

Kettering, Northants

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

Charity Number 1179738

JANUARY 2026 ISSUE

Chair's chatter

Happy New Year to all! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that Santa fulfilled your wish list! I hope all that attended the Christmas party and lunch enjoyed themselves. It was so nice of the singer to help out with the raffle!

I have already informed the committee that I will be stepping down in July. We are therefore looking for a new Chair and Speaker Seeker. We have speakers booked until June so now is a good time to learn the ropes. The only requirements are email and a little time!

This Month's Speaker

The Speaker this month is Mike Burton who will be talking about "Rutland the Secret County". There are amazing stories from the smallest county about heroes, powerful women, witches, liars and saints.

Did the kings of England keep this place private because the secret was too perfect to be shared with anyone else?

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.

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

New Year Quiz

The following statements are inaccurate but if you CHANGE just ONE word they will become correct.

eg *The French Flag has vertical stripes of Blue, White and Green.*
In this case the answer is change GREEN to RED

1. Over the course of 16 hours in 1985, Live snooker was watched by an estimated TV audience of 1.5 billion.
2. Undergraduates at Oxford's Hertford College have the option of crossing the ancient institution's famous Bridge of Spies.
3. India's 2021 victory over England in Ahmedabad, lasting just over 140 hours in total, was one of the shortest completed matches in Test cricket history.
4. Since its publication in the 1930, millions of people have sought advice from Dale Carnegie's self-help book 'How to Win Quizzes and Influence People'.
5. Greek God of the Sea was 'Poseidon', the Roman equivalent was 'Trident' while the Norse version was 'Njörd'.
6. Grange Hill has provided some memorably TV moments, not least the classic fight between Phil Mitchell and Mr Blobby.
7. Based on a novel by Walter Tevis, 'The Queen's Corgis' receive rave reviews and broke all-time streaming records when it was released in 2020.
8. People who first came across Jamie Oliver through his campaigning work might be surprised to know that he starred in 'The Naked Gun' back in the 1990s'.
9. Jackie Chan was thrust into the spotlight after a clip of a Handforth Parish Council meeting went viral.
10. Late January is a tense time for football fans, as clubs rush to get their business done before the fixtures window closes.
11. To everyone's surprise 'Red Admiral' won the Grand Nation three times in the 1970s.
12. Matt Damon plays the title character in the suspense crime thriller 'The talented Mr Wilson'.
13. No everyone knows there are numerous Channel tunnels including one named Herm.
14. The Netherlands have won over 100 Olympic medals in Speed dating, a record second to none.
15. Thousands of people watched Ricky Ross wear a feathered headdress and perform hit after hit during the legends slot at Glastonbury in 2022
16. Meryl Street earned a record 17th Oscar nomination for her compelling performance and impeccable British accent in 'The Iron Maiden'.
17. With a reputation for excellent red wines, Stellenbosch is a sun kissed vineyard in South America.
18. Bob Francis rode the Queen Mothers horse in the Grand National before becoming a novelist.
19. Bond films always have a big set piece, like the fight between Bond and Jaws on top of a railway car in 'Moonraker'.
20. In 2020 stamps were issued to mark the 100th anniversary of Yogi Bear.

The answers are later in this newsletter

Book Club

The final meeting in 2025 of the Book Club when we discussed a selection of Christmas novels. We also shared a tasty pooled lunch at Barton Seagrave Village Hall provided by the group members

Margaret Turnbull

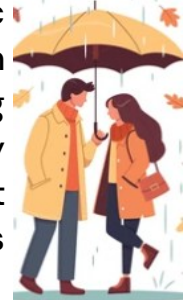


Short Walks

Hi Everyone



The last walk of the year, Jacky Rowson lead. Again some concern about the weather. Heavy storms were forecast from midday with lots of rain. Enough to put anybody off. Never fear, Jacky was joined by Shirley, Helen, Lou and Pete. The walk went well it was very pleasant through the woods. Then across the road which is easier than it looks using the pedestrian traffic lights. We pass the warehouses down towards the railway line and back along Linear Park. I'm sure The Bull Pen was very welcome for refreshment and a chat. As it



was now raining hard Pete offered to drive them back to where the cars were parked in the Holiday Inn car park.

Thank you all for your help and support over the last few months. I always felt there was help there. It's been really difficult and stressful. Bob has now been home four days. Hurrah! He goes back up Nottingham Tuesdays and Fridays for wound check ups every week. Its a big step forward. Unfortunately, there is still some way to go, we're told.

Happy New Year to you all

Love

Wanda, Bob & Teddy

PS - Poor teddy has missed Bob a lot and needs to get back to walking, he's missed you all too.

A 75 year old man walks into a bar with a parrot on his shoulder. The barman asks "hey, where did you get him?" The parrot answers:" at a nursing home, they're all over the place there!"

Camera Group

Mulled wine and mince pies were on the agenda at the December meeting. We each showed our photos following the theme of 'contrasts', and then worked on our themes for the next 12 months and the team members who would lead them. Before January we must gather together groups of tools to take photos of. This is a very wide topic, so we'll expect to see some unusual results.

Happy new year every one.



Jenny

Art Group

A short month as we broke up on the 15th December with a few of the group meeting for a chat and nibbles while some did a bit of painting.

We had a 3rd class with Nic and she showed us her Christmas card ideas using the technique of using our brushes to make leaves in a wreath style.

Sadly we were missing Wendy who was still in hospital with heart problems and Sue who's back op was postponed yet again but it was lovely to see Wanda who was able to make it as Bob was still up in Nottingham hospital.

We are back on the 12th January at the 1.30 start as it's the 2nd Monday of the month. Not sure what we're doing about a tutor as waiting to hear when Mel returns from South Africa. She will update us of her plans as soon as she's able.



Hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tessa Bellamy



Craft n Coffee

Not many of us this month due to other commitments but we still had a pleasant morning chatting with some crafting as well.

At our next meeting on 27th January we are planning to stay and have our Christmas meal.

Joy

An old man and a 20 year old are paired together at a golf tournament. They're playing a long par 5 that dog legs around some tall trees.

As the 20 year old sets up his tee shot to hit onto the fairway the old man notes "when I was your age we used to hit over the trees - not around to the side."

So the 20 year old readjusts and tries to hit over the trees - but can't clear them and loses his ball. He tries again without success ...

Then the old man says "of course, when I was your age, the trees were only 6 foot tall."

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION

Hello everyone I have received this from Kettering u3a and am passing it on so that you will have time to think about it before the next meeting.

I hope you had a lovely Christmas.

Penny

Hi Penny

You probably know I have taken over from Di as chairman of the Kettering u3a. I would like to have a discussion with you and your committee about arranging a closer relationship between our two u3a's.

We have recently lost some interest groups, leaving us with 25 and I see you only have 15, some of which we share.

One option is to merge into one u3a, but rather than merge into one u3a, my proposal is for us to remain as we are, but allow members of each to attend both groups and monthly meetings. That way we can offer more for our members.

This is just a thought which I would like you to discuss with your committee and members. If your people are up for it, we can have a further chat after Christmas.

Regards, Richard (Kettering u3a chair)

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



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>

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!

QUIZ ANSWERS



1. SNOOKER > AID
2. SPIES > SIGHS
3. HOURS > OVERS
4. QUIZZES > FRIENDS
5. TRIDENT > NEPTUNE
6. GRANGE > HARRY
7. CORGI > GAMBIT
8. GUN > CHIEF
9. CHAN > WEAVER
10. FIXTURES > TRANSFER
11. ADMIRAL > RUM
12. WILSON > RIPLEY
13. TUNNELS > ISLANDS
14. DATING > SKATING
15. RICKY > DIANNA
16. MAIDEN > LADY
17. AMERICA > AFRICA
18. BOB > DICK
19. RAILWAY > CABLE
20. YOGI > RUPERT

- *What do you call someone who enjoys Mondays?* *Retired.*
- *What goes up but never comes down?* *Your age!*
- *How is the moon like dentures?* *Both come out at night.*
- *Why should women marry someone older than themselves?* *As their looks fade, so will his eyesight.*
- *Why do retirees smile so much?* *Because they can't hear a word you're saying.*
- *What's worse than middle age?* *Knowing you'll grow out of it.*
- *How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?* *One, but it'll take all day.*

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 McCready	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

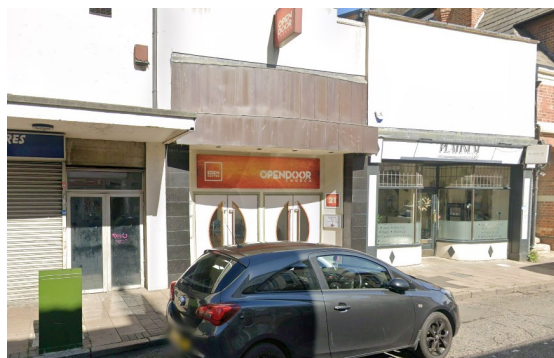
Ukulele, Playreading Group, Recorder Group,
Ten Pin Bowling, Coffee Morning & Lunch Club

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

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 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

An elderly gentleman who had had serious hearing problems for a number of years, went to the doctor. The doctor had him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear perfectly. The gentleman went back for a check up and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is now perfect, your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet, I just sit around and listen to the conversations and I've changed my will three times!'