

May, 2024

Hi Everybody,

Hope you are all keeping well and special welcome to new members.

We have had another member turn ninety this month and that is John Cooper, I am sure you will all want to join me in wishing him a very happy birthday. For those lucky enough to be invited to his party we were well entertained by his very talented grandson and daughter. A fun afternoon and most enjoyable for all those who attended.

Coffee morning on a Thursday at The Stirrup Cup contains to thrive. We now have as many men as women and sometimes the men outnumber the women. They can no longer complain that the women make too much noise. Quite a few of us stay on for lunch or early breakfast, so if you free on a Thursday come and join us and see what you think. All members welcome.

Our speaker last month was also an author, Phillip Caine and I have downloaded some of his books on my Kindle, I have read all five of the Jack Castle books and enjoyed them, anyone who likes the Author Lee Childs and the Jack Reacher stories will I am sure enjoy them too.

Regards

Jill

FUND RAISING STALL

We will be having a plant sale at the June meeting, if you have any plants you would like to donate please bring them with you. Please note that if they do not sell then You must take them away with you.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We will be voting for new committee members at the AGM. There are a number of positions or we have general members who just help out as require. We believe most of the positions take up only 2/3 hours per month. If you are interested in joining the committee please let Jill know. We would like to see more men so their viewpoint is noted. If you would like to attend a committee meeting to see how they operate you are very welcome. Again please let Jill know.

SHORT WALKS

Hi everyone,

This walk was different, we had asked if anyone knew of a walk to let us know. Helen Hicks who does a lot of walking told us of a walk starting from the Trading Post Restaurant. It has three loops and reasonable paths, given that it hasn't stopped raining. 15 walkers joined Helen who stood in for us as I had an appointment at the last minute.

The first section is surprising; it runs between Nina Carroll Way and the A14 and returns between the new houses. Yes, there is road noise but there is a large area given over to nature. Loop 2 winds its way down to the Lighthouse theatre between back gardens then a loop 3 alongside the lake before going back to the theatre and a short walk to the Trading Post for refreshments. We were able to get back in time to join them for a lunch and chat. Poor Teddy missed a good walk.

Wanda, Bob and Teddy

BOOK CLUB

The Black Dress by Deborah Moggach

This is a story about a Black Dress & a lady in her 70s called Pru. Normally you buy a black dress to attend a funeral of a loved one. But in Pru's case she buys a Black dress so that she has an excuse to attend a funeral of the latest Widower to meet him & encourage his friendship. Unfortunately her husband has decided he wants to be free of married life needs his space & live near the sea on his own. Pru is very lonely & does not cope to with being on her own. Her grown up children do not live nearby & the only people that she knows her friend Azra & her neighbour which both have labelled Prit stick Pam. At this point you either think that's great why not, or as some of our book Group felt they didn't like her character at all. (I felt good for you girl, Let's have some fun) The story unfolds with Pru meeting some very interesting men not all that nice themselves. One even turned out to have murdered his wife. I am afraid her best friend turned out to been having affair with Pru's husband for five years. She abandoned her to go & live with Pru husband. The Black Dress did not have a happy ending. It was left on the beach. Hopefully someone will find it. Pru was grateful when Prit stick Pam rescued her and took her home to look after her. Which was lovely, Pru was happy for someone to take care of her. Pam well all she wanted to do was take care and have the company of Pru her neighbour. Win win all round.

If anyone is interested in reading The Black Dress I will bring a couple of copies for the book stall at the next meeting

Thank you

Magaret

Next meeting May 20th. Village Hall Barton Seagrave 11 am till 1 pm

Message from the Treasurer

As was mentioned at the April Meeting, the committee are hoping that the majority of members will renew their subscriptions by Bank Transfer to help reduce our bank charges and to make all of your subscription available for the group as a whole, if we pay cheques into the bank we only get £15.60 of your money as the bank charge us 40p per cheque banked. The details you will need to do this will be on the renewal forms. Please remember that the reference you will need to use will be your surname and the membership number that you were given on your present card. Any queries please speak to me. I would also like to remind those of you who pay tax that if you tick the Gift Aid box on the form the Government will give us £4.00 per taxpayer to go into our funds - thus giving us more capital to use!

As you all realise things are getting more expensive so if you can help in either of these ways we shall be very grateful. If you are uncomfortable with Bank Transfers for any reason we would ask that you pay your subscription in cash please
Many thanks Penny Smith Treasurer

CRAFT N COFFEE

Another lovely meeting at the Stirrup Cup, 8 of us this month, 3 knitting, 1 crocheting, 4 sewing. If you would like to join us please give me a ring or just come to a meeting. You do not need to bring crafting with you, you can just enjoy the coffee and company. Next meeting 28th May.

Joy

TRIP PAYMENTS

You will be pleased to know that the number 2 bank is now online and this means that you will be able to pay for trips by bank transfer if you wish. As with the membership subscriptions your reference will be your surname followed by your membership number and a code for the trip which will be given you at the time of booking along with the bank details.

Penny

SPEAKERS TIMETABLE

June 12 – 60 years of Entertainment by Vince Eager

July 10 – Annual general meeting

August 14 – Arsenic Toxic Legacy by Neil Dickinson

September 11 – Age UK Northamptonshire by Pandora Kenyon

October 9 – Masters of Mirth of the Music Halls by Mike Storr

November 13 – Death in the Garden by Michael Brown

December 11 – Christmas party – entrance by ticket only

January 8 – Alice Hawkings – A Sister for Freedom by Peter Barratt

ART GROUP

This month Mel taught us how to paint a mono colour scene. We chose the colour Indigo which is a deep blue with washes increasing in strength. Some lovely work was produced by all and an interesting lesson. We have decided not to meet for the two May Bank Holidays but have got another session in between with Mel showing us how to paint watercolour daisies. Her sessions are much appreciated.

Anyone wishing to join our band of happy practising would be artists please text or talk to me at our monthly U3A meeting

Tessa

TEN PIN BOWLING

Another exciting week with many strikes and spares. Another new member joined us and showed that he had not forgotten the skills acquired many years ago. However, skill will always rise to the top and Richard showed that the previous week's lapses were long forgotten, with a high-class winning score.

Dai Johnson

TRAVEL GROUP

A reduced number were entertained to "A Day Out in Stamford". All members joined in with their memories of the town, which led to a very interesting meeting. We are still evolving our make up for the future and would welcome contributions by any members who would like to visit us to talk about their travels, with or without photos. If interested please talk to me.

Dai Johnson

LUNCH CLUB

Our group of 24 enjoyed a very reasonably priced meal at the Overstone Arms in Pytchley. We were impressed with our meals and the service. I'm sure we will look forward to returning to this pub in the future. There is no Lunch Club in May and Jill Burgess will be organising the meal for June, at the Stirrup Cup in Barton Seagrave.

Pat and Dai Johnson

ADVANCED CAMERA GROUP

This month we looked at our photos from Last month's topic of "Song Titles". There were some interesting interpretations which you can see at the next meeting. Our topic for April was "Wet" and after the weather so far in April, it was very appropriate. We discussed how to interpret this topic and how to use light and contrast to achieve the best results.

Pat Johnson

MAY QUIZ

1. What country has the highest life expectancy?
2. Where would you be if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?
3. Which language has the more native speakers: English or Spanish?
4. What is the most common surname in the United States?
5. What disease commonly spread on pirate ships?
6. Who was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun?
7. What was the name of the crime boss who was head of the feared Chicago Outfit?
8. What year was the United Nations established?
9. Who has won the most total Academy Awards?
10. What artist has the most streams on Spotify?

Beginners Camera Group.

The group met on the 9th April at the usual venue when we brought our photographs of the subject "Forgotten", these were displayed at the U3A monthly meeting on the 10th April. We discussed the subject for May which is "Solitude" which is a difficult one.

The next group meeting is on the 14th May at 2.00pm at the usual venue,

Kettering Symphony Orchestra

Spring Concert

Saturday 18th May at 7.30 pm

Salvation Army Citadel, Rockingham Road, Kettering

Programme:

Masquerade Suite.....Khachaturian

Four Last Songs.....Strauss

Soloist: Alison Roddy - Soprano

A London Symphony.....Vaughan Williams

Tickets can be bought online at www.kettsymphorch.co.uk and on the door if available

Adults £13.00

Students £9.00

Ticket prices include a programme

Children under 12 FREE

All Children to be accompanied by an Adult

Registered Carers FREE when accompanying a wheelchair user or registered disabled person

ANSWERS TO APRIL QUIZ

1. Gillian Flynn
2. Salvador Dali
3. Queen's Park Rangers
4. Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern
5. Constantinople
6. Las Vegas
7. Central Perk
8. Four
9. 1997
10. Once (1966)

Seen in a Café in Sheringham

Life is like a Mayonnaise Jar.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began wordlessly he picked up a very large & empty mayonnaise jar & proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles & poured them into the jar. He shook the jar & the pebbles rolled into the open area between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand & poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes”. The professor then produced two cups of coffee from the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed. “Now” said the professor, as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – your spirituality, family, your children, your health, your friends, & your favourite passion – things that if everything else was lost & only they remain, your life would be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house & your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff”

“If you put the sand into the jar first” he continued “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time & energy on the small stuff, you will have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to go to medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another

18. There will always be time to clean the house & fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand”. One of the students raised her hand & inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled “I’m glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there is always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend”

Interested in Cars?

Wheel Nuts

meets at Sywell Aerodrome 1st Tuesday of every month 12 – 2pm April to October.
Entrance is free
Food & Drinks available in the Pilots mess & hotel bar

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
Tuesday					
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 741466	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
Wednesday					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Julie Bates	01536 725538	Member's house	2 nd Tuesday	2pm
Ukelele Group	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Member's house	Fortnightly	10-12
Travel	Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Member's house (Ise Lodge)	3 rd Tuesday	2pm
Craft n Coffee	Joy Knight	07535 446758	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	4 th Tuesday	10.30- 12
Thursday					
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Varies	Alternative Months 3 rd Wednesday	12.00 for 12.30
Friday					
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	10.00a 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
Singing for Pleasure					
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 Jill Burgess 01536 515045
Theatre trips Sylvia Dale 01536 411865

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 – 2023-2024

Chairperson	Jill Burgess	01536 515045
Vice Chair	Penny Smith	07772 237077
Treasurer No 1 a/c	Penny Smith (temp)	07772 237077
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632
Membership Secretary	Doreen Riley	01933 313173
Secretary	Jill Burgess	01536 515045
Groups Co-ordinator	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Speaker Seeker	Penny Smith	07772 237077
General Duties	Anne Chandler	07734 963682
General Duties	Erika Beecher	01536 722932
General Duties	Joan Bennett	07597 559055
Newsletter Editor	Joy Knight	07535 446758