

Learn Laugh Live



Newsletter no 88 January 2024

Hello Everybody

Well it's over for another year, the trimmings (decorations) have been taken down and packed away, there is no more fruit cake (and cheese!!). I have eaten the tub of Celebrations and drunk 4 bottles of wine. No more drinking hot chocolate whilst reading my Kindle, no more streaming an entire box set on an afternoon into the evening without feeling guilty. No more twinkly lights on houses.



We have watched the New Year's Eve fireworks either at midnight or like me at a sensible time on New Year's Day on i-player.

Noddy Holder's yell of "It's Christmas" is put away for another 11 months, although I'm currently listening to Steve Wright's Pick of the Pops on Radio 2 so there are still some Christmas songs on the radio.

The media is full of "dry January" and "veganuary" and encouraged to "make your new year's resolution". Probably like me you no longer make a resolution as the guilt of falling by the wayside outweighed the benefits. I also remember when I was younger January was miserable as having been paid a week early for Christmas – January pay day seemed such a long way away.

It's not all doom & gloom though, at 3.57am on the 22nd December we had the Winter Solstice which means that the days are getting longer. I know that it hasn't felt like it with storms Gerrit and Henk having us turning on our lights during the day. However, we do gain an extra couple of minutes of daylight each and every day which meant that this morning taking my dog for his constitutional at 7.30am I didn't have to use my torch to pick up after his ablutions. I also heard a blackbird singing at 7am. It will only be a couple of months on the 20th March and we will be at the spring equinox.

Janice Hargreaves, Chairman.

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January 18th 2024 Melody Flyte - Singing for Victory – The forces' sweethearts of WW2

A talk about the lives and experiences of three sweethearts Gracie Fields, Joyce Grenfell and Vera Lynn - featuring performances of WW2 songs.

February 15th 2024 Helen Frost - The Women's Land Army First World War

Be enthralled by this new army doing their National Service that made such an incredible contribution to the war effort at home, but have, in the intervening decades been all but forgotten.

Group News

u3asites.org.uk/daventry/groups

Garden Vistas & Views



FESTIVE DECORATIONS EVENT

Music, laughter, friendship, mulled wine and warm mincepies. What better way to start the festive season but to gather together and have a go at making something creative to symbolise this time of the year?

Members assembled with their frames and various vessels with the aim to create something that they and others may enjoy. There was a great enjoyment taken in sharing expertise as well as resources. No one came as experts but all went away with some expertise and achievement at what they had accomplished. It was lovely to see the thought and pleasure members gained as they combined some greenery, berries, dried flowers, ribbons and cones into something to adorn their home and hearth.

Thanks goes to Hendrika Folwell for organising the mulled wine and warm mincepies. Thanks also to all those who helped with the setting up and clearing up after the event.

Member who attended the event enjoyed it so much that there were suggestions that we open it up to other u3a groups next year. If your group is interested, please contact me.

Mariet Tidmarsh
Group Organiser

Ramblers Group

December Walk

After a dry weekend the fields were passable for a five mile walk on Monday, 18th December 2023.

We met at the Narrow Boat Pub on the A5 just south of Weedon and set off eastwards along the canal towpath for about half a mile. We then took a footpath on the right from the road to Flore and continued on through several fields to Nether Heyford. From the village green we headed south, crossed the canal and passed under the main railway line through a very small tunnel to arrive at the A5. From there we ascended gently uphill to the Church in Church Stowe. After admiring the view we walked northwards along the Macmillan Way towards Weedon and, after crossing back over the railway, we rejoined the canal for a final half mile walk back to the Narrow Boat Pub.

Some of us then departed, others stopped for a drink and something to eat. A pleasant time was had by all as it did not rain and the sun even came out for a short time!

Richard Tidmarsh
Walk Organiser

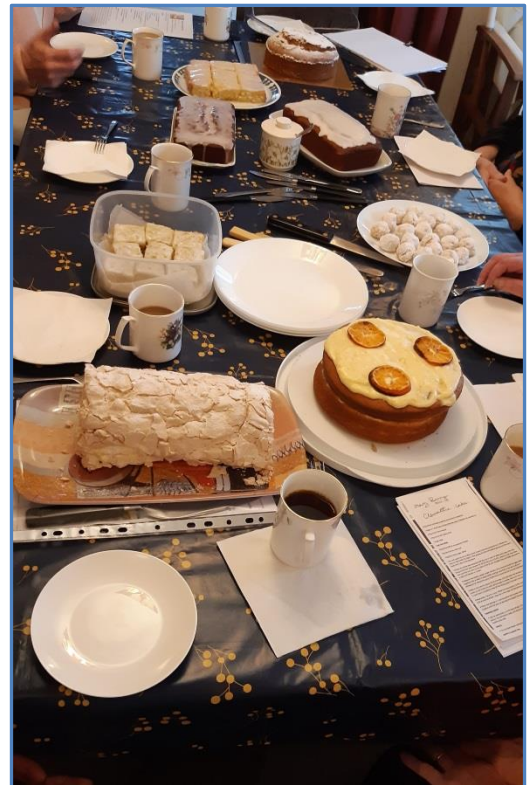
Photographs courtesy of David Collison and Mariet Tidmarsh



BakeXchange

We started off January with an in-season ingredient – CITRUS

The dishes were as varied as ever, coming from lime, lemon, orange/clementine or grape fruit



February contains Valentine's day, that should be interesting!

Alison Torr
Group organiser

December 21st 2023 - Christmas Meeting

A fun social event, for and by members with a quiz, entertainment and refreshments. And so it was – a quiz to sort us out and get the grey matter functioning, live music with vocals, refreshments and an excellent bumper raffle. A great social event.



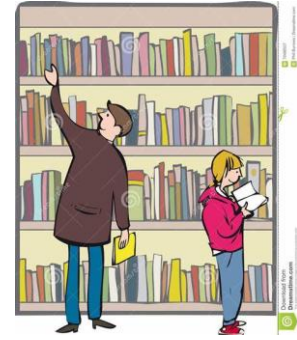
The raffle 1st prize – a wonderful hamper - was won by **Elaine Stephens**

Thank you to **everyone** who helped to make it a lovely afternoon.



Daventry & District u3a

Interest Groups



Group	Day	AM	PM	Group	Day	AM	PM
Alternative Book Group	THU	X		Photography for Pleasure	TUE		X
Any Craft Will Do	MON		X	Rambles 5 - 6 miles	MON	X	
Art Appreciation	TUE		X	Reading Shakespeare	FRI	X	
BakeXchange	FRI		X	Reading Shakespeare 2	MON		X
Book Group	TUE		X	Rummikub 1	TUE		EVE
Climate Change	THU		X	Rummikub 2	WED		EVE
Creative Writing	MON		X	Rummikub 3	TUE	X	
Family History Beginners 1 & 2	WED		X	Spanish Conversation	MON	X	
Folk Dancing	THU	X		Supper Club	WED		EVE
French Conversation 2	TUE	X		The Art of Painting	WED		X
French Conversation	WED		X	The Stories in my Life	THU		X
Garden Vistas + Views	FRI	X	X	Virtual Book Group	TUE		X
German	MON		X	Weekenders	SAT/ SUN	X	X
History	WED		X	Wine Appreciation	Bi- monthly		
Motoring	TUE	X					
Philosophy	TUE	X					

January 2024

Please note – no group is ever 'FULL', there will be a waiting list until either there is room, or another group is started.

Make a Note

New email for contacting the editor of the monthly newsletter with all your news and photos

daventryu3a.newsletter@gmail.com