

u3a

learn, laugh, live

ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

Charity Number 1179738

September 2021

October 13th is our next main meeting and it will be back at the **Eden Centre!**

Please let anyone know who doesn't receive our emails.

We are hoping to have a Speaker, but can't confirm that yet.

We know it has been difficult for some of you to get to St John's Hall in Stamford Road, but this was always a temporary meeting place until restrictions eased. Thanks to those of you who have joined us there.

Parking has now eased in the town centre since the Council have resumed charging for it and there is always the bus.

We are expecting a number of groups to restart this month and are planning a Group Leaders coffee morning to iron out any problems that may arise. Further details to follow.

As always, if you have any ideas for groups or hobbies that could be of interest to members, let us know.

We have still had no members offer to help on the committee. We do need more members to take an active part in organising things. If you are a new member this is a great way to get to know people. If you want an informal chat about it, why not ring me to find out what is involved.

Sylvia

Newsletter Editor

Groups

A number of groups have vacancies now, so if there is something that you are interested in, now is the time to do something about it.

Singing for Pleasure can now take more members. They meet at St John's Church Hall in Stamford Road every other Friday morning at 10am. 01536 628940

Knit and Natter needs more knitters. If this is something you are interested in, then why not get in touch. They meet at a members' house on every other Monday 2-3.30. 01536 411865

We are always happy to start new groups. If you have an idea why not ring Jill Burgess, our Group Co-ordinator to discuss. 01536 515045.

Book Club

The Dressmakers Gift by Fiona Valpy

This is the second book we have read of this author and we were not disappointed. The story switches from present day to 1943 in Paris where three young girls show great courage with the German invaders right on their doorstep. All have arrived in Paris with a particular skill "Dressmakers" and find themselves working as seamstresses, also sharing the small flat above the factory. Vivienne, Mirelle and Clair. The story tells of the sacrifices they all made in their own way. The description of the rescue mission they made feels so real, you can feel the fear that they must be experiencing to help the Resistance to rescue the persecuted and the airman that needed a safe return back home.

Harriet is our present-day character who finds a picture of three women taken in the war and believes one of them is her grandmother. She has her own struggles and decides to go to Paris to discover her roots, never expecting such a wonderful story of her grandmother Clair.

Harriet is able to meet Mirelle who fills in the missing pieces of the three brave friends and

also present Harriet with the blue dress her grandmother had made from blue scraps of silk she was able to save in the war.

Harriet not only found her roots but of course a dashing French man as well to make her happy.

I understand a film has been made of this book and will look forward to watching it.

Margaret Turnbull

August Quiz answers

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Northern |
| 2 | Robert A Heinlein |
| 3 | Eros |
| 4 | Venezuela |
| 5 | Mexico |
| 6 | South America |
| 7 | Joseph Smith |
| 8 | Drawing Pin |
| 9 | Watership Down |
| 10 | 1850's |
-

Short Walks

Hi everyone

This last walk was at Ringstead starting and finishing by the Mill. Very pleasant almost perfect walking weather. Hard foot path for the start, then across a field which didn't have sheep in it this time, into the village, then going right onto a path through to the old railway line. Here we stopped for a rest at an old iron bridge to take in the sights offered by the river Nene, with a barge and a lock. Interesting! Teddy is very much enjoying his walk with everyone again. Refreshments at Ringstead Mill cafe' were good. The cakes on offer were exceptional.

Next walk is September 16th 2021

Wanda, Bob and Teddy

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Travel group

We feel we may be able to resume this very successful group either in September or October. I am meeting representatives of our group to discuss if this would be possible. Information will be available from Geraldine on 01536 481203. We feel we cannot invite new members at the moment.

Spanish Group

Our Spanish group have continued to work throughout the epidemic through the offices of our teachers Bob and Bill who have sent out work to everyone. Since last September we introduced Zoom and met online which has been extremely successful with most of our group members attending the meetings. Our fluency and knowledge have shown a good improvement. We will find a room as soon as it is possible, in the near future.

Geraldine 01536 481303

Group Co-ordinators Report

Hello everyone. It was a good turn out at St John's Church Hall in August with 60 members attending. It was nice to find a temporary place to meet in.

Some groups have managed to carry on by Zoom meetings and the Short Walking group has managed to do some socially distanced walks.

In the current climate, some groups meet in member's houses and may be starting at a later date than others. SO PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE.

To the members who put their names down for groups, the information has been passed on and you will be contacted in due course.

Thanks must go to our new members Mike and Norma Reilly who are doing a sterling job organising trips out for us.

A member has suggested we should start up a learning French group. If anyone can oblige, please let me know.

Coffee mornings are thriving with both men and women meeting weekly and sometimes we also have lunch! A big thank you to the Stirrup Cup for being so accommodating.

Please keep your ideas coming and offers of help as these keep your u3a running.

Thank you.

Jill Burgess

Singing for Pleasure

The U3A singing group has restarted and we have had about 4 sessions. We have had to change our venue and we now sing in St John's hall, Stamford Road, Kettering. This is quite a large hall with a high ceiling and we have now been offered the church premises which are partitioned off from the main sports hall. This is much better for our needs as the church is a smaller place and the seats are more comfortable! We have a piano courtesy of Sylvia and this is more appropriate than the keyboard which we use to take around to singing venues.

When we restarted our attendance numbers were down due possibly to holidays or the reluctance to mix again. They are slowly creeping up again and we are informed that we have several enquiries regarding joining the group.

Of course, we always worked to a programme for singing to Residential Homes or groups that required extra entertainment for their residents. This will not be happening again for some time due to Covid restrictions.

We are asking members to select a few favourite or new songs for a meeting and hopefully members will participate and enjoy a morning of their individual choices.

Lynda our pianist always produces successful and enjoyable new tunes for us and suggests different ways for us to sing them.

We are all agreed that we would like to keep the group going whether singing or gossiping or singing and gossiping to music.

Velda Robinson

Scrabble and Mahjong.

This friendly group met on the second and fourth Monday of the month starting at 1.45pm in the café at Barton Seagrave Village Hall, Bertone Road off Powell Lane NN15 6WF. There is good car parking at the hall and the 47,48,49 and 50 bus services leave from the Horsemarket bus station and stop in Polwell Lane.

All abilities are welcome. If you have never played either game this is a good chance to learn a new activity and you will be most welcome.

Linda Law

TEN PIN BOWLING

We are pleased to tell the Ten Pin Bowling group that we are hoping to start up again in October. We shall meet as before on the Friday after the main meeting at 10.00am. The cost is now £3.00 per person for one game. If you wish to join us please make contact with me at the October meeting to pay your £3.00. New members will be very welcome.

Dai Johnson (group organiser).

LUNCH CLUB

I am hoping to organise a Lunch Club meal for October. Details will be available at the October main meeting. To enable this group to continue I would be grateful for members to volunteer to organise a meal in their chosen month. I would also like someone to organise a Christmas meal as the previous organiser is unable to do it this year. I am willing to organise for some months but not all, so please consider helping me out. Many thanks

Pat Johnson (Lunch club organiser)

Trips

Hi everyone,

Sales of seats for Thursford are going very well but have a few more available so if you would like to invite any friends to accompany you, please feel free to contact me.

Please be aware of the closing date for payments

If you need any further information, please phone me on 07783 692666.

I will be unavailable from 5th - 11th September (on holiday) so contact prior to the 5th would be very much appreciated.

Norma Reilly

Trips Organiser

Thank God For Plumbers

Two old friends met on the street,
Hadn't talked in many a year;
"How's your family,?" asked this dear old friend,
"I'd really like to hear."

"George has a Master's in literature,"
The other said, with pride,
"And Mary's a grad in modern art,
Her career she has yet to decide."

"And How's Willy," the first friend kindly asked,
While the other displayed defeat;
"Oh, Willy's a plumber," she sighed, hanging her head,
"But without him, we'd be out on the street."

By Joanna Fuchs

