



December Magazine 2023

St Ives (Cambs) u3a



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Our Christmas open meeting will be held on Thursday 14 December at 2pm in the Corn Exchange.

If you heard the announcement at the November open meeting, I hope you will not be too disappointed to learn that the meeting itself is not a pantomime! If it is, it will be “The Meeting That Goes Wrong”! The title will be ‘A DIY Christmas’ because the entertainment will be provided from within our own membership.

Our two groups, Singing for Pleasure, and Uke-Troupe, will provide musical entertainment, along with the opportunity for the audience to join in some carol-singing, and there will be a short drama presentation from the Committee. (Oh yes it Will!)

After the meeting, you will be invited to enjoy a mince pie and a glass of bubbly. We hope you will come along to enjoy a celebration of the season with your fellow u3a members.

ITEM from Beacon Administrator



Are you receiving me?

We quite often hear from members that our emails sent via Beacon are not received, or end up in junk/spam boxes. Many email services are tightening their security requirements, to try and prevent access from scammers which is a good thing. However, you may need to adjust your settings to enable messages from trusted senders, such as u3a via Beacon, to get through. Everyone’s devices and email providers have different ways of enabling this, but if you go into your settings, you should be able to see something like a ‘trusted senders list’. Please add the Beacon address to this list. It is noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk

If you cannot see this list in your email settings, you may need to go into your account on your provider's website, and access your settings there. Another way which may prevent messages going to spam, is to add the sender to your email list of contacts or address book.

I realise that if you are already having problems, you may not receive this message but please pass this advice to any friends who tell you they don't receive emails from u3a. Group leaders – please also spread the word amongst your group members.

Thank you.

Joy Cooper (Beacon Admin)



From our Web Manager

My name is Peter Cooper and, as Web Manager, my main role is supporting the development and use of our website

Home Welcome Groups Events Members Membership Contact Links Gallery u3a

St Ives (Cams) u3a

New Groups Click to send a message!

New Groups	
Group - click for info	Starting
French Fiction	January 2024 Read aloud and translate easier French fiction
Spanish Fiction (Intermediate)	January 2024 Read aloud and translate easier Spanish fiction

Potential Groups

Group	If interested Contact
None at present	

(Potential) Second Groups

You might have tried to join an existing group, only to discover that it's full. If so, how about starting a second one of your own, and use the waiting list as a starting point? Contact the Assistant Groups Coordinator, and the existing Group Leader for advice.
Groups known to be full include:

(<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cams/>). Anne Bannell is assisting in this, and we are together helping group leaders to update their pages, and make them as useful as possible to members.

There will be small changes to the website in coming months but in time we will be moving to a different system that will allow us all to be

more creative. You may already have noticed that the first small changes are to our “Welcome” page.

You may also notice that our “Groups” page is now a little different, and there is a separate “**New Groups**” page. I encourage everyone to have a look at this, and it will be updated fairly frequently.

It shows:

- New Groups (that are about to start and are welcoming new members)

- Potential Groups (where a leader is looking for expressions of interest to see if a new group is worth setting up)

- (Potential) Second Groups (where an existing group is full and has a waiting list, so a second group is awaiting a leader)

- Other ideas (groups that have proved popular in other u3as where we do not currently have one)

If you have any suggestions or issues with our website, feel free to contact me via our [Contact](#) page, or at an Open Meeting.

Do you have computer skills?

As Web Manager, I need to use various technical computer skills to support members in St Ives (Cams) u3a, and not just with the website. I would like to find a few other people with computer skills within our membership, who might be willing to use them to help me or other members.

If you are willing to make contact with me about this (with absolutely no commitment) please simply email me via the Contact page on our website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cams/contact> (select the Web Manager radio button).

I do not know where this will go, but I would certainly welcome a chat with you.

Peter Cooper

Potential u3a groups

St Ives u3a offers a wide range of interest groups, but there is always scope for more. Perhaps you have a special interest or hobby that you could share with others. Other u3as run groups on all sorts of things not yet available through St Ives u3a - how about starting one yourself? The burden need not be great - advice is always available from the Committee and you could run a group jointly with others who share similar interests. Whether weekly, fortnightly or monthly, the choice is yours.

If you have an idea for a group and would like to test the water, you can contact the Assistant Groups Coordinator at

bruce.hanworth@gmail.com. I could then insert an ad in a future magazine to seek individuals who might join your group.

The following subjects are particularly popular in other u3as - maybe you could start one yourself?

- Archaeology
- Astronomy
- Backgammon
- Board games
- Chess
- Colouring
- Creative writing
- Crime fiction
- Cycling
- Family history research
- Film group
- Gardening
- Geology
- Golf
- Mahjong
- Mindfulness and meditation
- Opera appreciation
- Philately
- Play reading
- Psychology
- Quizzes
- Sudoku
- Walking football/cricket ...

To be clear: any potential group can only get off the ground if one or more of you are willing to help run it, so in the first instance please contact me only if you are willing to do this.

You might also have tried to join an existing group within St Ives u3a, only to discover that it is full. If so, how about starting a second one of your own? Bruce Hanworth (Assistant Groups Coordinator)

Open Meeting Programme

Date	Subject	Speaker
Dec. 14 th 2023	Members Entertainment A DIY Christmas	
Jan. 11 th 2024	The Banjo Man	Sean Moyses
Feb. 8 th 2024	You can't be Serious Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire	Alan Gray

All open meetings are held at The Corn Exchange, St Ives. 1.30 for 2.00 start. **Please Note:** We kindly ask that members who have any matters to be discussed with Committee members or wishing to book theatre outings or trips, please arrive early enough to avoid disruption when meetings have commenced.

News and Views from around the Groups

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).

For Outings booking procedure see Page 8

Friday January 26th 2024 Oxburgh Hall
15th-century moated manor house. Home to the Bedingfeld family for 500 years, Oxburgh reveals one family's unshakable Catholic faith and story of endurance.



Later than usual start, 10am. Arrive Oxburgh around 11am in time to purchase coffee. There are half hourly tours available to enable us to stagger and choose our own timings around lunch. Menu includes light lunches and soup (not included).



Cost pp £18

Non-National trust members £28

Includes Dews executive coach and driver's gratuity
(Payment due on or before 14th December 2023)

Departure for home around 3pm.

Monday 26th February 2024

Hardwick Hall

Bess of Hardwick, a formidable and talented woman, was responsible for the creation of both Hardwick Hall and Chatsworth House.

As one of the finest Elizabethan buildings in the country, Hardwick Hall is a perfect place to discover and explore historic architectural and artistic delights.

Free Time to visit the Hall and Gardens.



Allow at least 1 hour for house visit no guided tours so free flow at leisure.

Café open all day for coffee and light lunches (own Cost)

Cost: £24 National Trust members

£41 non-NT members

(Payment due on or before 11th January 2024)

10 min walk to House from car park

Hardwick Hall operate a buggy shuttle service daily for visitors to access the Hall, gardens and facilities. Departure for home around 4pm.



Wednesday, 20 March 2024 ‘Derbyshire Double Bill’

Morning visit to Kedleston Hall,

Robert Adams created this show Palace of the 1760s. The house is framed by historic parkland and boasts opulent interiors intended to impress.



Food available on site, you can either go for coffee on arrival or an early lunch.

Free time to tour the House at your leisure.



Afternoon visit to Calke Abbey



With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The House and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country

houses did not survive to tell their story.

We aim to leave Kedleston Hall for Calke Abbey at approximately 12.00.pm (It is a 40 minutes coach drive)

On arrival at Calke you could choose to have a late lunch followed by a free flow House tour or go straight onto the House. We understand that only small groups are allowed at a time due to the size of the rooms.

We plan to leave around 4 pm/4.30 when House closes. A busy, but hopefully very interesting visit.

Cost £24 National Trust Members £48 Non-NT Members



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)

Memory of Aug. visit to Stowe



Back in August we were privileged to take our outings group to visit and enjoy the jaw dropping splendour of Stowe. It is the largest private neoclassical building in Europe which sadly went into decline but restoration was started in the year 2000 and to date £40 million has been invested in restoring it to its former glory. One of the many fascinating stories relates to the restoration and return to Stowe of the Lions that once guarded the South Front entrance. The lions had found their way to Blackpool, having been purchased by a philanthropist, who gave them to the town for display in Stanley Park.

Concerned that they were vulnerable to metal theft the corporation proposed lending the Lions to Stowe in return for exact copies.



An agreement was drawn up and a spell of therapy in a conservation workshop restored the spring to the lions' step so that on a crisp bright day in April 2013, they set out on the last stage of the journey home to take their rightful place guarding the entrance that has welcomed visitors since the 18th century.



An arrangement was agreed that anyone visiting Stowe who could prove they were residents of Blackpool, is granted free admission.

Among the many architects involved over the years is the unlikely inclusion of Clough Williams, Ellis who you will know as the famous architect of

Portmeirion in North Wales. He was charged with transforming the site into a public school.

His task was very different from his predecessors, who were engaged to embellish and update in line with changing tastes, lifestyles and ambitions.

His brief was to achieve a seat of creativity, learning and endeavour.

His starting point was a long-neglected Palace of 400 rooms to deal with without water supply, drains, heating, lighting, or even adequate maintenance.



He achieved this in a matter of months. Somehow the huge building was transformed into a reasonably functioning school starting with 200 boys in four separate houses. This number was increased two or three-fold later on.

A fascinating visit followed by Stowe National Trust with a rather delayed lunch and guided walk for those who still had the energy.

Wendy Wagstaffe

Theatre Group Group Leaders – Ron & Kathy Meadows

Pretty Woman the Musical



Wednesday March 20th 2024

Cost between £74 -£79

Includes Theatre ticket (Circle seats), Coach ticket and Drivers Gratuity

Coach will leave Co Op at 9.45. Bus Station at 10.00

ETA for arrival at Milton Keynes 11.30, Show starts at 14.30

Time for lunch/ shopping

Theatre seat money £60 to be paid by 30th December. Payment details below, please do not pay until your place is confirmed.

Coach costs will be advised early January will not cost more than £19.

Please contact me if you would like to join this trip.

Kathy Meadows, St Ives Cambs U3A Theatre Trips.



Our Theatre Trip to see Sister Act at Southend

On Wednesday 13th September we were all off on the Coach to see Sister Act at Southend. My fingers were crossed that we would have sunny weather, the sun would shine and there would not be a traffic jam. It turned out brilliantly, no traffic jams and loads of time before show time. Coach dropped us outside the theatre which is very accessible theatre right on seafront. There were cafes nearby, and it was lovely having a walk along the prom, prior to the show. We also had a couple of people who joined us on the coach for a day out in Southend, which was good as filling the coach keeps the cost down for the trips. There was a bar inside, unfortunately it serves a gin and tonic in a plastic half pint vessel, not the best way to serve it! Like everywhere else there were the usual Loo Queues. The show was brilliant, very enjoyable and fun, I think everyone enjoyed it. As usual the coach was waiting outside theatre for us when we all came out.

The journey back was good, took a little bit of extra time as was rush hour in Southend, we were back in St Ives just gone seven, having had a fun day out.

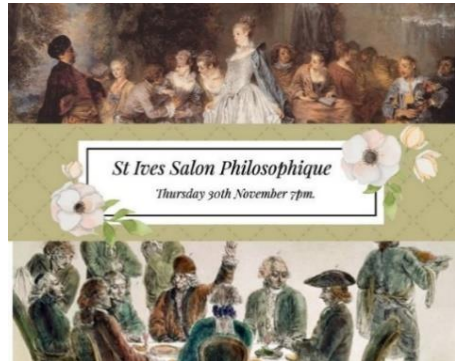


Thank you all for supporting our Theatre trips, please come back with any suggestions you may have, we will consider any ideas. The Spring Trip is to Milton Keynes, booking open for that now. If you want time in Milton Keynes and not go to the theatre let me know. Obviously will give preference to theatre goers but happy to fill coach. Contact me with any queries. Kathy Meadows.

Philosophy Group

Group Leader – Roy Moyser

After a glorious summer of Cultural visits, Pub afternoons, Booze in the Pews and Seminars, the Philosophy group, took up its winter quarters in the “snug” of the Pike and Eel this November. Over the festive season, we will be venturing out visiting the Cambridge arts theatre to see Macbeth, having a Christmas lunch in the Axe and Compass, visiting Ely Cathedral to hear Handel’s Messiah and we will also be reviving the vibe of the Paris Salon in St Ives.



Looking ahead, our seminars will continue focusing on the Philosophy of the Sciences and we will be planning excursions for next year. As far as possible we are living learning and having a smile when we can.



Spanish Conversation in St Ives

Leaders: Jenny Clarke and Joy Cooper.



This is a good excuse for a cup of ??? in the company of other Spanish enthusiasts We meet in a café- currently the Golden Lion - for a chat sometime between 12:00 and 2:00 on a Friday lunchtime. It is always a mystery who from our membership will turn up as all our members seem to like travelling!

Our life stories are long and varied and so our conversations are never predictable. Last week, as an example, our subjects ranged across 'Death and illegal burials, Travelling with ashes, modern mistakes in

English- especially adverbs!

Historical connections between different Mediterranean islands and their languages.

Eating fish and lobsters. Buying a carpet and services in Paris.

Snow!!

We could never

plan such a mix. Our conversations have a life of their own and wander from topic to topic. This is a couple of hours a week when we can meet friends to use and develop our Spanish, however limited. We help each other out and flow between Spanish and English as we need. Smart phone dictionaries come in very handy!

Lesley Pullen



A VIEW FROM THE FRONTLINE



Since joining the u3a St Ives Uke-Troupe, I have had the delight of playing with some wonderful Uke players with amazing singing, especially from the ladies. Led by Mark Taylor, we play a mix of songs from the old to the new. Would you believe you can play *'Breakfast in America'* (by Supertramp) on the Uke? It is always fun to try something new to add to the repertoire.



The group also play gigs, with the ever-growing set lists, to entertain the many venues which include care homes. This is always a pleasure to do, to see the smiling faces and foot tapping, and occasionally singalongs.

The group recently played at the St Ives Old Riverport Ukulele festival, now in its 3rd year. We played 5 songs, and within this set list, Joy played beautifully on her flute to California Dreaming (Mamas and Papas), and David with the excellent harmonica accompaniment to Dirty Old Town (The Pogues), and even my little banjolele came good with this great Irish tune.

So, to sum up, the u3a family has a great mix of people always welcoming, smiling, and enjoying the camaraderie with like-minded people.

Barry Reeves (Uke-Trouper)



STOP PRESS: Are there any bass players in St Ives U3A that would like to play bass with Uke Troupe?" If so, please contact Joy via the Uke-Troupe page on the website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/page/45099>



Italian Club Group Leader - Ann Jackson

We have a lot of fun when we meet for Italian Club in the upper room at the Methodist church on Thursdays. The room is equipped with a large screen and wi-fi so that it is possible to include those who cannot attend in person to join us on Zoom.



Run by Joy Cooper and Jenny Clarke, we cover reading, translation and pronunciation of scripts from Easy Italian News, 101 Conversations in Intermediate Italian, An Easy Italian Reader, etc, and random items on archaeology, music and celebrities and many more. We also try to improve our grammar in digestible chunks and Manu on 'Italian Made Easy' on You-Tube has proved extremely helpful. We are a mixed ability group, some attending formal Italian classes elsewhere and others with a language-based background, so that it is possible for all of us to contribute to the conversation. From time to time we meet up with a native Italian speaker for 'proper' Italian conversation over a cup of coffee.

In the summer and around Christmas we meet up for a suitably-themed Italian lunch.

For more information or to contact our leaders, please visit our page on the

u3a website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/page/117928> .

Jane Blunt



Painting for Pleasure Group Leader - Malcolm Bowd

A friendly, self-help group which meets twice monthly in the Corn Exchange. All abilities and mediums are encompassed and in each session there is a suggested topic, sometimes focussing on a particular technique.

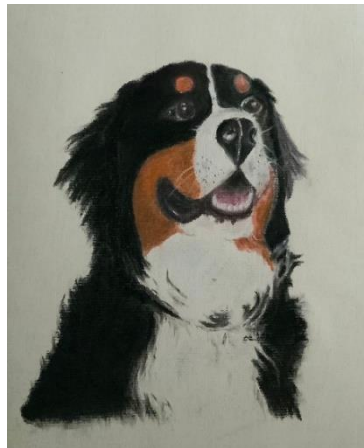


Examples of work -

Replicating a Great Master ... Vincent Van Gough's Irises in Mixed Media



From a pastel workshop, led by a member, portrait of a dog.



Leisure Walks Group

We walk the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Our walks are usually 2 - 3 miles max. and generally around the surrounding villages of St Ives e.g. Earith, Somersham, Ramsey, St Neots, Fenstanton, Godmanchester, Hemingfords.

We do use the guided bus occasionally to arrive at the start point, e.g. Fen Drayton lakes.

We start at 10.00 am and often end up in a coffee shop at the finish.

We currently have a listing of approx. 35 members and generally have 12 - 20 attending, but not always the same members.

Our walks are not generally quick as we regard this as social time for chatting and making new acquaintances, as well, of course, for exercise and to explore our local environment.

We also try to make the walk location relevant to seasonal weather conditions.

Obviously, we prefer to use country paths whenever possible, but if necessary we use village/town roads and pathways if required.

We communicate via emails and phones, giving at least a weeks' notice of the walk we intend to do, complete with starting point Post Codes.

Angela & Andrew Bouch



News from the Library

Look out for Engage events coming up in 2024. Lots to look forward to there. Donations are welcome to help cover costs of speakers etc.

Printing and photocopying available. Cash only. It is just 20p for A4 photocopying - a bit more for colour.

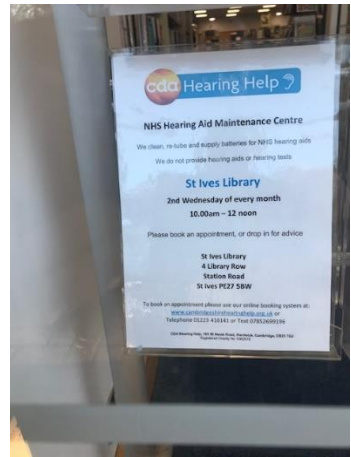
Free newspapers to read-only in your local Library. Grab a coffee from Waitrose and sit and enjoy a read in a peaceful and a warm environment.

We have an amazing amount of new Christmas books now on display, children's as well as adults'. Good reads are there to be had so, grab a book or two and enjoy indulging in a different world. "Which" reports (read-only) are there for your benefit. Please ask at the front desk. Hearing checks are available at the library.

Digital help is also available and it's best to book this amazing free service, especially as Christmas is coming, and those of you that get a new iPad or laptop for a pressie (lucky people) can get very good help to educate yourself with web services and also Facetime family.

Fantastic Fiction is a great website. Have a look. For those who are partially sighted, we have Talking Books to rent out - a very good selection of most genres.

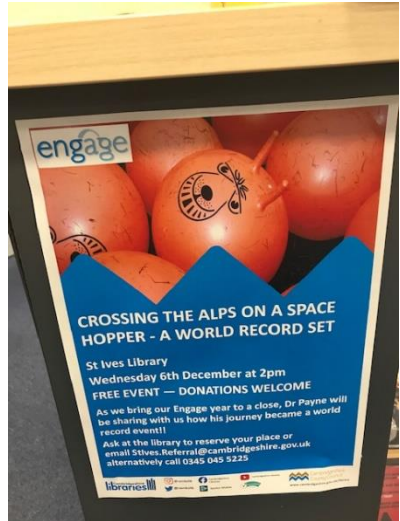
Rooms to rent for events. Please enquire at the front desk for prices and availability.



Book clubs - we have over 20+ book clubs. Come and join us for a good read and discussion.

Bus pass renewals or want to have your first Bus Pass? We can do that for you at our library, but its best to book an appointment. It only takes around 5 to 10 mins and, again - it is free. A brilliant service for you all.

New Year - we aim to start a Men-only coffee/tea/morning and introduce men to a possible new book club. You will not need to join anything just come along and see what else is out there. Maybe a New Year's Resolution to expand your reading material and your lifestyle, engage with new books and meet up with like-minded men?



We would like some comments if you might be interested so feedback, whether negative or positive would be very helpful. You can give feedback to the staff on the front desk.

Online facilities are worth looking at, especially to see what is on at your local Library. Also, you can extend your library loans and pay any overdue fees as well.

Library access - you will be able to access your library with Open+ during the festive break. Please ask at the desk for exact times that you can use this facility over the festive period.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Very Peaceful New Year.
Jeff Heather



Potential Book Group - call for joint group leader

Hello, I am interested in launching a Book Group within St Ives u3a. This would meet monthly (no specific day in mind yet). The idea would be to read mainly 'classics' from the 19th and 20th centuries, so nothing from the new millennium. Not necessarily always really highbrow stuff, e.g. *Frankenstein* or *King Solomon's Mines* would fit the bill just as well as Hardy or Orwell. There would be a limit on page length - nothing over 400 pages (so no *Bleak House!*). We would include American novelists and also foreign classics in translation. Possibly volumes of plays as well if this appeals (Pinter, Ibsen ...).

At this stage I am just looking for a joint group leader to help run this group, entirely as an equal. The reason is that I already run several groups and simply could not do this full time. If you would be willing to help run this group, please email me, Bruce Hanworth, at bruce.hanworth@gmail.com. For the time being, please do not email me with expressions of interest to join this potential group as I am merely looking for a joint group leader at the moment.

If you are interested in joining a group, becoming a group leader, or have an idea for a new interest group, speak to Brian Gilmour, Chairman, at the open meeting or contact him by email: chairstivesu3a@btinternet.com or telephone: 07984487226

Our next issue will be a Reminder for January. Any items for inclusion to be with the editors by 17th December please.

Merry Christmas to all our Members

Your Committee

Chairman – Brian Gilmour
Treasurer – Pat James
Secretary – Sheila Louth
Vice-chairman – Roy Moyser
Membership Secretary – Pat James
Beacon Organizer – Joy Cooper
Reception – Jeff Heather
Reception – Gill Roberts
Group Coordinator – TBA
Assistant Group Coordinator – Bruce Hanworth
Theatre Trips – Kathy Meadows
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).

Groups	
Art Appreciation – Your Way	Local & Social History
Art Club	Music Appreciation
Badminton	Needlecraft
Birdwatching Group 1	Outings
Birdwatching Group 2	Painting for Pleasure
Canasta	Petanque

Country Dancing	Philosophy
Craft in the Conservatory	Poetry
Country Walks	Science & Technology
Cribbage	Scrabble
Current Affairs	Shakespeare Appreciation
Digital Photography	Singing 4 Pleasure
French Advanced	Sketchbook Art
French Fiction	Social Bowls
French Intermediate 1	Spanish Conversation
French Intermediate 2	Spanish Fiction
German Intermediate	Spanish Intermediate
Greetings Card Making	Swedish Beginners
Guitar Club	Table Tennis 1
Indoor Bowls	Table Tennis 2
Italian Club	The Painters
Italian Elementary	Theatre Trips
Italian Improvers	Uke-Troupe
Leisure Walks	

Information on times can be found on St Ives Cambs Website
<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs>

