

u3a

learn, laugh, live

ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

Charity Number 1179738

August 2021

Hello everyone,

We had nice weather for our picnic in Meadow Road Park in July. It was a very sociable afternoon. At last, we can hold large gathering indoors for those who want to meet again. Many thanks to Sylvia for finding and booking suitable venues for a social in August & the AGM in September. Details of both are to follow.

Thanks must also go to everyone for being patient and adaptable during the past 16 months. We have tried very hard to keep you involved as much as possible despite having to make some short notice changes. Some of you embraced virtual meetings with varying success. Your enthusiasm is much appreciated. As we can move back towards in- person meetings, please be kind & courteous to everyone. Our experiences and anxieties are all going to be very different. We've all had to adapt our behaviour and some people will still want to social distance and wear face coverings. This should be respected. Let's all be as inclusive as possible so that everyone feels comfortable.

I'm probably more risk averse than some of you and I'm not ready to meet a large number in close proximity indoors yet, so I won't be at the social afternoon. As I feel that the chairperson should attend monthly meetings I am standing down from the committee. I have learned a lot during the year and recommend the role. Our secretary, Lindsey Cole, is also retiring so we need volunteers for both positions as well as general assistants. There is a lot of support from the rest of the committee who will make newcomers very welcome. As the saying goes "more hands make light work." If you think you might be interested, please contact any of us to discuss it.

There are 3 national u3a initiatives to mention. Full details are on their website for anyone who is interested or contact me for further details.

1 Quilting competition to celebrate next year's 40th anniversary of u3a

2 u3a chess network

3 Click & Save members rebate scheme - however to take part in this someone would have to volunteer as an administrator.

Best wishes to you all

Helen

The AGM is on the **8th September** at St John's Church Hall, Stamford Road, Kettering. 2pm start.

All members of the committee are resigning and the following are up for election:

Jill Burgess

Linda Miller

Julie Bates

Tony Reed

Tessa Bellamy

Sylvia Dale

Lynne Franklin

Norma Reilly

The positions of Chair and Secretary are vacant. These have to be filled. If anyone is interested, please speak to a committee member

We do need more members to be actively involved in various roles, so if you think you could help, please speak to a committee member. Norma will also have details of the trips she is running in September, October and December.

Alan and Maralyn will be having a quiz and there will be tea, coffee and cakes on offer.

Please come and support us – we need and want to get back to normal as soon as we can, but for now St John's Hall is our temporary home! The Eden Centre can only have 60 people in it at a time. Parking is impossible in the town at the moment and building work is about to start on the Conservative club next door. We will return as soon as it is possible to do so.

There is parking in the roads around the hall and also in the carpark. This is the best we can find at the moment so please bear with us during this difficult time.

Sylvia Dale, Vice Chair 01536 411865 sylviadale@live.co.uk

Answers to July Quiz

- 1 1000
 - 2 Kate Thornton
 - 3 Christopher Eccleston
 - 4 The Tracey Ullman Show
 - 5 Nelson Mandela House
 - 6 Sex Education
 - 7 Erinsborough
 - 8 1985
 - 9 John Noakes (12 years from 1985-1978)
 - 10 Gareth Keenan
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Singing for Pleasure Group

We have had our first meeting in our new hall and it was lovely to get together again. We have a new Group Leader, Lynda Harris, and have decided that until things improve, we will just be singing for ourselves and won't be entertaining in care homes for the present.

Many thanks to Jill Dee for all her hard work over the last few years and we hope to see her back with us when her health improves.

As we have a larger hall now, we can invite more members to join us. If you are interested, please ring Lynda Harris on 01536 628940.

Trips

A new member has offered to run the trips for us, so we said 'yes please!'

Her first one is to the Cotswolds on the 14th September. Details already sent out. Either ring her to book your place (01536 or email myself at sylviadale@live.co.uk 01536 411865

Payment to be made by 31st August so you haven't got long to book your ticket.

Coffee Morning

This is still very popular, with more members calling at the Stirrup Cup on a Thursday morning at 10am.

We vary it every so often by meeting at midday and having lunch instead!

It has been a real benefit to us during the last 16 months as the only way we could meet indoors safely.

All members are welcome and you just need to turn up as it isn't regulated by numbers as many groups are.

AGM

We have to hold our AGM (2 years) at our September meeting. This will be on the 8th and we will be asking for members for the committee – as usual. Some committee members will be staying on but we are always grateful for any help that we are given. If you think you would like to help, then please ring Helen Hicks on 01536 529408 or Sylvia Dale 01536 411865

Short Walks

Irchester Country Park was our chosen walk this time. Five of us set off on what we thought would be a little more adventurous. It went down a treat. It's was a bit up and down, through open spaces and forest and for most of the time we had the park to ourselves. Teddy loved it.

The only downside, we spent time trying to buy a parking tickets only to be told the machines weren't working across all the parks. This time we had many people on holiday so hopefully they will join us next time. If you are wondering about joining us please come to the table at our August meeting or give me a ring on 01536 659623
Next walk will be 12th August 2021

Wanda, Bob and Teddy



Book Group report

Q & A - Vikas Swarup

This is the first novel by Vikas Swarup an Indian diplomat. It tells the story of Ram Mohammad Thomas a young waiter who becomes the biggest quiz show winner in history, only to be arrested and jailed accused of being a cheat.

He has a very poor start in life as an abandoned baby and throughout the book we hear of the various episodes in his life and the experiences that help him answer questions in the "Who Will Win A Billion "

He tells each adventure to his lawyer and every chapter finishes with the actual question that he can answer correctly because of his previous life. We are immersed in the survival of a street boy in India with the extreme differences in wealth and opportunities. We hear about the exploitation of women, the vast divide that exists between social classes and abuses of power.

We all enjoyed this book despite the chapters not following a linear time line of Ram's life. He is proved not to be a cheat and is awarded most of the money. Though revolving around the idea of winning money on a quiz show the themes culminate in a powerful commentary on what it is like to live a life of poverty in India.

You will recognise this as the basis for the Danny Boyle film "Slum dog Millionaire". But those in the group that had seen and enjoyed the film agreed the book told the story differently and in greater detail.

Linda Law

Quiz for August

- 1 Which line is the underground station of Bank?
- 2 Which author wrote the novels 'Starship Troopers' in 1959 and 'Stanger in a Strange Land' in 1961
- 3 The Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain in Piccadilly Circus is better known as what?

- 4 Simon Bolivar defeated the Spanish at Carabob thus ensuring which country's independence?
 - 5 The avocado dip Guacamole is associated with which country
 - 6 Which has the largest area, South America or Antarctica?
 - 7 In 1830 who founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?
 - 8 What is the English equivalent for the item that Americans would call a thumb tack?
 - 9 Which novel from Richard Adams starts with the words 'The primroses were over'?
 - 10 The Victoria Cross was instituted in which decade? 1820's, 1850's or 1880's?
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How to Paint A Wall

While I went off to work one day,
She decided to paint the wall.
And when I came back home that night,
She was curled into a ball.

Her eyes were closed, she was breathing
hard,
Her hair was very wet.
From her head to the tips of her pretty toes,
She was covered all in sweat.

She was wrapped in a jacket made of down,
With a fur coat on top of that.
The wall was glowing with new, fresh paint;
On the floor, the paint can sat.

"Sweetheart!" I cried, with a worried look,
"Are you all right, my dear?"
She lazily opened her lovely eyes,
And smiled from ear to ear.

"I knew I could do it," she said with a grin;
"I followed the paint can notes.
It clearly said 'For best results,
Be sure to put on two coats.'"

By Joanna Fuchs