

u3a

# ISE VALLEY NEWS

learn, laugh, live

Kettering, Northants

Charity Number 1179738

**February 2023**

Hi everybody,

So nice to see 60 people turn out for our meet and chat meeting. Special welcome to our five new members.

I have sent off for a brochure for Bridgewater Gardens. Have received brochures from Middleton Hall and Gardens also Tolthorpe Hall and Alan kindly sent me info on Elton Hall and Gardens near Peterborough.

So hopefully trips will be arranged soon.

I have a network meeting in March and they would like to know members ideas for u3a day, so thinking caps on please and let me know.

Keep putting suggestions and ideas in the suggestion box, these have proved very helpful.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Jill

## CONGRATULATIONS

One of our members – **Carol Keach** has been awarded the British Empire Medal by King Charles 111.

Carol got the award after working as a volunteer for the Charity The Compassionate Friends which help with counselling for grieving parents after the death of a child.

Carol lives in Barton Seagrave and is a member of the Variations Choir. She initially thought that the email telling her she had been awarded the BEM was a scam but her daughter pointed out that it was, in fact, genuine!

Many congratulations to her.



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## Ten Pin Bowling

We welcomed Penny as a new member of our group. Jenny was our highest achiever with a new PB.

I forgot to mention too that Pat achieved a new PB at our December meeting. Lots of strikes and spares were achieved in a cold January.

We look forward to welcoming any new members to our happy band.

Dai Johnson

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## Lunch Club

There was no Lunch Club in January as we only now have one every other month. The next Lunch Club is on the 15th February. Jill Burgess has very kindly agreed to organise this on at The Stirrup Cup in Barton Seagrave. Please see Jill at the next meeting to look at the menu ,order your food and pay the deposit in cash. The next Lunch Club will be on the 19th April, venue to be arranged. The Lunch Club is open to any Ise Valley U3a member.

Pat Johnson

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## Play Reading

Our 1st. play of the year was “Ladies who lunch” by Tudor Gates. Set in the world of multi-millionaires who play the international stock markets, the drama/comedy revolves around three women - an American , an Australian and an English woman. Each is married to a wealthy man and they decide that to raise badly needed funds for the world’s poor they must indulge in a little “illicit trading “ !!!

Great to read with lots of laughs and also thought provoking.

Many thanks to Maralyn who chooses all these terrific plays for us.

Rosalind

## Camera Group

In spite of the very icy weather, we had a jolly meeting on the 16th. Our theme of 'abstract in the home' was represented mostly by kitchen tools and cutlery in unusual settings. For our next task, we have to choose an item from a charity shop costing no more than £2.50, and bring it and photos to the next meeting on the 13 th. February. Have fun!

Jenny

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## Singing for PLeasure

Our last meeting for the old year ended with us meeting at the Palmichael in Burton Latimer for a Christmas Lunch. This year we all managed to sit at one table and had a very enjoyable meal served by very pleasant staff.

We had several concerts during December and these were all well received.

We have now had two meetings during January 2023 and have been surprised at the well attended sessions, It is always good to see old friends and catch up with their news.

Lynda has again devised a programme of songs we are enjoying singing and once refined we hope others will enjoy them as well.

Hoping for warmer days.

Velda Robinson

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## Book Group

Our Book for January was The French Gardener by Santa Montefiore

The prologue sets the scene - in Dorset sits a quaint cottage in the middle of a field, brown roof tiles covered in moss and roses over the door. A scene unchanged as if someone still lived there - the Hartingdon estate unsold for 10 months including the remote cottage - a woman replaces a scrapbook. Miranda and David Claybourne bought the estate in Hartingdon but she struggles to

adapt to country life although husband David had always wanted to live in the country. They also moved because their son 7 year old Gus had a problem with his aggressive behaviour at his city school which he took out on their neighbours livestock and any wildlife he encountered, he had a younger sister 5 yr old Storm.

Miranda was planning to hire a cook and gardener so her farmer neighbour Jeremy suggested she advertise in the local cake shop run by Cate Sharpe, whilst there she learned that Ava and Phillip Lightly used to live in the house 26years ago and Miranda actually hired Mr and Mrs Underwood who had previously worked for Ava and Phillip as their gardener and cook.

The storyline then runs in parallel as Miranda also hires another gardener the enigmatic French man Jean Paul to rejuvenate the gardens and grounds around the property and she renovates the small remote cottage for him.

Miranda discovers the secrets from long ago when she finds the scrapbook (which belonged to Ava) left in the cottage which describes her life at Hartingdon with her husband Phillip and three children and her affair with MF and the heartbreaking decisions she had to make regarding her family or a life in France.

The village characters are well described and are brought together at the end of the book which we all enjoyed giving a score of 8/10

Linda Benbow



## ART GROUP

We started back with only 6 of us on Monday 9th January at St Andrews Church hall after a few weeks break as a few members were unwell but the numbers have increased to 11 with 2 new members. We were all industrious using a range of different mediums, soft pastel, oil pastel, coloured pencil, watercolours and the unpredictable amazing powder Brusho. We have a range of abilities but helping each other with plenty of chatting and refreshments.

Tessa



## Short Walks

We had a lovely walk round Fineshade Wood on 19th January, our first of the new year. The weather was cold and sunny. Just right for walking. We had a good turn out considering it is further away than we usually go, and you have to pay a bit more. It offers good paths, in the woods and a very cosy cafe.

We had several people from the Kettering group with us making 12 of us plus Teddy, I felt I could give it a go using a stick. It was so inviting. We soon got into our stride making our way through the trees. Teddy loved it all. They are doing lots of work in the forest which will benefit the trees in the future. We all made it safely up "heart attack hill". They even have a bench half way up. Nobody used it not even me. We moved through the upper wood seeing more work that was being

done. Then into a really wooded part that took us to the cafe. The staff couldn't have been nicer we sat in a circle taking refreshments. The coffee was good! Thank you Dai for your help.

Wanda, Bob and Teddy

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## Craft & Coffee

Another enjoyable morning discussing our crafts, tv shows and anything else we enjoy. This group is open to everyone, even if you are not currently crafting feel free to join us to see if we can help us with a craft you are thinking about taking up. The next meeting is 28th Feb at Stirrup Cup, Barton Seagrave 10.30 until 12.00. If you require any further information please contact me on 07535 446 758 or email [joyknight972@gmail.com](mailto:joyknight972@gmail.com)

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## Group Leaders

Just to let you know that I have taken over a Group Co-ordinator to give Jill more time to deal with trips, although she will be the assistant group co-ordinator. I will be contacting you all directly to update myself with your group to ensure I have the information to help you. I am contactable on 07535 446 758 or [joyknight972@gmail.com](mailto:joyknight972@gmail.com)

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## ICELAND DISCOUNT

Iceland do a 10% discount for over 60's on Tuesday, as from March need to have bonus card which can be collected from shop

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## Pretty Woman

Reminder to those who have booked that this is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Coach leaves the Corn Market Hall at 9.30am. We will arrive in London in time to have some lunch before the matinee. Should be back in Kettering around 8pm.

If you think you may not be able to go, we have a waiting list so please ring me. 01536 411865

A funny moment .....

I went for a walk the other afternoon. In my way were two young boys approx. 9/10 years old on their bikes. As I approached, they looked up from their chat, noticed me coming and moved their bikes to one side. I said thank you to them as I passed – and heard one of them say to the other “Be kind to the elderly”!

It is now official – I am old!!! Out of the mouths of babes etc.

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### **Mature Driver's Roadshow**

Following the success of our events in 2022, we are running a third Mature Drivers Roadshow!

Driving is an important part of our everyday life and we (Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance (NSRA)) are keen to help to keep mature drivers driving safer for longer. We are running two FREE roadshows on 2nd May (9.30 am and 1.00pm) at Police Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton NN4 0JQ. The What3Words for the carpark is

<https://what3words.com/bill.necks.boxer>

Our driving ability to drive changes over time for different reasons, especially as we get older. It's important that we recognise whether and how our driving is changing so we can stay safe and protect both ourselves and those around us.

This Mature Drivers Roadshow is aimed at drivers 60+, and will cover all different aspects of driving. There will be a short talk and then plenty of time to meet informally with our many stand holders. Free advice will be available on car adaptations, eyesight, how your prescription medications may affect you, and much more.

There will be a number of FREE IAM

RoadSmart Mature Driver Assessments available.

Our aim is to keep mature drivers driving safer, for longer.

The link for FREE tickets is

<https://mature-drivers-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

We would be very grateful if you could circulate this amongst your members and other groups where you feel appropriate.

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### **January Quiz answers**

1. Chinese
  2. Russia
  3. Johnny Depp
  4. Shoes
  5. The inside of the body
  6. Aviation
  7. Red
  8. 50 states
  9. Manchester United
  10. Downton Abbey
  11. Newcastle upon Tyne
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### **Bring and Buy**

We raised £45 from this at our last meeting in January. Thank you to all those who contributed. There were some items left on the table so unless you want them back these will be added to the raffle. If you think that you would like them returned please ring me on 01536 411865.

The money raised is being sent to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance

Sylvia

## Spanish

With only one meeting this month and with many absentees we hope for better things in February. We welcomed two new members and hope they continue. Contact Geraldine 01536 481203

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## Travel Group


We enjoyed some old films of our Austrian holidays which were great fun to watch.

Our next theme is castles. Please bring any mementoes of castles visited. Next meeting 3rd week of the month ie the Tuesday after our main meeting. New members welcome but contact for details from Geraldine 01536 481203.

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## Speaker this month

**ENDURANCE 1914 to 1916**  
"in my grandfather's footsteps"  
an illustrated talk by Alan Wordie



Alan Wordie is the grandson of Sir James Wordie, chief scientist and geologist on the Endurance expedition of 1914-1916.

Drawing on his grandfather's diaries and recollections, Alan throws a personal and fascinating light on Shackleton's iconic expedition and the extraordinary rescue of the whole crew following 18 months stranded on the Antarctic ice. He draws on his experiences on the Endurance centenary expedition to the Antarctic in 2014, with fellow descendants of Shackleton's crew. Photography from 1914 and 2014 will be used to illustrate how a failed expedition was, in fact, a huge achievement.

Alan's research and knowledge will provide a stimulating Question & Answer session.

## Beginners Camera Group

The group met at the usual venue on Tuesday 10th January 2023. We discussed the programme for the coming year and the subject for January is "My Favourite Things". Please bring photographs to the next group meeting when we will discuss them, they will be shown at the next U3A monthly meeting. The next group meeting is on the 14th February at 2.00pm at 19 Sherwood Drive, Barton Seagrave.

Julie Bates.

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## Wanted .....

Do you love singing? New members wanted for Singing for Pleasure. Come and join us for a good sing song every other Friday morning at St John's church hall in Stamford Road. No audition!! You just need a love of singing. We do go out in the community and entertain at Care Homes and Churches when asked so we work to a programme. We are looking for about 4 more members to boost our 'sound' when we are out entertaining others.

Interested?

Phone Lynda Harris on 01536 529410

At a loose end? Come to our weekly coffee morning at the Stirrup Cup in Barton Seagrave. It is every Thursday at 10am. We have a number of men who join in now, so it is for everyone.

## Activity Groups and Leaders

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
<b>Monday</b>					
Art Group	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632	Woodcroft London Rd	Monday	2-4pm
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Varies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	2pm
Camera Club (advanced)	Jenny Goddard Pat Johnson	01536 482972 01536 483398	Member's home	Monday following Monthly meeting	2pm- 4pm
Canasta	Margaret Hall	01536 512215	Kettering Bridge Club	Every Monday	2pm- 4pm
Mah Jongg/scrabble	Linda Law	01536 659091	Barton Seagrave village hall	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	1.45 - 3.45
Play reading group	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741466	Venue and date vary	Normally 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	2pm- 4pm
Recorder Group	Mary Cooper Sue Hartley	420336 357676	Member's home	2 & 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.30-3.30
<b>Tuesday</b>					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Julie Bates	01536 725538	Member's house	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	<b>2pm</b>
Ukelele Group	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Member's house	Fortnightly	10-12
Craft & Coffee	Joy Knight	07535 446758	Stirrup Cup	Monthly	10.30-12
Travel	Geraldine Hardwick	01536 481203	Varies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	2pm
<b>Wednesday</b>					
Gardening	Chris Ditri and Sandra Tecklenberg	01536 723145/01832 733419	Varies	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	10-12
<b>Thursday</b>					
Ten pin bowling	Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Thunder bowl	Following monthly meeting	12 midday
Coffee Morning	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	Every Thursday	10.00am
Spanish	Geraldine Hardwick	01536 481203	St Andrews Church Hall	Fortnightly	2-4pm
Short Walks	Wanda & Bob Moffatt	01536 659236	Varies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10am
<b>Friday</b>					
Singing for Pleasure	Lynda Harris	01536 529410	St John's Church Hall	Fortnightly	10-12.00

To enrol in any groups, please contact the group Leaders.

Day Trips	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865
	Jill Burgess	01536 515045

### Timings at the Eden Centre

Main meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Eden Centre

Doors open – 1.15

Chair's Chatter – 1.55

Speaker - 2pm

Raffle – 3pm

Finish – 3.15pm

### To all members

If you are aware of anything affecting one of our members, such as important birthdays, anniversary or illness and feel that a card from the u3a would be appropriate, then please contact one of the committee.

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### Newsletter Editor

Please send contributions by 5pm, 30<sup>th</sup> of the month to [sylviadale@live.co.uk](mailto:sylviadale@live.co.uk) If you can get them to me earlier, that would be appreciated as the newsletter fills up and it is often a job to get the last contribution in..

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<b>Webmaster</b>	Alan Bailey	01933 350147
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Bob Moffatt	01536 659236

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### Committee – 2022-2023

Chairperson	Jill Burgess	01536 515045
Vice Chair	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865
Treasurer No 1 a/c	Tony Reed	01536 481733
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632
Membership Secretary	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865
Secretary	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865
Groups Co-ordinator	Joy Knight	01536 446758
Ass. Groups Co-ord	Jill Burgess	01536 515045
Speaker Secretary	Penny Smith	07772 237077
General Duties	Lynne Franklin	01536 618001
General Duties	Erika Beecher	01536 722932
Newsletter Editor	Sylvia Dale	01536 411865