



# ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

**Charity Number 1179738**

**March, 2025**

Good Afternoon Everyone

How lovely to be together again after last month's enforced cancellation. I do hope that most of you received the email informing you of the situation and did not make an unnecessary journey.

Last week about sixteen of us went to Barnsdale Gardens and enjoyed a pleasant day out looking around Geoff Hamilton's tv gardens. We were extremely lucky with the weather and saw plenty of snowdrops and other early spring flowers.

Penny

**PLEASE NOTE DOORS ARE NOT OPEN UNTIL 1.30  
PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY  
THANK YOU**

## **This month's speaker is:**

Michael Brown who is a college lecturer in horticulture and garden history. His talk is entitled "Death in the Garden" and tells of garden plants which over the centuries have been used to remove unwanted partners or rivals, as aphrodisiacs, for pest control and the means to foretell the future or speak with the gods! Be warned many of these plants may be growing in your gardens.

## **Upcoming Speakers**

12 March Death in the Garden Michael Brown

9 April Online security Updates PC Joanne Barlow

14 May Call of the Kingfisher Nick Penny

11 June Lotions, Potions and Dubious Cures  
Susan Copperwheat.

9 July – AGM

13 August William Knibb and Slavery  
Monica Ozdemir

## **Charity Knitting & Crochet Project**

Kettering General Maternity Unit are in desperate need of Newborn and Premature Baby Hats.  
Jools Wools & Fabrics, Findon are a drop off point for the project.

U3A Groups are run by the members for the members – if you are able to help in anyway please let one of the committee members know. We need committee members and helpers at the meetings. The more help we have the less jobs each one of us has to do. Not all jobs entail being a committee member so if you can just help at meetings that is still good.

## **Activity Group with Spaces**

The following groups have vacancies so if you are interested in joining please contact the relevant Group Leader.

**Art Group**  
**Beginners Camera**  
**Ukulele**  
**Book Club**  
**Playreading**

## **Craft N Coffee**

We held the meeting a week early as Most of the members were going on the trip to Barnsdale, we had another morning of doing some crafts and lots of chatter

Joy

## **DAY TRIPS**

If you have any ideas for day trips please see Joan or leave suggestions in the suggestion box which is on the group activity table at the meetings.

## **Playreading**

The last meeting was cancelled due illness and other commitments. Next meeting is 19<sup>th</sup> March. Anyone interested in joining please contact Rosalind Bridges.

**\*\*\*Membership Secretary Required\*\*\***

Duties include:

attending monthly meetings to sign in members, take funds from visitors - pass to treasurer.

put new members on the database, arrange renewals and collecting annual subscriptions

ordering U3A magazine.

Anyone interested please let Penny or Doreen know (Doreen is happy to mentor)

**Free to all Vehicles & Enthusiasts**

Wheel Nuts at Sywell Aerodrome

Post Code NN6 0BN

First Tuesday of every month 12 – 2pm

For more information contact Reg Baxter

07860461058 or

email [baxterreg@gmail.com](mailto:baxterreg@gmail.com)

Food & Drinks are available in the Pilots mess and Hotel bar

**Proposed Theatre Trips**

Chicago The Curve, Leicester. 2.15 on 19th June

Calamity Jane. Milton Keynes. 2.30 on 31st July.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcast. Milton Keynes. 2.30 on 9th August.

If you are interested in attending these shows please can you let Jude Walker know. If enough people are interested then she will organise the trips.

**Short Walks**

Hi everyone.

We are still being bothered with the weather. The forecast suggested hard showers but with a fair chance that we might avoid them completely. The walk was good a choice but it has hills, hard for some of us at the moment. We had a good turn out and it was lovely to see everyone. We met at the Trading Post. We walked two loops the first is across Northampton Road and going left to the bottom of the new estate. Quite a surprise next to A14 is a little nature park. Great. Back across the road and a big loop to walk behind the houses to the Lighthouse before turning back to finish at the Trading Post. Teddy enjoyed being out. He had been very sick earlier in the week but he's better now. We all enjoyed the refreshments and being in the warm. And yes it did rain let's hope it's better next month.

Wanda, Bob and Teddy.

**Advanced Camera group**

Bottles,- a good topic for me. Luckily we didn't just concentrate on the alcoholic variety and used some original angles to photograph them. Our theme for next month is '3 items'. Steve brought some examples to inspire us for March, when we meet at 3 St. Mary's on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Jenny

**The U3A Book Group recently read**  
**“Murder at the Monastery by Richard**  
**Coles”**

The main character of the book is the Rev Daniel Clement – Vicar of the Parish of Champton. Daniel decides he urgently needs to get away from his Parish and takes respite in a Monastery where he was once was a novice. This doesn't allow him the break he needs due to an untimely death of one of the monks in the monastery and Daniel thinks it might be murder. Meanwhile back at his parish in Champton, Audrey his mother is being quizzed about the whereabouts of their AWOL Vicar. As dark secrets unfold in the monastery, Daniel feels he needs to solve the mystery, initially on his own. However, Police Detective Sergeant Neil Vanloo hears about Daniel's need to escape his Parish and comes to his aid in more ways than one.

The group discussed the book and characters, and formed the opinion that the book was difficult to follow due to its many religious references and may be a glossary might have been added to aid the reader with definitions and explanations. The majority of the group found that the book was not too their liking and gave low scores when asked to rate it.

Nigel Hinson.

## Art Group

A good month when Mel Henson showed us how to paint a lion's head in pen and watercolour wash technique which was interesting and was enjoyed. A very loose technique with good results.

This month Mel is coming to show us how to use substitute colours with acrylics instead of the natural colours which teaches about light and shade in a picture.

We do have a space in the group as some are unable to meet due to family commitments or health issues. Please ring or text me for more information.

Tessa Bellamy

## Free Mature Drivers Roadshow – 7 May 2025

Are you a mature driver (aged 60+)? Live in Northamptonshire? Rely on being able to drive? This FREE roadshow is for you!

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.

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 Free IAM Road Smart Mature Driver Assessments available to book.

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

Book your Free tickets via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/northants-mature-driver-roadshows-4099083>

The event is being held at the Holiday Inn Corby, A43, Geddington Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN18 8ET (what3words.com/soaks.tamed.flag) with two sessions, 9.30am and 1.00pm.

## **Ten Pin Bowling**

We welcomed a new member Tony, who proceeded to show us how it should be done by producing the best score of the day. This proves that skills learnt in one's youth last for a long time. Dypsey also scored a pb which made for an enjoyable session. New members are always welcome.

Dai Johnson

## **Lunch Club**

This month we returned to The Star at Geddington and enjoyed our Pensioner helpings in a 2 or 3 course meal. Everyone seemed very happy with the portion size and the price of the meal, which made it good value for money. The enjoyable experience will ensure that we will return to The Star in the near future.

Pat and Dai Johnson

## **Beginners Camera Club**

We began our session by welcoming a new member, Joy. Our topic was Boxes, Squares and Rectangles. We had an excellent presentation by Janice who gave us lots of ideas on how to complete this task. We look forward to seeing everyone's photos at our next meeting. Our topic for next month is Doorways and will be led by Elaine. We would like to welcome some more new members to our group.

Pat Johnson

### **\*\*\*Wanted – Newsletter Editor\*\*\***

Due to other commitments we are looking for a newsletter Editor. This is a non-committee position. You will need to be able to use Word, send and receive emails with attachments, and be able to collect printed newsletter from Tresham College and bring them to the monthly meetings. I am happy to help so if you are interested please give me a call or see me at the monthly meeting

Joy Knight

### **\*\*\*Activities Group Co-ordinator\*\*\***

Due to other commitments we are looking for a new group co-ordinator. The position involves attending the monthly meetings, setting up a table with the group activities information. Give assistance to anyone thinking of starting a new group with paperwork and possibly offering assistance to existing group leaders if requested. I am happy to mentor this position. If interested please ring me or see me at the monthly meeting.

Joy Knight

## **Emails**

We are currently using the U3A Beacon database to send email. So if you did not receive the email about the meeting being cancelled last month, or one let you know the newsletter was on the website please can you let us know so we can check we have the correct email address.

Thanks

Joy Knight

## **Kettering Symphony Orchestra**

is holding it's Spring Concert on Saturday, 5th April, at 7.30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell, NN14 6BQ. The music is as follows:

Die Meistersingers Overture - Wagner  
Flute Concerto - Mozart - with soloist Jenny Dyson  
Swan Lake Ballet Suite - Tchaikovsky

The conductor is Andy Kirkwood and the leader is Trevor Dyson

Tickets cost £13 (£9 for students with children under 12 free) and can be bought online at [kettsymphorch.co.uk](http://kettsymphorch.co.uk) or on the door (subject to availability). A programme is included in the cost of the ticket.

*Kate Coles*

## **February Quiz Answers**

1. 007
2. Helsinki
3. Call of Duty
4. Tennessee
5. Nine Inch Nails
6. Krone
7. The French Open (Roland Garros)
8. Netherlands
9. Four (The Godfather Part 2, Heat, Righteous Kill, The Irishman)
10. Marathon

## **March Quiz**

1. Who was the head of state in Japan during the Second World War?
2. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
3. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
4. Which legendary surrealist artist is famous for painting melting clocks?
5. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?
6. Continental United States has 4 time zones, can you name them?
7. What is the northernmost country in Africa?
8. From which US city do the band The Killers originate?
9. Name the coffee shop in US sitcom Friends.
10. How many human players are there on each side in a polo match?

## Activity Groups and Leaders

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
<b>Monday</b>					
Art Group	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632	St Andrews Church Hall	Weekly on Monday	2-4pm
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Village Hall Barton Seagrave	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	11.30 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	1.45 - 3.45
Play reading group	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741455	Venue and date vary	Normally 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	2pm- 4pm
Recorder Group	Mary Cooper/ Sue Hartley	01536 420336/ 077871877 28	Member's home (St Mary's Road, London Road end)	Usually the 2 & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays but sometimes changed due to Bank Holidays or to suit group members	2.00- 3.00
<b>Tuesday</b>					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Pat Johnson	01536 483398	Member's house (Ise Lodge)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	2pm
Ukelele Group	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Member's house (Grosvenor Way, Barton Seagrave)	Fortnightly	10-12
Craft n Coffee	Joy Knight	07535 446758	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	10.30- 12
<b>Wednesday</b>					
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	01536 483398	Varies	Alternative Months 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	12.00 for 12.30
<b>Thursday</b>					
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	077315558 73	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. Coffee morning is the exception - anyone is welcome.

### **Trips**

Day Trips                    Joan Bennett 07597 559055

Theatre trips                Jude Walker 07941 352190

Newsletter Editor    Joy Knight    07535 446758

### **Timings at the Eden Centre**

Main meetings – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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### **Newsletter Editor**

Please send contributions by 5pm, 30<sup>th</sup> of the month to [joy.knight2@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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

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### **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
Beacon Admin	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.**