ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

https://isevalleykettering.u3asite.uk/

Charity Number 1179738

NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

Chair's Chatter

It is nearly Christmas, so don't forget to get your Christmas Party tickets! We are looking to party the afternoon away with good food, entertainment, quizzes, party games etc. Can't wait! Don't forget to wear your sparkly tops and please don't forget your headgear! Very important headgear is!

We are now definitely running the minibus to Huntingdon Garden Centre on the 24th November. This is a great place within the Blue Diamond Group which Beckworths are. It is twice the size of Beckworths and also has a good café and plenty of shops as well as clothing ones. Details later on in the newsletter.

The glass fusing course was excellent and I have already heard from people who would also like to do it. If you are interested, please let me know.

I would be grateful for anyone who would like to make a Christmas donation to Huxloe School for the families they are supporting. There will be a table at the meeting. I am looking for Christmas themed food this time – but check the sell by date please.

I am surprised that more of you weren't interested in throwing axes and playing crazy golf. Still, it would make an ideal present for grandchildren and is local to us at Corby.

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.

Sylvia

OUR SPEAKER

This month we have Bobbie Darbyshire an award-winning novelist and public speaker known for delivering engaging, informative talks to groups such as the u3a.

In her talk '"A Beginning, a Muddle and an End ' she draws on insights from well -known authors and her own experience to explain how characters, plots, locations, and complex fictional worlds take shape in a writer's mind

DOORS ARE NOW OPEN AT 1.15PM. YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME INTO THE HALL, BUT PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU SIGN IN WITH THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

In which books would you find the following characters

(answers later in the newsletter)

1. Hercule Poirot; Monsieur Bouc; Rudolph & Helena Andrenyi; Cyrus Hardman & Dr Constantine
2. Robert Langdon; Sophie Neveu; Jacques Saunière; Sir Leigh Teabing and Bezu Fache
3. Bilbo Baggins; Gandalf; Beorn; Snaug and Bolg
4. Scarlet O'Hara; Rhett Butler; Ashley Wilks & Melany Hamilton
5. Arthur Dent; Ford Prefect; Trillion & Zaphod Beeblebrox
6. Rachel Watson; Tom; Anna; Scott and Megan Hipwell
7. Jo March, Meg, Laurie, John Brooke and Mr Lawrence
8. Isobel; Emma; Miss Taylor; Mr Weston and Mr. Knightley
9. Pip; Abel Magwitch and Miss Havisham
10. Winston Smith: Julia: O'Brien and Emmanuel Goldstein
11. Stephen Daedalus: Leopold and Molly Bloom
12. Charles Darnay; Sydney Carlton; Doctor Manette & Lucie Manette
13. Dorothea Brooke; Tertius Lydgate; Mary Garth; Fred Vincy; & Nicholas Bulstrode
14. Count Pyotr Kirillovich Bezukhov: Natasha Rostova.: Prince Andrei Bolkonsky: Nikolay Rostov: and Princess Marya Bolkonskaya:Hazel;
15. Fiver; Bigwig; Blackberry



GROUP REPORTS



Play reading Group

The group met on 13th October to read "Birds of Passage " by Fred Partridge, A strange comedy, something between Shakespeare and a Carry on film! Set in a remote cottage - a meeting place for a very mixed group of people ie. an ex convict - a female murderer - at least one sex maniac - a convict, and a cross dresser, all hiding near a prison!! Lots of misunderstandings and cross-dressing. As I said, a very odd comedy. Tea and biscuits were very welcome. Next meeting is on Monday 23rd November. *Carlene Lee*

Theatre Trip



October saw us enjoying our last theatre trip of the year. We went to see SYLVIA at the Curve, in Leicester.

None of us knew what to expect as this was a new musical and unknown although starring Beverley Knight. However, we were really surprised how good it was. The story was told in rap – not one of my favourite genres – but I understood every word and it was a powerful performance.

The singing was outstanding as was the story telling. I noticed a number of our members coming back to the coach with tears running down their faces as it was so emotional.

I have to thank those members who have booked every trip with us throughout the year. I appreciate your support and company. Thanks again, and looking forward to new adventures next year. *Sylvia*

Beginners Camera Group



After a two month break we were all keen to get started again. We looked at our photos from the last topic, which was Before and After. Some interesting images were produced. Our topic for October was Spooky Things. Helen gave us lots of ideas on this topic and you can see our photos at the November meeting.

Pat Johnson

Coach trip to Huntingdon Garden Centre



This will take place on 24th November. Coach leaves the Cornmarket Hall at 10.30am and will leave the garden centre at 3pm. This will give us plenty of time to shop and eat. This garden centre is part of the Blue Diamond Group and a larger version of Beckworths. More shops, more room and plenty to look at and possibly buy Christmas presents. So, make sure you have your shopping bags with you. The cost is £21 and places are now limited so let me know asap if you want to come with us.

Sylvia

Book Club



The Secret life of bees by Sue Monk Kidd .

Set in 1964, 14 year old Lily lives with her abusive father and her African maid called Rosaleen. Her life been shaped by the tragic death of her mother when she was very young, with her believing she had killed her mother. Her father T.Ray does not help by not assuring her otherwise.

Lily and Rosaleen decided to leave and travel to South Carolina to find the town that her mother visited when she was young.

So many wonderful descriptive characters in the book Lily meets on her adventures. The story revolves around her affinity with bees and the friends who help her. The story is of love, fear. and family and how people deal with life.

A copy of The Secret Life of Bees available on the book stall

Alison Harvey

Camera Group



We had a lively meeting this month with two themes to show; photos taken from above from August and Before and after photos from September. After chatting about these, Penny gave us encouragement for our next topic, 'In the making' with some examples of her own. We look forward to meeting again on the 16th. November.

Jenny

Craft n Coffee



Seven of us met for our meeting, as always lots of chat and people helping people, and some of us did some crafting. Penny explained her weaving and showed us her first weaved scarf. Next meeting 24th November and our December meeting will be at a members home.

Joy Knight

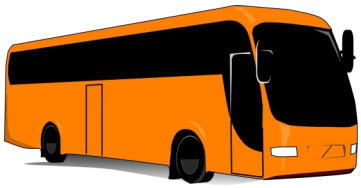
10pin Bowling



A small number of dedicated bowlers turned up to another session of highs and lows. This week the biggest high was Steve who achieved another personal best. Well done Steve. Bragging rights in the Burgess family this month, go to Jill. If you would like to join our fun group, please contact me, beginners very welcome, skill not necessary.

Dai Johnson

Group Holiday



Well, it all came down to numbers in the end. The majority wanted to go (on May 3rd for 5 days) to Woodbridge, and with a 4* hotel with spa facilities, it was a good choice. Now there are decisions to be made by yourselves as to if you want to go with us or not.

The number of members who come, make the difference in the price, so the more the merrier. There are 43 places reserved for us!

There is also golf for enthusiasts and the area is interesting to explore. We can tailor the trips to suit ourselves so if there is somewhere you want to visit come on the holiday. I used to live in that area and am happy to revisit Constable country, Colchester, Aldeburgh and Southwold as well as Ipswich. Do we want a day off in the middle to look around locally? All these decisions we make - not the company organising the holiday.

Sylvia

Lunch Club





Our October Lunch Club took place at The Star, Geddington. 24 members had a very tasty and reasonably priced meal.

Our Christmas Lunch Club meal will be at The Olde Vic in Burton Latimer, on Wednesday 16th December, time — 12.00 for 12.30. Two courses will cost £27 and

3 courses £34. We shall take orders at the November meeting. We shall require full payment in cash (correct money if possible please), which is non refundable. Lunch club is open to all members and we welcome everyone. There are some members who have no transport, so if you are able to give a member a lift, that would be good. Please let us know if you have any special needs or allergies. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pat & Dai

Short Walks



October's walk set off from Kettering Holiday Inn going through Weekly Hall Woods. We then crossed the A43 and went round part of Prologis Park before heading to The Bull Pen for refreshments.

The next walk will be at 10am on Thursday 19th November starting from and ending at The Trading Post, Bignal Court which is at the top of Lake Avenue Kettering NN15 7RH.

Helen Hicks

Discussion Group

For the past few months I've been trying to restart the discussion group.

There have only been 5 people interested and unfortunately this doesn't seem enough to create a viable group of this nature.

I'm very sorry but I've taken this as far as I feel I can at the moment. If anyone wants to try again perhaps in the new year please can you could contact Joy with your ideas.

Helen Hicks

Glass Fusing course

Never one for missing a chance, I signed up for the glass fusing course with Clevercuts who came to our meeting in September. Eight of us showed up at her unit on the Desborough Road at Market Harborough and had a very interesting

morning. Ali showed us how to make cabochons' which we could turn into fridge magnets, jewellery or even book marks. She had a number of frames which demonstrated the ways the glass could be added to make a picture.

Safety first was important when she demonstrated how easy it was to burn yourself on the red-hot kilns.

I spent 3 hours thoroughly enjoying myself and have signed up for another full day course in December. Well worth the money! *Sylvia*



Art Group

Another good session with Mel. We used crayons to resist watercolour. Children's crayons are ideal for this technique which is interesting seeing how it resists the paint. I've shown our examples, many not finished so will keep us busy the next couple of meetings. Next month it's acrylics. *Tessa*

THE THINK TANK

Another Monday morning and the Think Tank showed up again with a new member. Josie had been trying to come for a couple of months but couldn't. She fitted in very well and was soon volunteering!

The group holidays were discussed and we decided to go with just one this time. We are focussing on Woodbridge, Suffolk with trips to Aldeburgh and Southwold as well as Colchester and Lavenham. Anyone interested, please let me know.

The arrangements for our Christmas Party on 9th Dec are well underway now. I am getting quite excited by the ideas that are flowing. Don't forget to get your ticket.

Finally, remember that any member can come to our meetings. The more the merrier and the better to discuss ideas.

Next meeting will be Monday 16th November, 9.30am at Barton Seagrave Village Hall in the café. The meeting lasts an hour as we need to go before some noisy children arrive!!!!! *Sylvia*

Quiz Answers

1. Murder on the Orient Express (Agatha Christie)
2. The DaVinci Code (Dan Brown)
3. The Hobbit (JRRTolkien.)
4. Gone with the Wind (Margaret Mitchell)
5. Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy (Douglas Adams.)
6. Girl on a Train (Paula Hawkins)
7. Little Women (Louisa May Alcott)
8. Emma (Jane Austen)
9. Great Expectations (Charles Dickens)
10. 1984 (George Orwell)
11. Ulysses (James Joyce)
12. Tale of 2 Cities (Charles Dickens)
13. Middlemarch (George Elliot)
14. War and Peace (Leo Tolstoy)
15. Watership Down (Richard Adams)



LOCAL EVENTS

Cransley Hospice Community Choir

'SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS',

Salvation Army Citadel, Rockingham Road, Kettering

Monday 7th December 2026 Doors 7pm Concert 7.30pm.

Ticket £5 from Cransley Hospice Shop, Dalkeith Place, Kettering Tel 414343 or the Fundraising office Tel 03000 274040.

KETTERING Arts Centre at St Andrew's Church

7th Nov - The Incredible Makers Market
18th - Rob Halligan: 'How did we get here'
21 Nov - Mark Thomas 40 in Stand-Up Years
27 Nov - Home Start Kettering Area Music Bingo
9th Dec - Festive Flower Arranging Demonstration →
12th Dec - Christmas Tree Festival Launch
16th Dec - Saltmine Theatre Company - Cinderella

Full details & tickets from
ketteringartscentre.com



ROYAL & DERNGATE NORTHAMPTON

Nov 5th - Chris Packham's World of Wonder
Nov 7th - Jools Holland
Nov 8th - London Symphonic Rock Orchestra
Nov 14th - NSO: Christmas Party Playlist Live
Nov 16th - Step into Christmas
Nov 19th - UK Pink Floyd Experience
Nov 22nd - GUS Band—the Snowman
Dec 4th-31st - Beauty & the Beast Panto

For full details of all events visit
royalandderngate.co.uk/whats-on

the lighthouse theatre

5th Nov - Sugar Pie Honey Bunch (music of the Four Tops)
8th Nov - Bowie Experience
11th Nov - Christmas Memories
20th Nov - Best in Comedy (top comedians)
11th—31st Dec - Peter Pan Panto

For full details of all events visit
lighthousetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/

Where do cows go on their summer holidays? Moo York.
What goes up but never comes down Your age!
The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate.

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	07923 910289	Village Hall Barton Seagrave	3rd 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	2nd & 4th Monday	1.30 - 3.30pm
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 2nd & 4th 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)	2nd Tuesday	2pm
Ukulele 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					
Colour, Relax and Chat	Alison Harvey	Alison_harvey@ hotmail.com.	Member's home (behind Avery Care Home)	Last Wednesday of the month	10:30- 12noon
Lunch Club	Pat & Dai Johnson	07816 939198	Varies	3rd Wed Alternative Months	12 for 12:30pm
Thursday					
Ten pin bowling	Dai Johnson	07933 52786	Thunder Bowl Rockingham Rd	Follows monthly meeting	12 noon
Coffee Morning	Sylvia Dale	07419 837379	Stirrup Cup Barton Seagrave	Every Thursday	10am
Rummikub * Group			Village Hall Barton Seagrave	2nd & 4th Thursdays	1:15 – 3:30pm
Short Walks	Helen Hicks	07827 889441.	Varies	3rd Thursday	10am
Friday					
Singing for	Lynda Harris	07752 141571	St John's Church	Fortnightly	10am - 12 noon

Trips	Sylvia Dale	07419 837379	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;
Mahjong and Scrabble; Colour, Relax and Chat & Lunch Club

To enroll in any groups, please contact the Group Leader.
Coffee morning is the exception - anyone is welcome - just turn up.
* The Rummikub group not meeting at present as it's looking for a new leader

MAIN MEETING – 2nd Wednesday of the month

The Eden Centre, Montagu Street

Doors open	1.15pm
Chair's Chatter	2.10pm
Speaker	2.15pm
Raffle	3.00pm approx.
Finish	3.15pm approx.



COMMITTEE 2025-2026

Chair	Sylvia Dale	☏ 07419 837379
Deputy Chair	VACANT	
Treasurer No 1 a/c	VACANT	
Treasurer No 2 a/c	Tessa Bellamy	☏ 07854 864632
Membership Secretary	VACANT	
Secretary	Lynne Franklin	☏ 01536 618001
Activity Groups Co-ordinator	Joy Knight	☏ 07535 446758
Speaker Seeker	Michael Bristow	☏ 07878 534994
Information Technology Newsletter Editor	Roger Payne	☏ 07799 177378
General Duties	Jude Walker	☏ 07941 352190

Non Committee

Safeguarding Officer	Bob Moffatt	☏ 07970 896519

JOB VACANCIES

Ise Valley u3a are recruiting members to join our hardworking committee. No experience needed, only willingness to become part of a team and help out at our main meetings and at a committee meeting once a month.

We have at least 4 vacancies within the committee, none of which require a lot of your time, so will **YOU** come and join us? For more information please contact *Sylvia (chair)* ☏ 07419 837379 email sylviadale@live.co.uk

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Please email your contributions to 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

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 u3a.ise.valley@gmail.com

Roger Payne