



March Magazine 2023 St Ives (Cambs) u3a



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Welcome to our spring newsletter I am pleased to see that we are getting more input from members in our recent publications, please keep sending in your news about your groups and activities. I would also like to welcome our new secretary, Sheila Louth. Sheila responded to our appeal for help and is now filling a vital role on our committee. Your committee will always welcome any offers of help.

I am always pleased to see how the British public respond to disasters, like the recent devastating earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey. Within a few days 50 million pounds had been raised and many communities around the country were organising their own collections of aid. Unfortunately, others use the shocking events to make a profit by trying to scam people into responding to fake websites and emails.

I chose to write about scams because a group I am part of in Huntingdon u3a has been a target. I received several emails that had supposedly been sent by group members asking for assistance. The emails did not look genuine and I did not reply to them. The group members concerned confirmed that they had not sent them. One member had his email account taken over by the scammers.

Please take care and do not respond to anything that looks suspicious. If you receive an email from a friend or family member check with them before sending any money. Luckily there are more good people out there than bad.

As always, your comments and feedback would be most welcome.

Brian Gilmour
Chair St Ives (Cambs) u3a

email chairstivesu3a@btinternet.com

Membership Renewal – IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your membership of St Ives u3a is due for renewal on 1 April 2023

Now that we have use of the Beacon system to record member details, we do not need to send out renewal forms each year. The fee remains unchanged at £13 (£9.50 if you have paid a full fee to another u3a) and will cover your membership until 1 April 2024.

Methods of payment

Many of you have already set up a payment to go out by standing order on 1 April each year, in which case you need do nothing now. A few people were unable to change the date of their standing order last year, and payment has already been received. Those people will receive a separate notification from the Treasurer, either by email or letter. Please check before making payment, as it causes extra work when refunds are required if people pay twice.

If you have not already arranged a standing order payment, the options are:

1)

BACS payment to:

St Ives Cambs U3A account: Sort code 40-40-35, Account number 41529994

Please enter to the reference your membership number (shown on your membership card), followed by surname;

2)

The bank has recently introduced significant charges for paying in cheques and we would

be grateful for your assistance in keeping this to a minimum. If you do not have online banking, you can request your bank to make a payment for you over the counter, by giving them our bank details, as for a BACS payment above. For future renewals, a standing order payment is preferable. Please request a form from our Treasurer/Membership Secretary to set this up. If a cheque really is the only option for you, please make it payable for £13 (£9.50 if full fee paid to another u3a), to:
St Ives (Cambs) U3A and print your name and membership number on the back.
Cheques can be posted to the Treasurer at: 4, Margetts, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire PE28 9EP.

Membership cards:

Membership cards will not be reprinted and your card issued last year remains valid, so long as you renew your membership, as this is a card for life. The card is not dated because the Beacon system will alert us to any members who do not renew. We very much hope that now normal activities are able to resume again, you will wish to renew your membership. If you have any queries relating to membership renewal, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, and if it is not your intention to renew, it would be helpful if you could let me know.

Pat James, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

treasmemstivescambsu3a@outlook.com or telephone

01480 381204

Open Meeting Programme

Date	Subject	Speaker
March 9 th 2023	Arsenic's Toxic Legacy	Neil Dickinson
April 19 th 2023	A decade of change - Life in 1960's Britain	Paul Robbins
May 11 th 2023	Thomas Cook & The Origins of Popular Tourism	Paul Smith

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

BEACON

Beacon continues to be a valuable tool to manage our membership system and for communicating with you by email. You may have noticed that when you receive a message via Beacon, the address it comes from says noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk. Unlike other sites, where this means, you cannot directly reply to the sender, I have discovered that you can reply directly to the sender when it comes via Beacon. This may be useful to know if you wish to reply, for instance, to a message from your group leader.

The majority of our group leaders are now set up as Beacon users which enables them to have access to up to date contact details for their members, to email the group, and to use the ledger facility to record their finances if they wish. If any leader not currently using Beacon would like more information, please contact me at: BeaconAdmStivesu3a@gmail.com

Joy Cooper

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.

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

WAITING LIST ONLY

Tuesday, 18th April 2023

Lampport, Hall and Gardens (Northamptonshire)

Journey from home to Lampport should take under one hour enabling us to leave around 10.00am.

Arrive in time for coffee and biscuits.

Guided tour of the house in groups of 15 maximum.

Two course lunch to include home-made soup with artisan roll, lemon tart with fresh fruit.

An afternoon history tour of the garden (or just wander if that is what you would prefer)

The final cuppa and time to explore the church before our departure for home at 4.00pm.

Cost £38

This includes all entry fees and guides, coffee and biscuits on arrival, also, two course lunch and tea and coffee prior to departure, plus Dews coach and driver's gratuities.

WAITING LIST ONLY



Wednesday 17th May 2023

Bedford and Kathy Brown's Garden

Morning visit to market town of Bedford where we meet our guide for a walking tour entitled 'I Never Knew That'

If you prefer not to do the walk you can choose to enjoy the town centre
Time allowed to purchase lunch or take a picnic in Bedford.



Short coach journey to Stevington where we meet Kathy Brown who will introduce us to her wonderful garden. Tour of the Garden 45- 60 mins

Choice of home made cakes with Tea/Coffee/Juice included.
Cost including driver's gratuity, all guide fees and entry.
Plus the Cake! **£32.00 pp**

Friday 9th June Norfolk Treats

Historical Walsingham and East Ruston Vicarage Gardens

Blue Badge Guide talk and guided tour of Walsingham. Morning coffee and biscuits on arrival
Time allowed to find lunch in Walsingham. Afternoon coach journey to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens. Wander at will in the splendid award-winning 30+ acres. Tea rooms on site.



Cost includes:

Guides fees, Tea and biscuits on arrival, Entry to Abbey Gardens
Walsingham, Entry to Vicarage gardens east Ruston

(RHS free to East Ruston but please note joint membership only allows 1
free entry. Dews coach and gratuity

Cost £44.00 pp

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
Cams. 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 (Cams) 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 (Cams)
U3A Social Account**

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

(Bookings made within a month should be paid ASAP)

Report from the Outings Group

Our first outing for 2023, a long-anticipated visit that proved extremely popular.

Our pilgrimage began on a very frosty morning. Despite this, almost 50 members either defrosted vehicles or battled with the vagaries of the bus services.

Early arrivals were rewarded with a warm welcome in the cafeteria.

We were soon off on our magical mystery tour, learning of the planning and building from its conception to the spectacular edifice we were now admiring. The architecture is just stunning.

I am reminded that the beautiful curved wood was sent to Switzerland to be shaped, one of the many interesting facts that we were given.

Many of our party had visited mosques in many parts of the globe but I don't think anyone had enjoyed such a wealth of knowledge, not only of the building but the meaning behind the beliefs and rituals.

It was a privilege to share our guide's obvious pride and pleasure



imparting all this so warmly. If you missed out I urge you take advantage of pre booked weekend tours offered on their website.

You are also welcome to visit at other times non guided.

The No 2 bus from Emmanuel Street drops you at the door.

The only requirements are modest dress, head covering for

women and to remove your shoes at the entrance. No entry fees but donations welcome.

Wendy, Lydia, Sue and Pam

The Local and Social History Group Group Leader – Marian Land

The Local and Social History Group is now meeting regularly at the Free Church on the 3rd Friday of each month. Full details can be found on the web page. So far in 2023 we have looked at the Winter of 1962/3 and Fen Skating. New members would be very welcome.

Marian Land

Theatre Group Group Leaders – Ron & Kathy Meadows

Wednesday 24th May The Mouse Trap, Milton Keynes

If you have not already booked to see **The Mouse Trap** and you would like to go, could you please let

Kathy Meadows know.

Contact kathymeadows@hotmail.co.uk

Waiting List only

Report from the Theatre Group

Our first was a successful trip to see Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty, which was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately it was the day when St Ives had the burst water pipe causing chaos with traffic!

Our next trip is on Wednesday 24th May this is to see the Mousetrap.

This is currently sold out, we are running a waiting list so if you would like to be added to the list please let us know,

We are hoping for a late summer trip to a different theatre, possibly a musical at Southend Cliffs Theatre, details hopefully at the March meeting.

Also plans are well in hand for a Christmas themed show! Also to be released shortly.

Our trips will be launched at the Monthly meetings held at the Corn Exchange.

We plan to do 3 or 4 shows a year, and if you have any ideas would be grateful if you shared them with us.

Thankyou for your support.

Art Club Group Leader – Brian Barnes

I am often asked, ‘What do you do in Art Club?’ The short answer is ‘Once a month we sit in the Golden Lion drinking coffee and talking about Art and life!

The thing we don’t do...is paint! We do that at home.

Once a month we select a theme (this month it is ‘In the corner’) and we produce a response to that theme at home. We then take our personal interpretations to the next meeting and explain our working process. There are no right or wrongs. All work is of equal value and the variety of outcomes is always of interest.

Have a look at the photographs on the Art Club web page. Can you connect the images to the themes?

Brian Barnes

14 February 2023

Music Appreciation Group Leader – David Birkert

First and second Wednesday in the month, 2-4 pm.

I run two music groups and at the moment I can take two more for the second group. We listen to all types of music from the 1900s through to the 1960s taken from my own record collection as well as watching music DVDs. You can see what the current programme is by looking at Music Appreciation on the group page on the u3a St Ives website.

David Birkert

Line Dancing Group Leader – Pat James

Due to health reasons and lack of numbers, Line Dancing Group has been closed until further notice. We hope to re-launch later in the year.

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.

For the Grandparents, there are events for younger children.

Lego Club for over 4-year old's, Saturday 21 March. Lots of fun to be had at the library from 10 to 11.30 a.m. and 2.00 to 3.30 p.m. Cost 50p per child. Best to book as there are limited spaces. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Other dates are:

Saturday 15th April

and the times are the same.

Art Club is on the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost £1 per child. A great experience for young children to enjoy art in its simplest form.

Hearing Matters. Hearing maintenance for hearing aids at the library on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Tel 01223 416141 or book at the library in person.

Open+ is proving to be very popular. You can access the library when it is not staffed. It takes a few minutes to upgrade to Open+.

Online services where you can pay any fines and order books.

FANTASTIC FICTION is a great website for you to browse fiction books. It also enables us to check out the latest books.

Sometimes we might not have one of your favourite books in a series, sometimes we can order books out of area i.e. from Suffolk libraries. There is a small charge of £2 for this excellent service.

AGE UK have a drop-in session on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Blue badge applications, housing assistance and lot of other help from this great free session.

Warm hub. The library is a warm hub 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Free hot drinks and a warmup. GOOD NEWS from your great local library is that our numbers are increasing and are nearly up to pre-COVID level.

Engage Events - another free event, but this must be booked in advance:

Jeff Heather

At the February Open Meeting, Jim Stebbings gave us a talk about the Topsy-Turvy World of Gilbert and Sullivan. He did not have time to finish his talk and has kindly sent it to us to share with Members:

The Death of W S Gilbert

It was a pleasure bringing my talk The Topsy-Turvy World of Gilbert and Sullivan to your group recently. The final part of my presentation was somewhat hurried since I was aware that I was running beyond one hour. As a result, I was rightly reminded by one of your members later that I had failed to mention an important and interesting fact relating to Gilbert's death at the age of 74 on 29th May 1911.

As background, Gilbert's latter years were spent with his wife Kitty at Grim's Dyke, a house on 110 acres in beautiful countryside near Harrow, Middlesex at he had a croquet lawn, and a lake for swimming and vast gardens and woodlands in which he kept an array of animals. He and his wife loved entertaining, especially having parties in the garden for children and younger people. He and his wife had been childless, though they had adopted a young actress named Nancy McIntosh.

Gilbert swam daily if possible in his long-legged, blue-striped swimsuit and was teaching two young ladies to swim in his lake in the afternoon of 29 May when one of them, Ruby, got into difficulties and shrieked for help. Gilbert, who had been instructing from the lake-side immediately

dived in, grabbing her and telling her to hold onto his shoulders. They both sank to the bottom, but only Ruby resurfaced, and she struggled to the lake-edge. With the assistance of a gardener Gilbert was recovered from the bottom of the lake but was found to be dead. Later his doctor diagnosed a heart attack caused by the chilly water and the exertion of his rescue.

In the coroner's words, Gilbert's death was 'a very honourable end to a great and distinguished career.' He was cremated at Golder's Green and his ashes buried at St John The Evangelist at Stanmore. The remains of his wife and adopted daughter were later to join him there.

Grim's Dyke is now a hotel in the Best Western group of hotels and my wife and I recently stayed overnight when snow had recently fallen and it proved an enjoyable stay reliving the life of the great man who was without doubt the driving force in the Gilbert and Sullivan partnership.



Jim Stebbings

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

Your Committee

Chairman – Brian Gilmour
Treasurer – Pat James
Secretary – Sheila Louth
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-camb>
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
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, and third Wednesdays, 1.30 to 3.00 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	21 st and 28 th September at Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club, St.Peters Road, Huntingdon starting at 4pm. The main season will start on 3 rd October.
Italian Improvers 2	Thursday mornings
Italian Improvers	Mondays, 10 to 11.30 am
Italian Intermediate	Thursdays, 10.30 to 12.30
Leisure Walks	First and third Wednesday of month, 10 to midday
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