

For more information about everything u3a see our website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/>)



Dear u3a Member

Reminder & Information for February 2024

Next Open Meeting

This is to remind you that the next **St. Ives u3a Open Meeting** will be held at the Corn Exchange on **Thursday 8th February 1.30 for 2.00pm.** Our speaker is **Alan Gray**, on the **Subject:** "You Can't Be Serious: Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire."

An Important Message from our Beacon Administrator

Thank you to all who supported our last two musical open meetings so enthusiastically. Several members took photos and videos of the Christmas entertainment. A few photos have been posted on our website, but before we advertise links to the videos, on the website and in next month's magazine, we'd like to check that no-one who was at that meeting, either as a performer or in the audience, would have any objection. Some of the videos include wider shots of the audience – though the vast majority are backs of heads! However, if you were at that meeting and would have any objection, please let me know before 9 February. Thank you.

Joy Cooper (Email: beaconadmstivesu3a@gmail.com or 01480 493523)

Diary Date for Group Leaders:

Group leader meeting to be held on Monday 29 January at 2pm in the hall at the Methodist Church on The Waits.

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).

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

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 12.00pm (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

Thursday 18th April 2024 Warwick Castle

Warwick Castle is a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror during 1068. There are daily free talks and tours, other attractions and entertainment during your visit.

Entrance Ticket includes Access to castle, grounds and attractions

(Please note the Castle Dungeon, an optional extra attraction, inside Warwick Castle is **not included** in your ticket). Two cafes on site

Cost £40 pp. (this includes, Entrance Ticket, Dews Coach, and driver's gratuity)

(Payment due on or before 14th March 2024)

Theatre Outings - Group Leaders – Kathy & Ron Meadows

Wednesday March 20th 2024 Pretty Woman the Musical

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

Wednesday 29th May 2024 Dixieland Jazz and Lunch Matinee trip

The Storyville Steamer Jazz Band will provide the Dixieland music with singer

Onboard TEREZA JOANNE. Static Boat, London's Royal Dock Greenwich.

Coach will leave St Ives by 9.30. Board Boat at 11.30/11.45

Lunch details available shortly. There will be a Gluten Free and Vegetarian option available.

The onboard bar will be open for us to purchase drinks.

Schedule for Day

12.00pm Main Course at 12.00 1.00pm Storyville Steamer Jazz Band music

2.00pm Dessert and Tea or coffee 2.30pm Storyville Steamer Jazz Band Music

3.15pm Show ends 3.30pm Use facilities

Depart from boat and our coach will be waiting for us.

The Cost for this trip will be between £63-£68pp More details will be put on here very soon.

Contact me if you would like to join the trip via the website or at the Open Meeting.

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 six weeks prior to the trip. (Bookings made within six weeks should be paid ASAP).

From our Web Manager

Our website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/>) has changed quite a bit in recent months. The main pages (Welcome, Groups, News/Events, Membership, Contacts, Committee) have all been updated and, I hope, made more useful. There are more resources, links and pictures for you to explore (just a click away!), and many groups have updated their pages.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, or want to understand better how to use the website, please contact me and I would be delighted to help.

Peter Cooper (peter@pcooper.me.uk - or via the website's Contact page).

Plea for Help

Is there anybody in our U3A who does book binding? The reason being that I have inherited a photograph album from an aunt, the photos going back to the early 1900s.

Unfortunately, it needs repair as pages have come adrift.

My contact is David Birkert 90 Needingworth Road, St Ives. Tel 01480 468037. Email birkert78rpm@hotmail.com

David Birkert

New Groups

In our last magazine I asked for people with any technical computer skills to contact me. Thank you to those of you have come forward. As a result I have formed two new groups (Website Editors and IT Support). More people are needed - the main skills required are the ability to edit documents, and learn (no programming is necessary!). Details of the groups and how to contact me can be found on our website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/>) under Groups.

Peter Cooper, Web Manager

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; Golf; Geology; 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)

Articles for the March Magazine should be sent to us by 17th February please.

Sue & John Ralph