm, 30th of the month to sylviadale@live.co.uk. If you can get them to us earlier that would be appreciated as the newsletter fills up and it is often a job to get the last contributions in.



Webmaster

Alan Bailey

01933 350147



Committee – 2018-2019

Chairperson	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865
Vice Chair & Assistant Group		
Co-ordinator	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741455
Treasurer	John Cousens	01933 664602
Secretary & Assistant Speaker		
Secretary	Lynne Franklin	01536 618001
Membership Secretary	Pauline Bailey	01933 350147
Group Co-ordinator	Pat Johnson	01536 483398
General Duties & committee desk	Tony Reed	01536 481733
Assistant Speaker Secretary	Helen Checkley	01536 418616
General Duties & raffle	Linda Miller	01536 483773
General Duties & New Members	Jill Burgess	01536 515045

