

Kettering, Northants

<https://isevalleykettering.u3asite.uk/>

Charity Number 1179738

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

Chair's chatter

Unfortunately we have had two pieces of sad news in the last couple of weeks. Wendy Schmidt has had a stroke and is in hospital, I have sent her a card wishing her a speedy recovery.

Dave Walker was run over by a car in Kettering whilst waiting for Jude to come out of the Cransley choir rehearsal. He sustained serious injuries and was taken to the Coventry hospital where he undergone an operation. His progress is slow but he is improving - I have sent a card to him with our thoughts and wishes for his recovery.

On a happier note I have been in touch with Elton Hall regarding a visit and am awaiting their reply.

January's speaker is Mike Burton who talk is "Rutland the Secret County"



Happy Christmas to you all and I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year
Penny

PS Since I wrote this for the newsletter I am pleased to let you all know that Wendy Schmidt is now out of hospital and well on the way to recovery. *Penny*

Our Website

<https://isevalleykettering.u3asite.uk/>

If you have anything you think should go on the site or if you find links which don't work or other errors, please email me at u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com

**PLEASE NOTE DOORS ARE NOT OPEN UNTIL 1.30pm
IF YOU DO ARRIVE EARLY YOU WILL BE ASKED TO WAIT IN THE
FOYER WHILST WE ARE SETTING UP THE HALL**

THANK YOU

THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Can you fill in the blanks to give well known Christmas Carols & Songs
(answers latter in the newsletter)

- 1 S _ _ _ _ _ N _ _ _ _ _
- 2 R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ D N _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ R
- 3 T _ _ T _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ O _ C _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- 4 W _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ H _ _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ _
- 5 A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _ _
- 6 J _ _ _ _ _ B _ _ _ _ _
- 7 M _ _ _ H _ _ A B _ _ _
- 8 A _ _ _ _ _ F _ _ _ T _ _ R _ _ _ _ _ O _ G _ _ _ _
- 9 G _ _ R _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ M _ _
- 10 W _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ D
- 11 F _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ M
- 12 I S _ _ M _ _ _ _ _ _ _ G S _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _
- 13 T _ _ H _ _ _ _ _ N _ _ _ _ I _ _
- 14 T _ _ _ _ _ T N _ _ _ _ _
- 15 W _ _ _ _ _ _ N _ _ _ _ R
- 16 D _ _ _ _ _ G M _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ _ H
- 17 D _ _ _ Y _ _ _ W I _ _ C _ _ _ _ _
- 18 M _ _ _ _ _ _ N _ W _ _ _
- 19 G _ _ _ _ _ G W _ _ _ _ _
- 20 H _ _ _ _ _ H _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ G



SPEAKERS FOR 2026

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 14 th January 26 | Mike Burton – Rutland, the Secret County |
| 11 th February 26 | Dr Pienkowksi – The reintroduction of the Red Kite |
| 11 th March 26 | Roger Payne – South America & the Incas |
| 8 th April 26 | Geoff Harris – Folk Lore, Folk Tales and Funny Folk |
| 13 th May 26 | Steve Dimmer – Victoria Wood |
| 10 th June 26 | Mike Burton – Abraham Lincoln's America |

God's Not Deaf

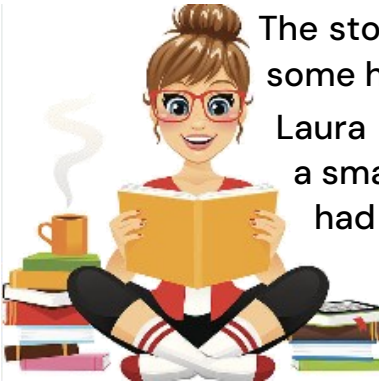
Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs: "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE AND A NEW NINTENDO..."

His older brother leaned over and said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf." The little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

Book Club

'The Queen Bee' by Kate Fallon

Mixed reviews this month from our group. A bit like marmite. Some love other not so much



The story is very much on the light-hearted this month. We have had some heavy books in the past and felt a lighter reading was involved.

Laura has recently moved into a very nice upmarket part of town in a small apartment. Not from her choosing but because her husband had decided he needed a break from married life.

All she need is some peace and quiet with her daughter whilst she sorts out her life with her daughter .

Unfortunately she meets Stella, Queen Bee of the close and so begins a tale of lies and more lies. Its a roller coaster for Laura , but all end okay for Laura and her daughter

As one of our book group buddies said it made me laugh out loud.

Margaret Turnbull

Art Group

This month we had Nic Bassinder again who showed us another collage. We chose our subjects, mainly leaves and layering 3 different papers drew and cut out the layered image. Then cutting into pieces stuck the papers down in different

order and drew details

with coloured pencils and or fine liners. She will be doing another session with us before Christmas, a seasonal card with watercolours.

Not sure when Mel will be back as sadly her Mum died on Sunday 16th November and as she is in South Africa it could be a while before she is able to return.

Tessa Bellamy



Merry Christmas



Short Walks

Hi everyone, There was some awful weather in the week leading up to the walk. It was decided to go ahead even though snow was forecast but in the end it was just bitterly cold, ice covering puddles and sunny up to midday. Thankfully the trees lining the paths helped to protect them from a strong cold wind. Helen chose this walk as it has good paths. Five hardy soles joined Her and by all counts they enjoyed the walk. Well done to you all! We wish we could have been there.

The walkers this year have had to cope with extreme weather. Trying to a void mud and water can be difficult at times. Many thanks Helen.

Bob is home from hospital at last. Finding it hard to be comfortable. He can't sit up yet, he can stand but laying on his back is best. He is in close touch with the hospital and will be going back for check ups. District nurses attend him every other day. It will take time but he's made a good start.

Wanda, Bob & Teddy

Lunch Club

For those of you who have booked, don't forget our Christmas meal this year is at 'The Old Vic' in Burton Latimer on **FRIDAY** 19th December (12 for 12.30pm).

Pat & Dai Johnson

Play Reading Group

The Playreading group met on Wednesday 19th November to read 'Santa in space' a Panto written by Paul Reakes,

The evil Vileum the Vile rules all the planets except Earth, helped by the wicked astrologer and his henchmen Null & Void. He decides to kidnap Santa and take him to the planet Vabos. Our hero Captain Dick Daring leads an expedition of would be heros and heroines to outer space and finally rescues him in time for Christmas. A rather different sort of pantomime, but we all had great fun reading it.



The next Playreading meeting will be on 21/01/26.

Regards

Carlene Lee



Craft n Coffee

Six of us met to do some crafting, as usual there were some lively discussions. Our next meeting is 16th December. The group is currently full but if you would like to go on the waiting list please let me. know

Best regards

Joy

CYBER CRIME Important Information

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

To contact your Bank's Fraud Department **Dial 159**

To report Fraud by phone ☎ **0300 123 2040**

To report Fraud online 24/7 & Web Chat go to actionfraud.police.uk

To check if your email has been phished go to haveibeenpwned.com/

You can view and download tips & advice on avoiding Cyber Crime from our website at <https://isevalleykettering.u3asite.uk/cyber-crime/>

**REMEMBER - Don't be Rushed / Question Everything / Seek Advice
Never Assume / Never Believe / Never follow links offered in emails / Confirm
from known trusted sources & if it sounds too good to be true it probably is!**



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

Speaking up for Domestic Abuse

Family member, colleague or friend.



A domestic abuser could be closer than you think. If you know someone who is affected and don't want to speak to the police you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously. Your voice could make a difference

<https://crimestoppersuk.org/keeping-safe/personalsafety/domestic-abuse>

POLICE SURGERY



I will be holding a police surgery for the Ise Lodge (Kettering), Hanwood Park (Kettering), and Queen Eleanor & Buccleuch areas at the Ise Lodge Community Centre, Kettering, on 20 December from 5PM to 6PM.

I will be available to listen to your concerns about the local community and provide crime prevention advice.

Please come along and speak with your local officer about any policing matters that may be worrying you.

Everyone is welcome, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Norbert Meszes

(Northamptonshire Police, Community Support Officer)

What do donkeys send out near Christmas? Mule-tide greetings.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They drop their needles.

How do the reindeer learn to pull a sleigh? They are was elf-taught.

Santa's wife told him to take an umbrella. "Because of the rain, dear."

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing, it was on the house.

What do you call Santa at the South Pole? A lost clause!

Local Events you might be interested in

You are very warmly invited to join us at our annual

Community Christmas Fair



St Andrew's Church, Kettering
Thursday 4th Dec 6-9pm
Saturday 6th Dec 10am-1.30pm

*Supporting local charities and community groups. Admission FREE!
 Refreshments, live music & Santa!*

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
GREAT ADDINGTON

7 PM, SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 6TH

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
BY
SOUND SENSATION

Ticket £8

Bring your own refreshments for the interval and make a "corkage" donation

from
 Nick 07484 328469
 Maggie 07802 589314

Cransley Hospice Community Choir

'Merry and Bright'

An evening of songs, readings & carols for all to sing
Salvation Army Citadel, Rockingham Rd, Kettering
Mon 8th Dec 2025 Doors 7pm concert 7.30pm

Tickets £5 from the Cransley Hospice Charity Shop,
 Dalkeith Place, Kettering Tel: 01536 414343 or
 Cransley Hospice Fundraising Office Tel: 03000 274040.

The Songbirds

Sing Christmas

Sat, 6 Dec, 18:30

St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Kettering

Tickets £10, Under 16 £5, Concessions £7.50
 from

[https://thesongbirdskettering.com/
 christmas-concert](https://thesongbirdskettering.com/christmas-concert)

Quiz Answers



11. Frosty The Snowman
12. I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus
13. The Holly And The Ivy
14. The First Noel
15. Walking In The Air
16. Ding Dong Merrily On High
17. Do They Know it's Christmas
18. Mistletoe And Wine
19. Good King Wenceslas
20. Hark The Herald Angels Sing

1. Silent Night
2. Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer
3. The Twelve Days of Christmas
4. While Shepherds Watched
5. Away In A manger
6. Jingle Bells
7. Mary Had A Baby
8. Angels From the Realms of Glory
9. God Rest Yee Merry Gentlemen
10. Winter Wonderland

*Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
 Because they were two deer.*

What is Santa's favourite kind of pizza? One that's deep-pan, crisp & even.

Activity Group Details

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
Monday					
Art Group	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632	St Andrews Church Rooms	Weekly	2-4pm
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Village Hall Barton Seagrave	3 rd Monday	11am - 1pm
Camera Club (advanced)	Jenny Goddard Pat Johnson	01536 482972 07816 939198	Member's home (Ise Lodge)	Monday following monthly meeting	2pm
Mah Jongg/ Scrabble	Linda Law	01536 659091	Barton Seagrave Village Hall	2 nd & 4 th Monday	1.45 - 3.45pm
Play Reading group	Rosalind Bridges	01536 741455	Venue & dates vary	Normally 1st Monday	2-4pm
Recorder Group	Mary Cooper Sue Hartley	01536 420336 07787 187728	Member's home (St Mary's Road, London Rd end)	Usually 2 nd & 4 th Monday. Can vary for Bank Holidays or to suit members	2-3pm
Tuesday					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Pat Johnson	07816 939198	Member's home (Ise Lodge)	2 nd Tuesday	2pm
Ukelele Group	Alan Bailey	01933 350147	Member's home (Grosvenor Way, Barton Seagrave)	Fortnightly	10am - 12 noon
Craft n Coffee	Joy Knight	07535 446758	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	4th Tuesday	10.30am - 12 noon
Wednesday					
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	07816 939198	Varies	3 rd Wed Alternative Months	12 for 12:30pm
Thursday					
Ten pin bowling	Dai Johnson	07816 939198	Thunder bowl	Follows monthly meeting	12 noon
Coffee Morning	Sylvia Dale	07419 837379	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	Every Thursday	10am
Spanish*	Pauline McCreedy	07731 555873	St Andrew's Church Rooms	Fortnightly	2-4pm
Short Walks	Bob Moffatt Wanda Moffatt	07970896519 07854456906	Varies	3 rd Thursday	10am
Friday					
Singing for Pleasure	Lynda Harris	01536 529410	St John's Church Hall	Fortnightly	10am - 12 noon
Theatre Trips	Jude Walker	07941 352190	Varies	Varies	Varies

* Due to illness the Spanish Group is currently suspended

Groups who currently have vacancies

Ukulele, Playreading Group, Recorder Group,
Ten Pin Bowling, Coffee Morning & Lunch Club

To enroll in any groups, please contact the Group Leader.
Coffee morning is the exception - anyone is welcome - just turn up.

MAIN MEETING – 2nd Wednesday of the month

The Eden Centre, Montagu Street

Doors open	1.30pm
Chair's Chatter	1.55pm
Speaker	2.00pm
Raffle	3.00pm
Finish	3.15pm approx.



COMMITTEE 2025-2026

Chair	Penny Smith	07772 237077
Acting Deputy Chair	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Treasurer No 1 a/c	Jude Walker	07941 352190
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632
Membership Secretary	Alison Harvey	07706586000
Secretary		
Groups Co-ordinator	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Speaker Seeker	Penny Smith	07772 237077
General Duties	Anne Chandler	07734 963682
Beacon Admin	Dave Walker	07910 224768
Webmaster	Roger Payne	01536 722419

Non Committee Officers

Safeguarding Officer	Bob Moffatt	07970896519
Newsletter Editor	Roger Payne	01536 722419

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Please email your contributions to me by the last day of the month to u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com If you can get them to me earlier, that would be much appreciated. *Roger Payne*

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.

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

Fancy That — *The Christmas jumper my kids gave me kept picking up a lot static electricity, so I exchanged it for another one – free of charge.*