Learn Laugh Live

u3a Daventry & District

Newsletter November 2026

#122

Thoughts From Our Chairman...

We continue to take opportunities to promote our u3a and had a productive time at the Stronger Together event held at the iCon centre. As a result, we have been invited to make a presentation to a forum of general medical practitioners and social prescribers to raise awareness about our u3a.

In addition, we were represented at the over 55 Advice & Information event hosted by Stuart Andrew MP.

More relevant contacts were made with organisations keen to know more and promote what we do to some of their clients.

Enjoy our latest newsletter.

William Philpott, Chairman





The Military Outside Weedon Depot -
Doreen Addicott

At this month's meeting, Doreen gave a very interesting presentation on the military establishment and activities around the Weedon Depot.



The site had its origins in the Military Ordnance Depot established there in 1805. By 1919, it was also the home of the Royal Artillery Riding. In December 1922, the Royal Artillery Riding Establishment amalgamated with the Cavalry School, previously based in Wiltshire, to form the Army School of Equitation at Weedon

The choice of location gave an area with good riding country, in the heart of England, served not only by the Grand Union Canal and the Weedon railway station, but also by a branch line to the military depot. The school came to be seen as the leading centre of British horsemanship and was described as "the Mecca of cavalrymen throughout the Empire".



Doreen was able to share many fascinating pictures and videos of the site and the activities, particularly those of the Equitation school.

Some evidence of the historic site can still be found in Weedon today.



The school played a pivotal role in revolutionising British riding styles, championing the "forward seat" jumping technique, and even training the bronze-medal-winning British equestrian team for the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

While the historic military school closed in 1940, its legacy is preserved at the Visitors Centre in Weedon Depot. If you are looking to learn more about its history, or if you would like to volunteer, please go along or contact Doreen and the team:

The Depot Visitor Centre, The Depot, Weedon Bec, Northampton NN7 4PS
Tel: 01327 226 812
Email: visitorscentre@the-depot.uk
Website: weedonvc.uk

Coming Up.....

November 19th 2026
The Sound Of Their Music - Rodgers & Hammerstein—Steve Dimmer

The most successful songwriting partnership of all time is examined in all its melodic glory.

Steve traces the team's progress from their first hit, Oklahoma and onward to Carousel, South Pacific, The King and I, and of course, The Sound of Music. But did you know there are many other musicals penned by Rodgers and Hammerstein? This talk looks at those as well.



At The Going Down Of The Sun.....



And In The Morning.....





November 110 Years Ago.....

The Somme offensive ended in mud and snow on November 18, 1916, after 141 days of continuous operations. The preparatory bombardment that opened the battle on July 1 had fired 1,732,873 shells over seven days, the largest artillery expenditure in history to that point, but it failed to cut the German lines or destroy the deep dugouts the Germans had built into the chalk subsoil of the Picardy ridge. The British Fourth Army under General Henry Rawlinson suffered 57,470 casualties on July 1 alone, the bloodiest day in British Army history.



Overall, the human losses exceeded 420,000 British Empire, 200,000 French, and 465,000 German casualties for a maximum advance of roughly seven miles.

The Somme did not break the German army as Haig had hoped. Still, it did inflict unsustainable attritional losses on the German field forces and accelerated the development of the industrialised combined-arms methods, artillery-infantry cooperation, armour, air support, and logistics, that shaped the last two years of the war.

90 Years Ago.....

On November 2, 1936, the BBC officially launched the world's first regular "high-definition" television service from Alexandra Palace, featuring an opening ceremony and a variety show.
It is estimated that just 100 viewers tuned in.
Broadcasts then ran for two hours each day, split into the afternoon session from 3 pm to 4 pm and then in the evening from 9 pm to 10 pm.



'Month Name Quiz'

Here are 8 questions. The answer to each begins with the letter of the month next to the question.

N **A popular snack dish consists of heated tortilla chips covered with melted cheese and often served with jalapeños and salsa?**

O **An intelligent, soft-bodied sea creature that has the remarkable ability to squeeze through tiny spaces?**

V **An ABBA hit**

E **A plant, commonly known as coneflower, is a hardy perennial celebrated for its daisy-like flowers and medicinal properties.**

M **A translucent creamy white stone which seems to glow.**

B **A tiny and remote kingdom nestling in the Himalayas between its powerful neighbours, India and China.**

E **Front man of Derek & The Dominoes,**

R **Who was the actual leader of the Gunpowder Plot?**



Answers on Page 10



TREASONOUS INTENT...

Beneath the streets of London town,
Where shadows dance, and arches frown,
A silent figure guards the dark,
To change the kingdom with a spark.

With thirty-six great barrels laid,
The deadly, silent trap is made.
A lantern dim, a single match,
To burn the fuse and lift the latch.

He waited for the fateful hour,
To challenge kings and strip their power.
But whispered words and letters sent,
Revealed the treasonous intent.

The guards advanced, the plot undone,
Before the rising of the sun.
They seized the man who held the light,
And dragged him screaming from the night.

Now centuries have passed away,
Yet we recall that fateful day.
With crackling fires and rockets bright,
We burn the "Guy" on Bonfire Night



Important Message.....

Social Secretary, Barbara Wood

More and more emphasis is being placed on men's health in the media, and so for our '***Movember'*** coffee shop service you will find we have an all-male team!!



It really is important at this time in our life to ensure we stay as fit and healthy as we can, and this includes check-ups if you have any new aches and pains (yes, I know we all have!!) that are causing you concern.

This Year's u3a

Christmas Party

On December 17th

Will feature the fabulous
Roger Prescott's Juke Box Jury.
And here's your chance to be a judge
on this Iconic show.



As you will know, the show invited 4 judges to decide whether a 'recording' would be a 'Hit' or a 'Miss'.
Sometimes the judges were right, and sometimes they were terribly wrong, but it was all very entertaining!

If you are interested in being a judge at the Christmas Party and sharing your expertise on the music scene,
or just fancy having some fun, please speak to any Committee Member, or send an email to : daventryu3a@gmail.com

Motoring Group on Manoeuvres!!
Barbara Wood

From Our Groups....

For our October visit, we ventured out to the Armageddon Military Museum in Husbands Bosworth. After obtaining our coffees, we watched some of the vehicles being moved around outside in preparation for visitors booked on rides.



Once we had all arrived, we continued to the collection, which included tanks and vehicles used in war-themed movies such as Saving Private Ryan, Band of Brothers and Evita, and was much larger than we had anticipated. It was spread over several very large hangars as well as outside. It was easy to move around the displays, some of which still had the mud from their last outing embedded in the tracks.

Regrettably, they didn't find any gold bars in the fuel tanks!! There was the opportunity to handle rifles as used in the wars and see collections of knives, hand grenades and documents.

There was even a Parisian street scene with newspapers from the era – mainly the English Daily Mirror, Express, etc. Back at reception, there was a small collection of items for sale, including Lego-type construction kits of tanks and small military figures. Lego itself do not make any war-type kits or figurines. We then ventured outside to see a further collection of tanks, a fire engine, a rocket launcher and large artillery guns.









All in all, it was a very interesting day, only slightly spoilt by a steady downpour, something so far our outings had avoided. On enquiring whether there was a good pub nearby, a quick phone call was made on our behalf and a table was reserved at The Fox at Foxton Locks, where most of us continued for a very tasty lunch.

Our next planned gathering is at Gaydon Motor Museum for a Christmas Lunch on 10th December at noon. There are still a couple of places left if you are interested.

Bridge Group... Brian Donkersley

The Bridge Group will meet again at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday in November (12th), at Daventry Golf Club on Norton Rd.

As always, the session will cost those attending £2, with tea/coffee costing £1 and bar drinks available on request.

The offering is a fun afternoon playing Bridge with both experienced and new players, so all are welcome.

Anyone requiring more information, please contact me by e-mail at brinflow@btinternet.com or by phone at 01327 437036.

Looking forward to another good afternoon with the odd Grand Slam.....



Golf Group... Jackie Ray

Thanks to those who attended on 23 October 2026 and we were lucky to have the use of the simulator given the weather conditions!
The next session will be at 10am on Friday 27 November 2026

There will be the usual options:-
1. Play 9 holes of golf
2. Use of the simulator/putting green/driving range.

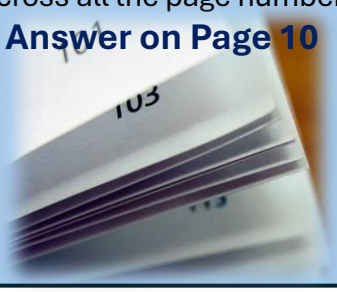
Please get in touch if you are interested in joining the group and enjoying some golf, or learning the game.



Just Think About It.....

A book has pages numbered 1 to 100.
How many times does the digit 9 appear across all the page numbers?

Answer on Page 10



MOTO Group... Terry Richards

On October 22nd, six members of the MOTO group went ten-pin bowling at Strikes Social in The Clock Tower centre in Rugby and had a brilliant session. It was in the old Dunelm shop, which has been converted for bowling, darts, shuffleboard and indoor golf, with a long bar for drinks, tea, or coffee.





On the other side, there is a soft play area for little ones and a cafe. It all proved to make a great get-together, and there are other automatic game machines. Two of us started by playing a game of air hockey with great amusement. We think it is great value and a really good use of the space and will definitely be going again.



New Experiences & Adventures.....

Sandra Fawcett

On Tuesday 13th October 2026, 9 very curious and excited members arrived at The Courtyard in The Depot for our introduction to PICKLEBALL.



We were met by our coaches ; Mark, Alan and Kunaal. The history of the game was explained – started in America -together with the techniques, rules and how to score.



Then we practised the various strokes under the watchful eyes of our coaches. Finally, we were let loose on the courts to play. There was lots of laughter, groans and cheering each other on.



All too soon it was time to put away our equipment and say “goodbye” to our wonderful and patient coaches.

Pickleball was certainly a revelation and a game that can be played socially or competitively.



Natural History Group.....

Richard Piner

Here are a few pictures from our October walk around Boddington Reservoir on a bright, sunny day. After our walk, we called at the Bluebell Cafe in Badby for a hot drink and a snack.

Pictures courtesy: Steve Hupfield



Chicory

Lesser black backed gull





Pheasant

Robin’s pincushion (a wasp gall)





Mute Swan

Black-Headed Gull



History Group.....
William Philpott

1605 is perhaps one of the best known dates in English history along with 1066. Angela Adams and Will Philpott delivered an illustrated talk about the gunpowder plot.



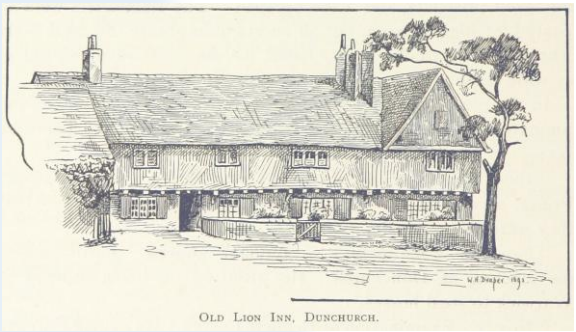
Although a national story, it was in particular in two midland counties where the core, both geographically and religiously of what became known as the gunpowder plot, was instigated.



Indeed, the 'plotters' were drawn from a narrow collection of influential catholic families primarily based in, or with connections to Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.



The talk explored key locations and characters involved in events which, if successful, could have dramatically changed the course of British history.


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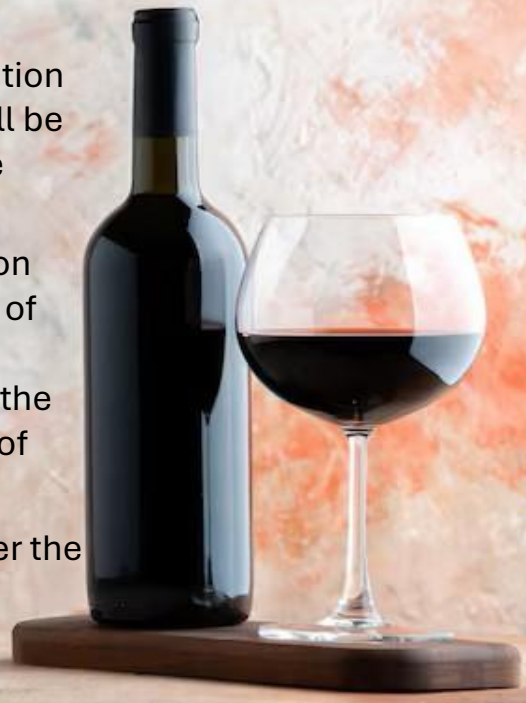


Wine Appreciation Group.....

The next gathering of the Wine Appreciation Group is on Friday 20th November. It will be held in the Daventry Community Centre Coffee Lounge, starting at 2:00.

Mike will be giving us a talk and tasting on French Red wines. There will be a range of nibbles to accompany the wine tasting. And any remaining wine will be put into the free raffle that will be drawn at the end of the meeting.

There is a cost of £5.00 per head to cover the cost of wine, nibbles and room hire.
All are welcome.



With Pride.....

On Remembrance Day, the poppies sway,
As quiet hearts remember the day.
We honour those who served with pride,
And keep their courage by our side.



'Month Name Quiz'

The Answers.....

Nacho's
Octopus
Voulez Vous
Moonstone
Echinacea
Bhutan
Eric Clapton
Robert Catesby

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 10.30AM

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Departing from outside Argos on Daventry High Street, at 10.30am for the War Memorial, where the Remembrance Service will take place. Church service in the Holy Cross Church afterwards at 11.30am - all welcome.

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 11AM

ARMISTICE SERVICE

Meet at the gazebo at the top of Sheaf Street (outside the Post Office) as we mark Armistice Day.

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Follow us for updates

Just Think About It ...The Answer!

It shows up in the units place ten times (9, 19, 29 ... 99) and in the tens place ten times (90 to 99). That is 20, and 99 rightly gets counted twice.



Daventry & District u3a
Activity & Interest Groups

Free for members to join
(Although some activities may have associated costs).

Our groups are the lifeblood of the u3a so, why not consider joining or forming a group to further your interest and meet like-minded members.

Frequency Key: M = Monthly F = Fortnightly W = Weekly 9M	Frequency	Day	Time
Acoustics	W	Mon	PM
Alternative Book Group	M	Thurs	AM
Any Crafts Will Do	F	Mon	PM
Art Appreciation	M	Tue	PM
Art For Pleasure	F	Tue	AM
BakeXChange	M	Fri	PM
Bird Watching / Nature	M	Thurs	AM/PM
Book Group	M	Tue	PM
Bridge	M	Thurs	PM
Climate Change	M	Thurs	PM
Creative Writing	M	Wed	AM
Cribbage	F	Fri	PM
Current Affairs	Third Wed Of The Month		PM
Folk Dancing	W	Thurs	AM
French Conversation 1	F	Wed	PM
French Conversation 2	F	Wed	PM
Garden Vistas & Views	M	Fri	Day
Golf	M	Fri	AM
History I	M	4th Wed	PM
MOTO (Members On Their Own)	Meet On Various Days		

Frequency Key: M = Monthly F = Fortnightly W = Weekly	Frequency	Day	Time
Motoring	M	Tue	AM
New Experiences	Activity Dependent		
Philosophy	M	Tue	AM
Photography For Pleasure	M	Tue	PM
Rambles (4-6 Miles)	M	Mon	AM
Reading Shakespeare 1	M	Fri	AM
Reading Shakespeare 2	M	Mon	PM
Rummikub 1	M	3rd Wed	AM
Rummikub 2	M	Wed	Eve
Rummikub 3	M	Tue	PM
Rummikub 4	M	3rd Wed	PM
Scrabble	M	1st Mon	PM
Spanish Conversation	F	Mon	PM
Spanish Conversation (Basic)	F	Wed	PM
Supper Club	M	Wed	Eve
The Art Of Painting	F	Wed	PM
The Stories In My Life	M	Thurs	PM
Virtual Book Group	M	Tue	Day
Weekenders	M	Sat/Sun	AM/PM
Wine Appreciation	Bi-Monthly	Various Days	PM

No group is ever 'FULL', there may be a waiting list until there is room, or another group is started.

For information about any of the above groups email Brenda Mills on: u3agroupsdaventry@gmail.com

To contact the editor of the monthly newsletter with all your comments, news and photos:
daventryu3a.newsletter@gmail.com