

ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

Charity Number 1179738

December, 2024

Merry Christmas Everyone!

This month's meeting is our Christmas party, which is a ticket only event due to us needing numbers for catering purposes. The doors will open at 1.45 so if you arrive earlier than that can you please wait in the foyer. When you come into the main room please check in and find yourselves a table. Hot drinks will be available from 2.00pm. there will be soft drinks on the tables. At 2.15 there will be a talk by Mike Burton on Our Christmas Story, during which we shall be able to enjoy our food and drink. At 3.00 pm we shall draw the raffle.

Enjoy your Christmas celebrations and Best wishes to you all for 2025! Looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year

Penny and all the Committee.

We are very sorry to hear that Sonia Tame passed away in November. A card of condolence has been sent to her family on behalf of all at Ise Valley U3A.

**Can you help at the meetings with making the tea and coffee?
More helpers needed please let Penny know if you can help**

**DO YOU PAY TAX?
THEN PLEASE TICK THE GIFT AID
BOX ON YOUR RENEWAL AS THIS
HELPS TOWARDS OUR FUNDS.**

How it works - Gift Aid is a scheme available to charities. It means they can claim extra money from HMRC. The charity can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. That's as long as you've paid the basic rate of tax and make the donation from your own funds.

Singing for Pleasure

This week 21st November we will be singing our Autumn programme for the last time this year. We have already selected carols for the Christmas outings and will be moving on to them. We have four outings in the diary for our Christmas programme.

The group maintains a healthy number of members and everyone has a chance to propose their favourite carol for the concerts./

Our Christmas lunch is already booked and we will be returning to the Stirrup Cup in Barton Seagrave.

Velda Robinson

Short Walks

Hi everyone,

On a freezing cold morning we meet at the Holiday Inn, nine of us. It was good to have Dave Walker with his dog dizzy, a friend for Teddy. Although it was cold the sky was blue and the sun was shining. It is a walk of two parts across A43 road. Which sounds strange. The first side is about half the walk through Weekly Woods. Then we cross the busy A43 being thankful that there are pedestrian traffic lights. A short distance through the industrial area took us to Linear Park. Then the path through the park lead us up hill to the Fox and Peony. Tables were put out for us and refreshments were enjoyed. Next time we will have to find a new place for refreshments as the cafe's is closing. Shame!

Wanda, Bob and Teddy

Playreading

Aladdin

The Playreading group met on Wednesday 19 November to read a version of the play Aladdin written by Margaret Carter From Princess Badroulboudour to Jasmine the mule including the Grand Vizier and Widow Twanky plus Abanazar a magician and of course Aladdin himself. It all made for an interesting version of good old fashioned Christmas Pantomime jollity. Perhaps as are most comic plays, better seen visually than read in a group. Still, it was fun for a Christmas read with lots of comic pieces to sing jointly, and many characters to play keeping us all busy. The next Playreading date is on Friday 3rd January.

Carlene Lee

Craft n Coffee

Another pleasant morning at the Stirrup Cup, not a lot of crafting this week but lots of chatter. Welcome to June who joined us for the first time. Our next meeting is 17th December.

Joy

ART REPORT

A great few weeks with another enjoyable session with Mel producing a collaged picture on the subject of Arches using collage paper, acrylic paint and stencils. The next session we will be painting small wooden discs which Mel is providing with Christmas images to be used as decorations.

We are having a Christmas holiday break with our last session on the 16th December and we will be back to our weekly get togethers on the 13th January 2025 on the early start week of 1.30pm in the Jacques room at St Andrews.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Tessa

Ten Pin Bowling

We started off the day by going to The Old Forge in Cranford for our Christmas breakfast. A good time was had by all. Our numbers were depleted this month, but we still managed a number of strikes and spares. This month's winner was Jenny with a new PB, so well done to her.

We are always ready to welcome new members to our friendly group.

Dai Johnson

Lunch Club

Our Christmas lunch is now booked and paid for. We look forward to seeing everyone at The Olde Vic at Burton Latimer, 12.00 for 12.30. Please remember the pub doesn't open until 12.00. Thank to everyone for paying in full.

Pat and Dai Johnson.

Beginners Camera Club.

Our November meeting had a delayed start. Michelle gave us an informative talk about Nighttime photography and we hope to be able to take some inspiring photos. You will be able to see them at the January meeting. There is space in this group for beginners, so if you are interested please contact me.

Pat Johnson

December Speaker. This year we are having a speaker at the Christmas Party who will talk about "Our Christmas Story". - its customs and traditions - how and why this developed from the mists of time to the over-the-top Tudor festival to the near ban of Christmas by Cromwell and back to the lavish Victorian celebrations and the reason we have been brought up to believe in a White Christmas.

Next month the speaker will be

Peter Barratt on "Alice Hawkins - a Sister for Freedom".

Penny

Christmas Quiz Questions

1. Which country first started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called 'milk punch'?
3. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
4. What do people traditionally put on top of their Christmas tree?
5. Where was baby Jesus born?
6. What Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?
7. What colour are mistletoe berries?
8. Which fairytale was the first gingerbread house inspired by?
9. Who invented the Christmas wreath?
10. Where did the tradition of Christmas stockings come from?
11. What are the traditional 12 days of Christmas?
12. How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish?
13. What was the coldest ever temperature recorded during a UK winter?
14. What are the chances of a white Christmas in the UK?
15. How many Christmas trees are grown in Europe?

Advanced Camera group

We had a full house at our meeting in November when we brought our photos of Autumn fruits to show. Our talk was about how to take the best photos of 'fire and ice and wind', our topic for December. The date for that meeting is 16th December when we must bring ideas for next year's topics, and there should be mince pies available.

Jenny

Book Club

Four Winds by Hannah Kristen

The story is set in Texas 1934, Elsa Martinnella has been forced to marry her husband because she is expecting his baby and her own family disown her. She lives with her in-laws, an Italian immigrant family on their farm. She receives the love and affection from them that her own family withheld.

She has two children, a girl and a boy, and although times are hard they are able to feed themselves, then comes the drought and the dust storms. Her husband leaves her and she is forced to travel to California to try for a new life with her children. California does not prove to be the land of milk and honey and they are not wanted there. Elsa gets caught up with the communist party, who are trying to fight the landowners and get the immigrants a better quality of life, as they have to pick cotton to survive.

This is a story of survival against nature and man and the members of the book club enjoyed the story and would like to read more by this author.

Lynda Kirkyshire

This is the story of how the fir tree became the Christmas tree.

At the time when the Christ Child was born all the people, the animals, and the trees, and plants were very happy. The Child was born to bring peace and happiness to the whole world. People came daily to see the little One, and they always brought gifts with them.

There were three trees standing near the crypt which saw the people, and they wished that they, too, might give presents to the Christ Child.

The Palm said: "I will choose my most beautiful leaf, and place it as a fan over the Child."

"And I," said the Olive, "will sprinkle sweet-smelling oil upon His head."

"What can I give to the Child?" asked the Fir, who stood near.

"You!" cried the others. "You have nothing to offer Him. Your needles would prick Him, and your tears are sticky."

So the poor little Fir tree was very unhappy, and it said: "Yes, you are right. I have nothing to offer the Christ Child."

Now, quite near the trees stood the Christmas Angel, who had heard all that the trees had said. The Angel was sorry for the Fir tree who was so lowly and without envy of the other trees. So, when it was dark, and the stars came out, he begged a few of the little stars to come down and rest upon the branches of the Fir tree. They did as the Christmas Angel asked, and the Fir tree shone suddenly with a beautiful light.

And, at that very moment, the Christ Child opened His eyes—for He had been asleep—and as the lovely light fell upon Him He smiled.

Every year people keep the dear Christmas Child's birthday by giving gifts to each other, and every year, in remembrance of His first birthday, the Christmas Angel places in every house a fir tree, also. Covered with starry candles it shines for the children as the stars shone for the Christ Child. The Fir tree was rewarded for its meekness, for to no other tree is it given to shine upon so many happy faces.

Christmas quiz Answers

1. GERMANY
2. EGGNOGG
3. 4
4. AN ANGEL
5. BETHLEHEM
6. TOM HANKS
7. WHITE
8. HANSEL AND GRETEL
9. A German Lutheran pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern
10. According to tradition, the original Saint Nicholas put gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters
11. The Twelve Days of Christmas are the last six days of the old year (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 December) and the first six days of the New Year (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 January)
12. Feliz Navidad
13. The coldest temperature ever recorded during a UK winter was -27.2 °C
14. The chances of a White Christmas are just 1 in 10 for England and Wales
15. Nearly 60 million Christmas Trees are grown each year in Europe

November 1980 Retro Quiz Answers

1. Stephen Hawking
2. Cyndi Lauper
3. Out of Africa
4. Nelson Mandela House
5. Adam Woodyatt as Ian Beale
6. Sarajevo
7. Vivienne Westwood
8. St. Paul's Cathedral
9. Babycham
10. 1989

Activity Groups and Leaders

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
Monday					
Art Group	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632	St Andrews Church Hall	Monday	2-4pm
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Village Hall Barton Seagrave	3 rd Monday	11.00 to 1.00pm
Camera Club (advanced)	Jenny Goddard Pat Johnson	01536 482972 01536 483398	Member's home (Ise Lodge)	Monday following Monthly meeting	2pm- 4pm
Mah Jongg/scrabble	Linda Law	01536 659091	Barton Seagrave Village Hall	2 nd & 4 th Monday	1.45 - 3.45
Play reading group	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741455	Venue and date vary	Normally 1 st Monday	2pm- 4pm
Recorder Group	Mary Cooper/ Sue Hartley	01536 420336/ 01536 357676	Member's home	2 & 4 th	2.30- 3.30
Tuesday					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Pat Johnson	01536 483398	Member's house	2 nd Tuesday	2pm
Ukelele Group	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Member's house	Fortnightly	10-12
Craft n Coffee	Joy Knight	07535 446758	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	4 th Tuesday	10.30- 12
Wednesday					
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Varies	Alternative Months 3 rd Wednesday	12.00 for 12.30
Thursday					
Ten pin bowling	Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Thunder bowl	Following monthly meeting	12 midday
Coffee Morning	Sylvia Dale	07419 837379	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	Every Thursday	10.00a m
Spanish	Pauline McCready	01536 485416	St Andrews Church Hall	Fortnightly	2-4pm
Short Walks	Wanda & Bob Moffatt	01536 659236	Varies	3 rd Thursday	10am
Friday					
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. Coffee morning is the exception - anyone is welcome.

Trips

Day Trips Joan Bennett 07597 559055

Theatre trips

Timings at the Eden Centre

Main meetings – 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Eden Centre

Doors open – 1.30

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.

Newsletter Editor

Please send contributions by 5pm, 30th of the month to joy.knight2@btinternet.com 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.

Webmaster	Alan Bailey	01933 350147
Safeguarding Officer	Bob Moffatt	01536 659236

Committee – 2024-2025

Chair	Penny Smith	07772 237077
Deputy Chair	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Treasurer No 1 a/c	Bob MacGregor	01536 483058
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632
Membership Secretary	Doreen Riley	01933 313173
Secretary	Jude Walker	07941 352190
Groups Co-ordinator	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Speaker Seeker	Penny Smith	07772 237077
General Duties	Anne Chandler	07734 963682
General Duties	Joan Bennett	07597 559055
Newsletter Editor	Joy Knight	07535 446758
General Duties	Dave Walker	07910 224768

If anyone is interested in joining the committee you are welcome to attend a committee meeting as a visitor prior to joining. Please speak to Penny for details.