

December Magazine 2022 St Ives (Cambs) u3a



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Message from The Chair – December 2022

It's hard to believe that 2022 is almost at an end. It has been an eventful year with changes of Prime Ministers, war in Ukraine, a financial crisis and the death of Queen Elizabeth. Queen Elizabeth has been the only sovereign my generation has known and she provided stability to the lives of her subjects. The Queen will be missed and it will take some time getting use to singing God save the King.

During this year we have also lost our founding chairman Peter Baker. Peter was involved in many activities and organisations around St Ives. If you have access to the internet you can find an obituary here : [Obituary: Retired RAF Wing Commander and St Ives stalwart | Hunts Post](#) Thanks to Peter's vision we now have a thriving u3a in St Ives.

The financial crisis is causing many people difficulties. The government has announced a range of measures to help with the cost of living and help with fuel bills. Make sure you check to see if you are eligible. A warm room scheme has been set up across Huntingdonshire where people can go to during the day and keep warm. This list was provided in the Hunts post, there may be others so check with your local council. [Cost of Living: List of 'Warm Hubs' in Huntingdonshire | The Hunts Post](#)

Finally, it just falls to me to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Brian Gilmour
Chairstivesu3a@btinternet.com

Open Meeting Programme

Date	Subject	Speaker
December 8 th 2022	Musical Entertainment "Panache"	Brian Barnes
January 12 th 2023	54 maritime heroes in 45 minutes	Cathy Shelbourne
February 9 th 2023	The Topsy-Turvy World of Gilbert & Sullivan	Jim Stebbings
March 9 th 2023	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy	Neil Dickinson

**All open meetings are held at The Corn Exchange, St Ives.
1.30 for 2.00 start**



Situation Vacancy

"Speaker Organiser"

Job of speaker organiser can be rewarding and interesting most of the time. It is not a continually time-consuming activity it comes in a burst every couple of months, for instance seven speakers have already been booked for 2023!

Lockdown, when we held a few open meetings on zoom, had some advantages in that we did not have to worry about travel distances and expenses. You cannot always judge a possible speaker's attitude to travel, I once found a speaker on one of the speaker's web sites who gave talks on his motorcycle trip the full length of New Zealand which sounded great, but was

surprised when I tried to book him, he said "it was too far to travel from his home in Norwich"!!!!!!

There are always budding speakers who offer their services via our web site, although we had on one occasion to tell a speaker from Devon that there is more than one St. Ives!!!!

Now that the pandemic has receded, I hope there is less chance of short-term cancellations in the future, another upset is now avoided as we always have our meetings at the same time every month, unlike the old days when we alternated between morning and afternoon, there we were in the morning waiting in the hall, while the speaker from the National Trust was at home preparing for his afternoon date!!!! Luckily the late Peter Baker gave us a very good off the cuff talk.

If you are up to the challenge and would like to talk about it, please see me at the next open meeting or email me on: -
john.defries1@ntlworld.com
John Defries.



News from around the Groups

Sketchbook Art Group Leader – Barry Tankard

There are four vacancies for new members of Sketchbook Art Group, please contact Barry Tankard through the contact button on the group page which can be found on the u3astivesgroups@gmail.com web page.

Outings Group Leaders – Wendy Wagstaffe, Lydia Harris, Pam Medlicott & Sue Belcher (call Sue Belcher 01480 497592. Strictly only to be used by members with no Internet).

When booking a trip, click on the blue envelope which can be found either on the top right of the Outings Group on the St Ives web-page or at the very bottom depending on whether you are using a laptop or iPad /iPhone.

Please DO NOT click on 'CONTACT' at the very top of the page.

ALWAYS BOOK BEFORE PAYING

All bookings will be confirmed.



**Friday December 2nd 2022
Lincoln Christmas Market**

Visitors are welcomed to this beautiful city and the traditional Christmas Market, where you will enjoy cultural entertainment and stroll around over 150 stalls nestled with in the medieval square and surrounding area.



Cost £17

Includes driver's gratuity

Entrance is FREE to the Lincoln Christmas Market

What you spend on food, drink and lovely gifts is an entirely different thing!

Waiting List only



Tuesday 24th January 2023

Guided Tour of Cambridge Central Mosque

Start Time 11:00

Europe's first Eco-friendly Mosque

A unique prayer space that fuses traditional and modern architecture, and has green credentials that reflect Islam's ideals of earth, soul and community care, officially opened to the public on 24 April 2019. The Cambridge Central Mosque design was inspired both by Islamic and English religious architectural traditions. The defining feature of Cambridge Mosque is its timber structure. The columns, or 'trees' reach up to support the roof in an interlaced octagonal lattice vault structure evocative of English gothic fan vaulting, famously used at the nearby King's College Chapel. Worshippers and visitors enter via an Islamic Garden before passing through a covered portico and then an atrium.



Worshippers and visitors enter via an Islamic Garden before passing through a covered portico and then an atrium.

Cost £6

Own Transport



Tuesday 21st February 2023

Hughenden Manor High Wycombe Buckinghamshire

Benjamin Disraeli's handsome home in the Chilterns.

Introductory talk included approx. 20 mins, guides available in all rooms.

Separate exhibition. Hillside to explore. It became the top-secret headquarters during the Second World War which put it high on Hitler's target list.



There is a café on site where you can purchase coffee, Light Lunches, and the usual array of tempting cakes. Picnics of course if you prefer.

Cost £14.00 per person or £27.00 for non-National Trust members

We have set more friendly pick-up times for this outing.

Approximately 10 am start time.

Wednesday 15th March 2023.
Outing to Gunby Hall and Tattershall Castle.
Lincolnshire.

Gunby Hall is at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The home of the Massingbird family.

We can tour the house (and gardens if the weather is kind) The whole day is aimed at including mostly indoor pursuits due to the time of year.

There is tea room on site if you wish to indulge.

Picnics are allowed if you prefer.



After lunch we move along by coach (approx. 40 min drive) to Tattershall Castle designed to display wealth, position and power.

It was built by the treasurer of England, Lord Ralph Cromwell. A spiral staircase to battlements

if you are feeling fit.

This property closes at 3 pm so we will be heading home for St Ives and should be arriving back around 5 pm

Costs are as follows £15.00

£33.00 non-NT members



An Outings Group Organiser's Experience!

If you have ever given the matter any attention, you may have considered that your u3a outings organisers were a fairly switched-on bunch.

After reading the following you may well reconsider this assumption!

Today I received the Lincoln Christmas market programme, thank you.

Lydia rightly reminded us to ensure we carried emergency contact details with us. Although I know about ICE I have never put it on my phone.

A horrid rainy day, nothing inspirational on my to do list. No more excuses. Come on Wendy you can do this.

I googled instructions and was soon watching a detailed video (unfortunately in a very strong Irish accent). There were plenty of pictures so what could possibly go wrong?

I listed family contacts but failed to locate the screen that should allow me to save them.

After much trial and error I had found something labelled 'emergency'

I positively glowed with success, only to discover I was calling 999!!

I pressed 'cancel' but a message informed me that my emergency contacts would be informed of my call.

I had to hastily confess to my son, assure him that I was home and well, and just demonstrating once again, that my IT L plates had once more embarrassingly been displayed big time!

Wendy Wagstaffe

Booking Procedure for Outings

PLEASE DO NOT PAY FOR TRIPS BEFORE YOUR BOOKING HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

Bookings can be made at Open Meetings, through the St Ives Cambs. u3a web page, or call Sue Belcher 01480 497592 (Strictly for members with no internet)

When booking a trip on the web page, click on the blue envelope which can be found either on the top right of the Outings Group on the St Ives web-page or at the very bottom depending on whether you are using a laptop or iPad /iPhone. Please DO NOT click on 'CONTACT' at the very top of the page.

ALWAYS BOOK BEFORE PAYING.

All bookings will be confirmed.

BACS payment preferred please, either online or by going into your branch

**Payment online details: - St Ives (Cambs) U3A Social Account
Sort code: 40-16-08**

Account: 74557352 Ref: U3A membership number and trip name

If no alternative, cheques to be made payable to: St Ives (Cambs) U3A Social Account

Payment to be made at least a month prior to the trip.

(Bookings made within a month should be paid ASAP)

Art Appreciation - Your Way

Roger Littler

Meets in Slepe Hall hotel St Ives on second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Start 11.00am and end at 1.00pm. No fee. Just do your interpretation of artists and discuss their lives and what inspired them. A small but friendly set of people.

Group Leader –

Theatre Group Group Leaders – Ron & Kathy Meadows

Theatre Trips are Back! We have arranged our first trip!

We are very excited that we have filled the availability and have a waiting list for Matthew Bourne's ballet **Sleeping Beauty Reawakens** at Milton Keynes which is on 19th January 2023. This trip sold out very quickly so apologies for people not able to attend.

Our next trip is to see Agatha Christie's **Mousetrap**, again at Milton Keynes Theatre. We are going on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at the matinee performance starting at 2.30pm. Coach travel by Dews Coaches leaving from two stops in St. Ives at about 10.00am so there should be plenty of time for lunch somewhere. The cost will be between £42 and £52. **The booking is now open!**

If you are interested in The Mousetrap please contact me by email the address is kathymeadows@hotmail.co.uk or text me on 07713403257.

We are hoping to organise about four trips a year.

Please contact us if you have any ideas for future theatre trips that would interest you.

Kathy & Ron Meadows.

The philosophy group Group Leader – Roy Moyser

The philosophy group continued its series of visits to art galleries and other centres of culture, based around the theme of Art and Beauty. In November they had a very interesting tour of the Museum of classical archeology in Cambridge, which was followed by a meal in the Eagle. The day was rounded off by Evensong in Trinity college.

The next trip they have planned is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in December and to the theatre in January. The full schedule of events is as follows: -

Thursday 1st December, Fitzwilliam Museum, Art and Beauty, followed by Lunch and St Johns for Evensong. Meet 10.00 park n ride.

Friday 16th December Christmas Lunch.

Thursday 5th January Pike and Eel 1pm

Friday 20th January Seminar on Post Modernism.

Thursday 26th January Midsummer Night's Dream Cambridge Arts Theatre 2.30pm Row C. Supper in The Eagle.

Cribbage Group

Group Leader – Melvyn Matthews

We are looking for new members, players or non-players as tutorials are given.

contact mejmatthews@googlemail.com



NEWS FROM UKE-TROUPE

A nervous band of 13 members of the St Ives u3a Uke Troupe took to the stage at the Corn Exchange on Saturday 15th October 2022, to perform at the second St Ives Ukulele Festival. This year it was attended by a number of local groups as well as those from Hitchin, Market

Harborough,
Peterborough,
Cambridge and Burton
Latimer.

Ably led by our leader Mark, we played five songs to start the Festival off. After a few hitches with the sound system, we were off playing to a much larger audience than we had ever played to before. It



was a diverse set list, from the 1960's - Frankie Valli Can't take my eyes off you & Labi Siffre It must be love, to a more up to date Count on me by Bruno Mars and a beautiful rendition of A Million Dreams from the film The Greatest Showman (featuring solo verses from Adrian), finishing off with everyone in the hall singing along with us to Hi Ho Silver Lining.

You can listen to a little of our live performance by clicking on the links below:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aej5vFNPjL3GojJx6>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3w4ghsv2pv04ckg/Count%20on%20Me%20from%20Festival.MOV?dl=0>

Mary Burbage

Library newsletter



Bus pass renewal or new bus passes can be applied for at the library. It is best to make an appointment as it can take around 10 mins or so to do. You can access the Library online where you can pay fines and order books. Audio books are available for the partially sighted.

Open plus is working well and is available for the public to have access to the library when it is not staffed. You must be a library member to use this facility. Digital bus timetables in real time are there for you to see on the right-hand side of the library window.

The Art Club is now up and running. It is on the first Saturday of the month from 10 am till 12 noon. It is just £1.00 per child and is suitable for 4 to 11-year-olds. There is lots of fun to be had. You can book for this event or just turn up on the day. Grandparents can bring their grandchildren along.

Engage event 7th December 2 pm until 4 pm. This is a talk by a Holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke. A free event but booking is advisable. Tel 0345 0455225 or call in at St Ives Library to book your place.

Hearing Aid Maintenance is the 2nd Wednesday of the month. You can book an appointment in the library or online, or phone 01223 416141 (text 07852 699196).

There are several meeting rooms for hire. Please enquire at the front desk in the library. Meeting Room Open Day is 15th December from 2 pm to 4 pm. Come along and look at our meeting room which is available for hire for community or team events.

The Book Group coffee morning is on Saturday 3rd December 10.30 am until 12.30. 50p per person. All welcome.

We have a trolley full of books for sale as well.

Computer use in the library is free for library members. There are printing and photocopying facilities, but there is a charge for these services. We now have the WHICH report available again, but only for use in the library.

Jeff Heather.

If you are interested in joining a group, becoming a group leader, or have an idea for a new interest group, speak to Ian Greaves, Group Coordinator, at the open meeting or contact him by email: ianbradburygreaves@gmail.com, or telephone: 07812159370

From the Editors

We hope you have enjoyed this magazine. Our next publications will be Information and Reminder sheets early in January 2023 with another magazine in March 2023. Items for the January Information & Reminder need to be with us by **Thursday 15th December 2022** please. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and All Good Wishes for the New Year.

Your Committee

Chairman – Brian Gilmour

Treasurer – Pat James

Secretary – TBA

Vice-chairman – Roy Moyser

Membership Secretary – Pat James

Beacon Organizer – Joy Cooper

Reception – TBA

Group Coordinator – Ian Greaves

Assistant Group Coordinator – Bruce Hanworth

Outings – Wendy Wagstaffe & Lydia Harris

Newsletter – John & Sue Ralph



St Ives U3A Groups

Full details of groups (including venues) are available on the Groups page of the St Ives U3A website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs>
The information here has been compiled from the website by Bruce Hanworth (Assistant U3A Group Coordinator). If anything is incorrect, please contact him at bruce.hanworth@gmail.com).

Group	When meeting
Art Appreciation – Your Way	Second and fourth Tuesday of month, 11am – 1pm
Badminton	Mondays, 5 – 6 pm
Birdwatching Group 1	3rd Wednesday of month
Birdwatching Group 2	4th Wednesday of month
Bridge for Beginners	Wednesdays, 9.45 am
Canasta	Fortnightly on Mondays
Country Dancing	Second and fourth Wednesday of month, 10.30 to midday
Country Walks	4th Wednesday each month
Cribbage	Fortnightly on Thursdays, 2 – 4 pm
Current Affairs	First and third Wednesday of month, 11 am
Digital Photography	Fortnightly on Tuesdays, 2 to 3.15
French Intermediate	First, third and fourth Wednesdays, 1.45 to 3.15 pm
French Advanced	First and third Fridays, 10 to 11.45 am
German Intermediate	First and third Tuesdays, 1.45 to 3.15 pm

Greetings Card Making	Second and fourth Friday of month, 2 – 4 pm
Indoor Bowls	
Italian Improvers 2	Thursday mornings
Italian Improvers	Mondays, 10 to 11.30 am
Italian Intermediate	Thursdays, 11 to 12.30
Jazz2Enjoy	Fourth Wednesday of month, 10.30 to 12.30
Leisure Walks	First and third Wednesday of month, 10 to midday
Line Dancing	First and third Thursday of month, 2.15 to 3.45 pm
Local & Social History	Third Friday of month, 10.15 to noon
Music Appreciation	First and second Wednesday of month, 2 to 4 pm
Needlecraft	One Tuesday a month, 10 am to 12.30
Outings	Variable
Painting for Pleasure	Second and fourth Wednesday of month, 10 am to noon
Petanque	Tuesdays, 10.30 am
Philosophy	Third Friday of month, 10.30 am
Poetry	Second Tuesday of month, 10.30 am to noon
Science & Technology	Second Wednesday of month, 2 pm
Scrabble	First Monday of month
Shakespeare Appreciation	Fourth Tuesday of month, 10 am

Singing 4 Pleasure	Second and fourth Tuesday of month, 2 pm
Sketchbook Art	First and third Wednesday of month, 10 am to noon
Social Outdoor Bowls	Thursdays, 10 am
Spanish Conversation	Friday afternoons
Swedish Beginners	First, second and fourth Fridays, 1.45 to 3.15 pm
Table Tennis 1	Mondays, 10 am to noon
Table Tennis 2	Thursdays, 2.30 to 4 pm
The Painters	First and third Tuesday of month, 10 am to noon
Theatre Trips	Variable
Tuesday 12 Book Club	Third Tuesday of month, 2 to 4 pm
Uke-Troupe	First and third Friday of month, 2 to 4 pm

