

Kettering, Northants

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

Charity Number 1179738

MARCH 2026 ISSUE

Chair's chatter

Hello everyone We have two significant birthdays this month. Pat Johnson and Peter Oxlade. Peter at 92 is our oldest member. Congratulations to them both. I would like to thank Sylvia for organising trips which seem to be well supported.

As this months speaker is one of our members he is not allowed to receive payment so will be speaking to raise money for his chosen charity – the Air Ambulance, please give generously!

As you know I am stepping down at the end of July therefore we need a volunteer to take my place in order to secure the future of the group.

Many thanks

Penny

THIS MONTHS SPEAKER

This month Roger will be talking about his trip to South America. He will give an insight into the Inca civilisation linked to the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu He will also be recalling Lima, Santiago, going over the Andes in Patagonia, Buenos Aires, the Iguazu Falls and Rio de Janeiro in time for their spectacular Carnival.

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

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Please email your contributions to me at 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.

Roger Payne

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

March Quiz

Answers later in this newsletter

Can you match the dates on the left to the events below?

- | | | |
|------|----|---|
| 1901 | 1 | Richard Branson made 1st transatlantic hot air balloon flight |
| 1912 | 2 | The Commodore PET became the first mass-produced PC |
| 1914 | 3 | UK joined the European Economic Community |
| 1919 | 4 | Queen Victoria died |
| 1928 | 5 | England football team won the FIFA World Cup |
| 1938 | 6 | Princess Ann was born at Clarence House, |
| 1947 | 7 | Islamist terrorist bombing of the Boston Marathon |
| 1950 | 8 | First Volkswagen Beetle was produced |
| 1952 | 9 | Britain nationalized the coal mines |
| 1962 | 10 | John Glen orbited the earth 3 times |
| 1966 | 11 | Terrorists strike New York's Twin Towers |
| 1969 | 12 | The Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster |
| 1973 | 13 | The Panama Canal opened |
| 1977 | 14 | The Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg |
| 1986 | 15 | Barack Obama won his first US presidential election |
| 1991 | 16 | Mark Zuckerberg created 'Facebook' |
| 2001 | 17 | Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin |
| 2004 | 18 | Oslo hosted the Winter Olympics Games |
| 2008 | 19 | The Treaty of Versailles was signed ending WW1 |
| 2013 | 20 | The liner QE2 sailed on its maiden voyage |



Group Reports

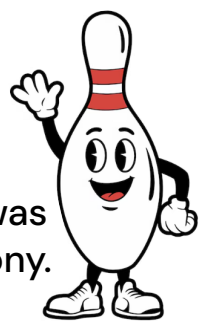


10pin Bowling

Another very successful session in which the record for spares and strikes was broken with 29 being achieved, despite a certain person not contributing to this total, in fact coming last overall!

Pat achieved a new personal best, well done to her, but she was pipped on the day by Tony with his last bowl of the day. Well done Tony.

We are always pleased to welcome new comers.



Daí Johnson

Lunch Club

Twenty of us sat down to a lovely lunch at the Lilacs in Isham for our February Lunch Club. We were well looked after, and some people were pleased to have

"Little Plates", a small portion of some of the main meals for £8.95. Our next Lunch club will be in April but the venue has not yet been decided.



Everyone is welcome and it's always nice to see new faces.

Pat Johnson



Beginners Camera Club

We hope you enjoyed seeing our photos of "Sculpture" at the February meeting. Our topic for February was "Close-Up." Elaine gave us lots of ideas and we took part in a workshop session using flowers and fruit.

We welcomed a new member who seemed to enjoy our session. You can see our photos at the March meeting.

Pat Johnson

Singing For Pleasure

I received an email from Lynda Harris saying there were places in the group, so as I enjoy singing, I decided to give it a go.

I duly went along on Friday morning to the St John's Church Hall to see if it was for me. I was the only man in the group of ladies but they made me very welcome and we soon got down to some singing.

As the group sing at care homes the songs were mainly older ones that the people in the homes would know (and I did too). At half time we had drinks and a biscuit. I spent a very enjoyable morning and if anyone else wants to join there are still vacancies, so why not give it a go like I did.

Roger Payne



Short Walks Group

Another wet walk! 5 brave walkers set off in the rain again.



This month we walked from The Trading Post around footpaths in West Hill and KLV in an attempt to avoid the mud.

It was very nice to be joined by Wanda & Bob for lunch.

It's getting harder to think of new routes which won't be too muddy. If anyone can suggest walks of about 3 miles which have a coffee shop or pub near the end, your ideas will be much appreciated.

If anyone wants to join us you're more than welcome. Please contact me to be added to our contact list which is used to send out details of the upcoming walk.

Helen Hicks

Book Group

The First Wife's Shadow by Adele Parks

Emma is a successful business woman, the only thing she lacks is a loving partner to share her success with. Along comes Matt who ticks all the boxes for a happy life together. Unfortunately Matt is not the sad widower she believe he is.



The nightmare begins with small things from spoilt clothes and strange smells to Matt suggesting she is drinking too much.

Poor Emma feels her life is spilling out of control, even her friends believe Matt's lies. Of course Matt has accomplices manipulating him, his girlfriend and her mother, who have a murder in mind. High scores from most in the group.

This month we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Lilacs in Isham

Margaret Turnbull

Camera Group

At the February meeting we had a few smiles checking out the photos of bean tins and beans. We had been quite imaginative as you'll see in our display. For next month we have to look for objects which have been recycled or repurposed. I only have one idea at the moment, but wait to be inspired. The next meeting at St. Mary's road is on March 16th.

Jenny Goddard



Art Group

An interesting fun session this month with Katy Dynes, Illustrator and Workshop Provider, who gave us a session on character drawing and then making plasticine models, with some funny results.

A lovely light hearted session to bring laughter, which we all enjoyed to break up the miserable rainy weather.

Katy will be giving us one more session on illustration before the return of Mel Henson at the end of March.

While we were working on our drawings, Katie drew a cartoon of us all, which was a nice surprise.



Tessa Bellamy

Coach Trips

At very short notice - and with the agreement of Jude Walker - I decided to start doing trips again. I thought I would start with some day trips which I took to the main meeting. The response was amazing and I was asked if I could put on some theatre trips as well.

The trips on offer are as follows:

20th May Audley End. This trip is fully booked. If you would like to go on the waiting list please let me know.

1st July, St Albans This trip has a couple of seats free (at the time of doing this report). If you would like to go on the waiting list please let me know.

6th August, Ely There are a few spaces on this one.

2nd September, Barnum at the Curve, Leicester There are a few spaces still.

1st October, Sylvia at the Curve, Leicester There are a few spaces left.

I will be at the main meeting in March and you can also contact me on

☎ 07419 837379 or email sylviadale@live.co.uk

Sylvia Dale





Craft n Coffee

Seven of us attended our meeting which was very pleasant as always. We have discussed at trip out in the better weather to visit a fabric & yarn shop.

Joy Knight

Play Reading Group

The play reading group met on Wednesday 25 February to read. ' Trivial Pursuit's' a comedy by Frank Vickery. The play opens with the Operatic Society meeting for their annual barbecue to hear what the new play will be and who will get the leading female star roles. They were unable to light the barbecue which started the evening off badly, and from then on it goes from bad to worse. Everyone wants the star role and a different play and will stop at very little to get it. Nick the manager who knows the group is in financial trouble has promised the star roles in different plays to four different people for different reasons which leads to much blackmail and bribery. We all enjoyed reading this very funny play. Next group meeting is on 25th March



Carlene Lee

NEW GROUP Colour, Relax and Chat

I have come up with an idea for a new group. I have a number of adult colouring books and I'm thinking of running a group from my home, near the Beeswing.

Adult colouring books are meant to be relaxing and hopefully doing them together will be relaxing and social.

It would run on the 1st and 4th Wednesday of each month 10.30 until 12.00.

If you are interested please contact me via email alison_harvey1@hotmail.com or see me at the information table at the monthly meeting.

Alison Harvey

THE LITERACY CHARITY CORAM BEANSTALK

My name is Gillian and am helping the charity to recruit volunteers to support children with 'reading for pleasure' in a Kettering Primary School.

I am looking for people who can dedicate an afternoon per week to support primary aged children with reading and I am hoping you may be able to help.

We provide all the training, checks and ongoing support. If you'd like further information please do feel free to give me a call on ☎ 07583418568 or check out our website www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/.

Thank you for your time Kind regards *Gillian*



QUIZ ANSWERS

16. 2004
17. 1928
18. 1952
19. 1919
20. 1969

11. 2001
12. 1986
13. 1914
14. 1912
15. 2008

6. 1950
7. 2013
8. 1938
9. 1947
10. 1962

1. 1991
2. 1977
3. 1973
4. 1901
5. 1966



LOCAL EVENTS YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN

ROYAL DERNGATE & NORTHAMPTON

19-21 Guildhall Road, Northampton
NN1 1DP Box Office 01604 624811

Concerts by Northamptonshire
Music and Performing Arts Trust

Sun 8th March 6pm

Orchestras Spectacular

Thu 12 March 6:30pm

Big Sing – massed school choir

Sun 15th March 6pm

Wind Band Spectacular



24th-26th

March

10:30am

& 1:30pm



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



Ticket and full details at:

ketteringartscentre.com

Sat 21st March 7:30pm

KETTERING MUSIC CLUB

local talent night

Sat 28th March 10am – 3pm

HAVE A GO ARTS FESTIVAL

free entry

Sat 18th April 7:30pm

GUS BRASS BAND CONCERT

Loves Eternal Stories

MARCH EVENTS

In the early Roman calendar, March
was the first month of the year

- 1st St. David's Day
- 3rd Total Lunar Eclipse
(not visible in the UK)
- 5th World Book Day
- 6th-15th Paralympics Winter Games
British Science Week
- 8th International Women's Day
- 15th Mothering Sunday
Beware the 'Ides of March'
- 17th St Patrick's Day
- 20th The Vernal or Spring Equinox
- 29th Palm Sunday
At 1am we spring forward
into British Summer Time

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 Jong/ 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	Helen Hicks	07827 889441.	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

Groups who currently have vacancies

Ukulele, Play reading Group, Recorder Group, Beginners Camera Club
Ten Pin Bowling, Singing for Pleasure, 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 Coordinator	Joy Knight	07535 446758
Speaker Seeker	Michael Bristow	07878 534994
General Duties	Anne Chandler	07734 963682
Information Technology	Roger Payne	07799 177379

Non Committee Officers

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



We are in dire need of a new Chairperson for when Penny steps down in July.

We are also currently without a Secretary.

WITHOUT THESE VITAL POSTS YOUR U3A CANNOT RUN.

If you think you can help in any way please speak to Penny or any of the committee.