

Kettering, Northants

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

Charity Number 1179738

**FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE**

Chair's chatter

Hello everyone. I attended the Kettering u3a meeting in January in order to introduce myself to their new Chair, also to listen to the proposals he wanted the committee to consider about our two groups. He suggested one or two things, but after a lively discussion at our committee meeting on Wednesday the committee were unanimous that there was no advantage for us in his proposals. We will, however, continue with the reciprocal arrangement for groups where we have spaces. Joy is going to liaise with their Group co-ordinator as regards groups with spaces. I am very pleased to tell you that we have a new Committee member – Michael Bristow who has agreed to take over as Speaker Seeker.

We are getting new members joining so if you see someone looking a little lost at a meeting do go and speak to them and make sure they feel included.

*Penny***THIS MONTHS SPEAKER**

This months speaker is Dr Mike Pienkowski who was Chairman of the Red Kite project team from the 1980s until 1990. He is speaking about the Red Kite Scheme for the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and there will be a collection for the charity. He is also bringing with him copies of his book entitled When the Kite builds....WHY and HOW we relocated Red Kites across Britain. He will be selling these at a reduced price of £15 – it normally sells at £35.

*Penny***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.

**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**

# February Quiz

Can you identify these pasta shapes – answers later in this newsletter



**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

## Group Reports

learn,  
laugh,  
live **u3a**

### Short Walks

Eight members set off to walk on a very wet morning but the rain had stopped by the end. At this time of year we have to choose routes that aren't going to be too muddy. January's walk was round Sywell reservoir. The path was ok despite the downpour.



The coffee shop has been refurbished with some indoor seating provided in the old Pump House which was a welcome surprise.

Many thanks to Wanda & Bob for running this group for some years now. We all appreciate your planning & organisation each month.

Best wishes to you for better health & it will be good to see you both for coffee at the end of our walks when you are able to join us.

*Helen Hicks*

## Beginners Camera Club

We brought our photos of Old and New to the meeting and enjoyed sharing them. Our topic for this month was Sculpture. We talked about ways to take these photos, with particular stress on lighting and background.

We had a workshop session taking photos of small statues and varying the background colour and lighting. You can see our results at the next meeting.

We have one new member joining our group in February but still have room for one more if you are interested.



*Pat Johnson*

## 10pin Bowling



A week which produced a greater number of strikes and spares, but didn't result in better final scores. However, Alison kept her nerve and came out on top, so well done to her.

We welcome new members so come along and try something new, or revive memories of your youth.

*Dai Johnson*

## Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club will be at The Lilacs in Isham. We shall be taking orders for the meal at the February meeting, together with a £10 non returnable cash deposit per person. We hope that you will be able to support this meal and everyone is welcome.



*Pat & Dai Johnson*

## Craft n Coffee

Great meeting with lots of chatting much of which how different we all are and how good that is. It is good that we can all agree to disagree and listen to one another's points of view.

Some crafting took place, Anne brought some of her cross stitches that she had finished to show us which was good to see. Most of us stayed for our Christmas lunch which was good as always. I am pleased to report that the coffee machine has been changed and we now have lovely coffee again.

Best regards

*Joy*



## Art Group



We've only been back to Art for 2 sessions so not a lot to report. Numbers are a bit hit and miss due to other appointments and Wendy Schmidt still not able to return. We got on with our own paintings as we had no tutor, but hopefully a couple of sessions to be booked with Katy Dynes a tutor who works mainly with children and her subjects are fun and light-hearted.

*Tessa Bellamy*

## Camera Group

We were all at St. Mary's road for the January meeting where we showed our photos of 'Tools'.

Steve gave us ideas for our theme of a 'Baked bean tin' for February. It should be fun. I've already bought a multipack and am dreaming up ways to photograph them excitingly!



*Jenny*

## Play Reading Group



The play reading group met on 21st January to read 'The Silver Box' by John Galsworthy. The Barwicks who are rich and powerful and Jones who is husband of their charwoman. It involves a silver box and a ladies purse. Jack Barwick the son arrives home drunk carrying a purse, Jones the husband of the family's

charwoman helps him unlock the door, Jack falls asleep and Jones's takes the purse and silver box. Snow a detective finds the items and assumes the charlady has stolen them and arrests her, her husband confesses that he stole them and is jailed for a month. As they leave the court Jones shouts at Jack who had stolen the purse whilst drunk and had not got into any trouble with the law. It was an interesting play and we all enjoyed reading it.

Next meeting on Wednesday 25 Feb.

*Carlene*

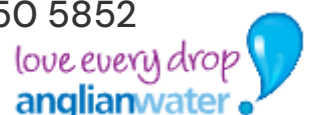
## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WATER METERS

After discussions at recent group meeting we thought you might like to know a bit about water meters. A water meter is a device that is fitted to your supply pipe and records your water usage (just like electricity & gas meters)

Switching to a meter makes saving money and water simple. Almost 90% of Anglia Water customers already have a water meter, so they only ever pay for what they use and not a penny more..

It is currently free to have a water meter fitted and if it does not reduce your bill you can go back to your old rate in the first 2 or 3 years.

You can contact Anglia Water for more information on 0345 850 5852  
Mon-Fri 8am-8pm Sat 8am-4pm Sun 10am-4pm



# LOCAL EVENTS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN



16th - 21st February 2026  
 Royal & Derngate Northampton  
 It's New Year's Eve in a quiet corner of Kent and a killer is in the house...  
 Join us for a murder mystery with a difference - one house, seven suspects and a Murder at Midnight...

**QUIZ NIGHT**

This is your chance to show off your knowledge and have fun in a friendly competition.

**SATURDAY 14TH MARCH**  
**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, KETTERING NN16 8RG**  
**7PM £5 PER PERSON**

Hosted by Roger and Penny  
 There will be a raffle and bar  
 Do join us for another terrific quiz night!  
 To book call 07481 156283  
 or email [ad.standrewskettering@gmail.com](mailto:ad.standrewskettering@gmail.com)



Ticket and the full details at:  
[ketteringartscentre.com](http://ketteringartscentre.com)

Sun 8th February 4pm  
**MARK SIMMONS**  
 Jest To Impress

Sat 28th February 2pm  
**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

Sat 21st March 7:30pm  
**KETTERING MUSIC CLUB**  
 local talent night

Sat 28th March 10am - 3pm  
**HAVE A GO ARTS FESTIVAL**

Sat 18th April 7:30pm  
**GUS BRASS BAND**  
 Loves Eternal Stories

**The Rifle**  
**VINTAGE**  
 Jam & Jive

Regular House Band  
 Predominantly 50's & 60's  
 Guest Singers & Musicians  
 Feel Free To Join In & Jam Along!

Every THIRD Thursday of the month

**The Rifle Band Club** Kettering - Northants - NN16 9QA

Like us on Facebook

## SPEAKERS FOR 2026

11 <sup>th</sup> March 26	Roger Payne – South America & the Incas
8 <sup>th</sup> April 26	Geoff Harris – Folk Lore, Folk Tales and Funny Folk
13 <sup>th</sup> May 26	Steve Dimmer – Victoria Wood
10 <sup>th</sup> June 26	Mike Burton – Abraham Lincoln's America

## THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

- 1st Feb: Imbolc – The Celtic feast marking the beginning of spring.
- 2nd Feb: Candlemas – A traditional, Christian, and cultural event.
- 2nd to 8th Feb: National Storytelling Week:
- 4th Feb: World Cancer Day:
- 5th Feb: The Six Nations Rugby Championships starting
- 6th to 22nd Feb: Winter Olympics (Milan–Cortina Italy)
- 9th Feb: National Pizza Day:
- 14th Feb: Valentine's Day
- 17th Feb: Chinese New Year – The year of the Horse starts
- 17th Feb: Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday – traditional pancake race at Olney
- 18th Feb: Ash Wednesday–Lent starts – Christian Festival leading up to Easter
- 19th to 23rd Feb: London Fashion Week

### CYBER CRIME Important Information



- 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](https://actionfraud.police.uk)
- To check if your email has been phished go to [haveibeenpwned.com/](https://haveibeenpwned.com/)
- You can view and download tips & advise 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!**

## QUIZ ANSWERS



- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 16. SPAGHETTI   | 8. MACARONI    |
| 15. PAPPARDELLE | 7. RIGATONI    |
| 14. ROTELLA     | 6. TORTELLINI  |
| 13. GNOCCHI     | 5. PENNE       |
| 12. RAVIOLI     | 4. VERMICELLI  |
| 11. CONCHIGLIE  | 3. FARFALLE    |
| 10. LUMACONI    | 2. TAGLIATELLE |
| 9. ORZE         | 1. FUSILLI     |

## Activity Group Details

Day/Group	Leader	Telephone	Venue	Frequency	Time
<b>Monday</b>					
Art Group	Tessa Bellamy	07854 864632	St Andrews Church Rooms	Weekly	2-4pm
Book Club	Margaret Turnbull	01536 511139	Village Hall Barton Seagrave	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday. Can vary for Bank Holidays or to suit members	2-3pm
<b>Tuesday</b>					
Camera Club (Beginners)	Pat Johnson	07816 939198	Member's home (Ise Lodge)	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>Wednesday</b>					
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	07816 939198	Varies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed Alternative Months	12 for 12:30pm
<b>Thursday</b>					
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	Helen Hicks	07827 889441	Varies	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10am
<b>Friday</b>					
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

### Groups who currently have vacancies

Ukulele, Play reading Group, Recorder Group, Beginners Camera Club  
Ten Pin Bowling, Coffee Morning & Lunch Club

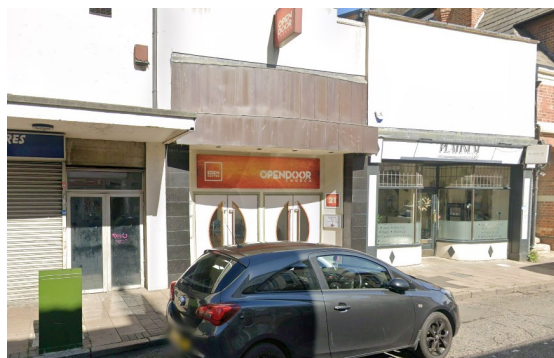
To enroll in any groups, please contact the Group Leader.

Coffee morning is the exception - anyone is welcome - just turn up.

## **MAIN MEETING** – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	Michael Bristow	07878 534994
General Duties	Anne Chandler	07734 963682
Beacon Admin	Dave Walker	07910 224768
Webmaster	Roger Payne	07719 9177379

## **Non Committee Officers**

Safeguarding Officer	Bob Moffatt	07970 896519
Newsletter Editor	Roger Payne	01536 722419

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.

## **NEWSLETTER MATERIAL**

Please email your contributions to me at [u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com) by the last day of the preceding month. If you can get them to me earlier, that would be much appreciated.

## **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](mailto:u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com)

*Roger Payne*