

# April 2026 Newsletter

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Welcome to the fourth 2026 issue of the Kidsgrove and District u3a Newsletter. If you have any items you would like to be considered for future publications please forward details to our secretary by email: [u3amemsecst7@outlook.com](mailto:u3amemsecst7@outlook.com)

## MEMEBERSHIP RENEWAL

IMPORTANT Your annual membership is now due for renewal. If you've not already done so can you please complete and return your renewal notice as soon as possible.

## NEW WEB SITE



We have a new web site with full details of all our groups and contacts.

Click on this link to see more <https://kidsgrove.u3asite.uk>

It might take 3 or 4 weeks before it appears on a Google search but the more people who click this link will help us to get noticed by Google.

## COMMITTEE VACANCY



We are looking for someone to join our committee as Events Co-ordinator as Sharon, who has fulfilled the post for the past 5 years, has resigned to spend more time on family commitments.

We would like to thank Sharon for all the time she has given to the u3a.

The Events co-ordinator will need to book the speakers, preferably by email, for the monthly meetings and agree all the arrangements. We have a crib sheet available packed with ideas for prospective speakers.

It could be a once a month task, finding a speaker 6 months in advance or it can all be done more than 6 months in advance. Speakers are already booked for the remainder of 2026 and a couple for 2027.

There will be plenty of help available from other committee members. Anyone interested please email Hilary on [u3amemsecst7@outlook.com](mailto:u3amemsecst7@outlook.com)

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## MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month in the Working Men's Club (formerly the Masonic Hall) starting at 1.30pm. All members are welcome.

Last month we were entertained by Paul Lillie who gave an illustrated musical talk about the life of Elvis from his childhood, through his music and film career. Paul is very talented, he sang a number of Elvis songs, played his guitar and throughout his unique presentation Elvis gradually came to life on a large canvas.



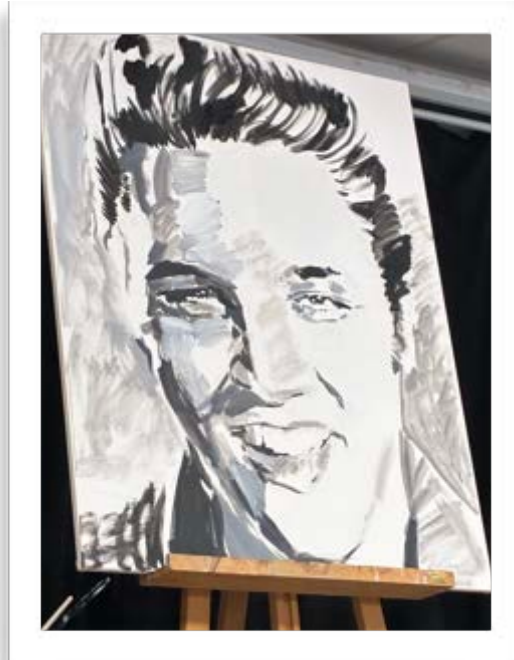
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Everyone agreed what an enjoyable afternoon we had and we all hope Paul will be invited back to Kidsgrove u3a again as he offers a number of different illustrated musical talks.

Watch this space!

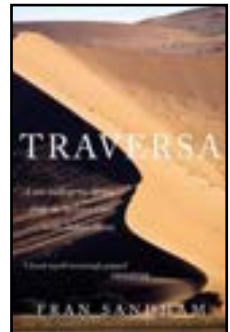
## ***The finished portrait***



## **Future events:**

28th April - Fran Sandham talking about his book "Traversa: A solo walk across Africa"

Inspired by the great explorers, Fran left the daily grind of London to undertake an extraordinary adventure. 'Traversa' is the funny and engaging story of his epic 3,000-mile walk across an entire continent, from Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar.



26th May - Presentation about Thomas and Samuel Peploe Wood, local Staffordshire artists/sculptors.

30th June - return visit by Rodney Paul who has a keen interest in the Antarctic. He previously told us about Penguins, this time his talk is entitled 'The Coldest Place on Earth'.

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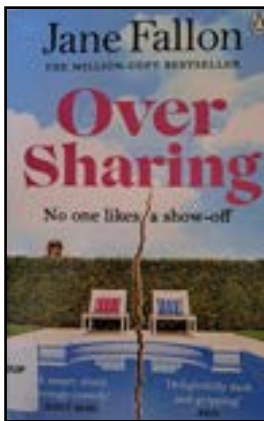
## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### BOOK GROUP

We meet on the last Friday morning of the month at 10.00am at Kidsgrove Library. At the moment the group is unable to accept new members due to book availability at the library but if you are interested in joining please contact Barbara who will put you on a waiting list.

Last month's book was "The Trouble with Goats and Sheep", the story of a missing neighbour and the two schoolgirls who determine to solve the mystery during the hot summer of 1976. The book prompted a lively debate, as some members struggled to finish the story, and felt the tale meandered a little too much, whilst some enjoyed it enough to read twice, and therefore picked up on detail that may have been missed by rushing through it. Proof that everyone gets something different from a book!

This month's chosen book is: "Over Sharing, No one likes a show-off"



A hilarious and sharply written new novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author.

Social influencer Maddy's life is picture perfect. Iris knows Maddy as the woman who broke up her marriage. Her whole world was turned upside down and she can't bear the hypocrisy. There's one thing that might bring back Iris's happiness, taking away Maddy's... Revenge, however, is best served up close and personal. Iris needs to get know to Maddy. Which is when things get very messy indeed . . .

### CRAFT GROUP

We meet weekly every Monday afternoon at 1.00pm at Butt Lane Community Centre.

The group have been busy this month finishing off their Easter creations and more knitted/crochet squares.

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We recently sent a batch of squares to the Nightingale Cancer Support Centre. If you have any odd balls or bits of wool please contact Pat via the link on our new website.

## Crocheted Squares

Hi Tracey

I've just received your parcel of crocheted squares. Thank you so much and please pass on our thanks to your Group. We are very appreciative.

Thanks

Kind regards

Sue Zaidman  
Centre Facilitator  
The Nightingale Cancer Support Centre  
187a Baker Street  
Enfield  
EN1 3JT



## CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

We meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of each month at 2.00pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall.

The writing group met in the Refreshment Room at the Town Hall, on April 14th. Seven members attended. It was a good meeting with all members reading. Lively discussions followed particularly on writing about grandparents. How do we remember them? Our experience as children could give a different perspective as we think back as an adult.

It was a new venue which was an improvement as regards parking and disabled access.

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## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We meet weekly every Tuesday Morning at 11.00am at Kidsgrove Library.

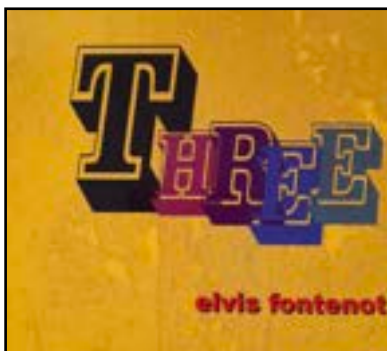
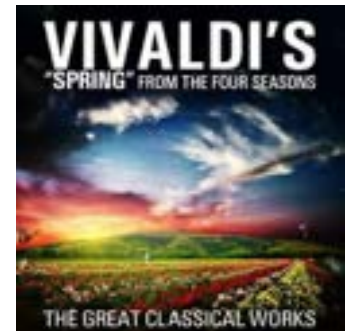
This month we continued with 'A Reminiscence of a Colliers Life' and after a break for the Easter Holidays we've started to look at the history of the Lawton Estate, the Church and Lawton Hall.

## MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

We meet fortnightly at 1.30pm at 36 Ravenscliffe Road.

18.3.26

St Patrick's day was a couple of days ago so the music had a definite Celtic feel to it this week, with a few Irish instrumentals and songs, such as 'Take me Home Again Kathleen' and 'The Irish Rover'. We also threw in some pop (T Rex and Doobie Brothers) and classic Roy Orbison, and, to celebrate the improvement in the weather, (or not), Spring from Vivaldis Four Seasons.



1.4.26

A smaller group this week favoured a bit of Elvis following the 'talk and draw and sing' at our monthly meeting the previous day. A local cajun band, Elvis Fontenot, provided a cheerful track "I Don't Want to Grow Up" and kept the theme going. We then enjoyed a few classical pieces from Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's Sonata and Rimsky-Korsakov's Snow Maiden, some pop from Adam Faith and AHA, before ending with another from "the King of rock and roll".

## PHILOSOPHY GROUP

We meet weekly every Thursday morning at 10.00am at Butt Lane Community Centre.

This month's discussions have, as always, led to lively debate. We considered whether Society is the source of values. Many people wonder how they should live their lives, what makes life worth living? Which goals and values are important? Are you a Functionalist or Moral Theist? Both Functionalists and Theists agree that

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morality is a set of rules but they disagree on the basis or source of the rules. Last week we considered current theories for Creation and although there were differing opinions everyone remained friends.

Two new members have been welcomed into our group this month and another lady is due to join us in the next couple of weeks. For more information contact Julie Salisbury 0748 4846 334.

## QUIZ GROUP

We meet every 4 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm at Butt Lane Community Centre.

This month's quiz was held at the Butt Lane Community Centre on 8th April. The winning team were 'The Communists' consisting of Wendy, Melanie and Colin with a score 99 points and the team who came in second place, with just 2 points less, were 'The Know Ideas'.



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The answers to last month's brain teasers are as follows:

1. What is the name of the highest waterfall in the world? - *Angel Falls*
2. Marie Antoinette was married to which King? - *Louis 16<sup>th</sup> of France*
3. What kind of creature would be tended by an Apiarist? - *Bees*
4. How many hearts does an Octopus have? - *3*
5. Name the 7 deadly sins - *Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Wrath, Sloth*

This months brain teasers are below and the answers will be in next month's newsletter:

1. Who invented the famous Bouncing Bomb?
2. In the 1960's sitcom Steptoe and Son what was the name of their horse?
3. Before decimalisation how many old pennies were there in £3 7s 6d?
4. Which of these Mediterranean Islands is the smallest in area?  
Minorca, Corfu, Sicily, Cyprus
5. Who was the first man to reach the South Pole?

The next quiz will be on 6th May, if you can answer these questions it would be good to see you commencing at 1.30pm.

## TAI CHI GROUP

We meet weekly every Wednesday morning at 10.00am at Kidsgrove Town Hall.

The aim of this group is to do gentle, slow movements to improve balance, stability and flexibility, improve breathing and well being. The first part of the class focuses on gentle Tai Chi exercises followed by a short yoga section and finishing with the Chen style 18th form Tai Chi.



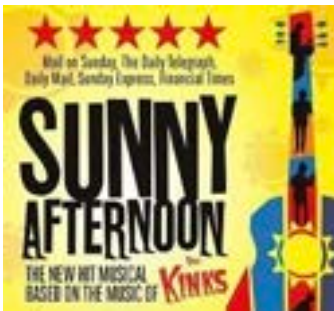
It's pretty much a set routine of gentle exercises a little yoga followed by the tai chi sequence so not a group that has much to report on a monthly basis but anyone is welcome to join whatever their ability.

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## THEATRE GROUP

This month members of the group have been to The Regent Theatre to see Sunny Afternoon, The Kinks and The New Vic Theatre to see Good Golly Miss Molly which were both excellent shows. Here are a couple of reviews.

### Sunny Afternoon, The Kinks



*"It was brilliant, very entertaining. Actors/musicians good likeness to original Ray and Dave and sang all their hits extremely well."*

### Good Golly Miss Molly

A group of 15 went to see Good Golly Miss Molly. It was a thoroughly enjoyable musical show, with a lot of clever references to the local area. The story saw the cast members trying to save their street from demolition and in the process reunited a band from the past and culminating in an event at the local community centre. The performers were all excellent musicians and singers in their own right and we were treated to a number of hit songs from the era.



## UKULELE GROUP

We meet weekly every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at Butt Lane Community Centre.

We have an enjoyable session each week with an average of around 18 members. Our aim is to improve our playing and singing, along with a break for tea, biscuits and a natter. Popular songs this month have been 'Doo Wah Diddy', 'Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain' and a more up to date 'When You Say Nothing At All' by Boyzone.



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## WALKING GROUPS

### SUNDAY STROLLERS



Sunday strollers have walked around Tunstall Park, (where there was a small wedding event on) and Westport Lake.

Finally now the ground was less muddy, we checked in with Chris and Kevin at Leg o' Mutton pool. New steps have been installed, a security camera too. The small boathouse was in use. All after which ☕ and 🍰 rounded up our morning.

### BATHPOOL STROLLERS

We meet every Wednesday morning at 10.00am on the car park at Bathpool Park.

### LONGER WALKS



The *Intrepids* have had a another busy month initially with a sunny morning tramping around Congleton and Astbury ending with a hearty lunch at The Queens Head and then the following week deeper into Cheshire with a walk starting at the lake in Nantwich and following the 'Nantwich Circular' along the Shropshire Union Canal and the river Weaver, still a bit muddy underfoot.

The second half of the month saw them back in Staffordshire, initially with a short walk starting, and ending, at The Chatterley Whitfield circumnavigating Tunstall Park passing along Sunnyside Avenue full of Cherry Tree Blossom.



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The next walk took them to Newcastle and a walk around Silverdale and Apedale.

Last walk of the month took them back into Cheshire, starting at the Blue Bell in Smallwood, 5.8 miles through the countryside passing the large sand quarry.



**NO NEWSLETTER NEXT MONTH - BACK AGAIN IN JUNE**