

This month join us at our Open Meeting  
on

**Tuesday 2nd April**  
**10.00 am at The Arena**  
**Ilkeston**

We will be welcoming our speaker:

**Bryan Naylor**  
**with his talk on**  
**Heage Windmill**

Doors open at 9.45 am  
Refreshments available

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### Coming soon to our Open Meetings

7th May: Eric Boulton speaking about Ecclesbourne Railway

4th June: Volunteers Week plus Liz Woledge speaking about Royal Crown Derby

2nd July: Andy Williams from Tean Valley Meadows—Talk & DVD showing the development and success of the nature reserve in attracting varied birds and wildlife

6th August: Gerald Price—an illustrated talk on the Woodland Trust and the importance of woodlands

### \*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*

**Please note:** All those attending the monthly meetings must sign in at either of the two desks at the entrance to the meeting hall of The Arena. This is necessary so that we know how many have attended and, even more important, **it is required to comply with fire regulations.** If you arrive early, before the signing-in sheet is available, please make sure you return to the desk later to sign in.

Find us on  
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1226535837801301>

## Letter from the Chair



### **Hello Members!**

Don't you think that as we herald in the start of Spring and revel in the warmer, sunnier days, it is so pleasant to see the trees and shrubs sprouting and the daffodils waving their golden trumpets everywhere, such promise this season brings!

March has been another good month at Ilkeston u3a. I'd like to welcome our newest members, Alison and Lilian, and wish you much fun and interesting activities with your membership.

Thank you to all the members who attended our AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> March, and a special welcome to our two new Committee Members, Annette and Russell. There's more about the new committee further in the newsletter.

The New Members Coffee Morning, held at The Observatory, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March was a great success. It was lovely to see so many people there, we took over quite an area of the pub! We will be holding regular get-togethers such as this in the future, so watch out for the dates and venues and we look forward to seeing you there.

One of the things we talked briefly about at the new members event was the lack of activities during evenings, or at the weekend. How do members feel about that? Would you be interested in attending something outside of our usual weekday calendar? If you have any ideas for an interest group, or would be interested in attending something in the evening or at the weekend, please let any Committee Member know. Thank you.

Looking ahead we have some exciting events coming up. The day trip with the Garden Group to see the Tulips in Bloom at Spalding on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April may still have some spaces on the coach if you would like to go. Please contact Barbara either at the April Open Meeting or through the Garden Group website contact form.

In June we are planning a special celebration to acknowledge and thank all our wonderful Group Leaders and other Volunteers, so watch this space on that one!

And during July the first ever u3a Festival will be held in York over the three days 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July. Although the committee are disappointed that details of the programme are still not available after many months of anticipation, I am sure there will be an exciting and varied range of activities. When we receive the details we will let you all know.

Take care everyone, looking forward to seeing all who can make it at April Open Meeting.

**Christine Keighley, Chair**

## Please welcome your 2024-25 Committee

At the AGM nine Ilkeston u3a members offered to stand for the Committee until March 2025. Seven members of the previous Committee agreed to stand for another year and two new members, Annette and Russell joined them to enlarge the team. All nominees were unanimously agreed by the members present at the meeting.

Unfortunately, since then Russell has had to withdraw from the Committee but we thank him for his support and wish him well.



### So here is your new Committee . . .

Alyson Marriott	Business Secretary
Annette Cooper	Joint Interest Groups Co-ordinator
Bob Prati	Speaker Seeker
Christine Keighley	Chair
Jacky Wilding	Membership Secretary
Margarete Peel	Treasurer
Steven Schmidt	Vice Chair
Wendy Wesley	Joint Interest Groups Co-ordinator

## Online Learning Events

u3a Members can enjoy a diverse range of talks, workshops and courses on Zoom at no extra cost. These events are a great opportunity to try something new, led by members with a passion or talent to share or specialist guest speakers.

There are lots of subjects to enjoy during April. You can learn to chat with your AI Bot; discuss climate change and some solutions; or enjoy live cookery demonstrations, to name just three, so why not have a browse of all the events at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning>



## Interest Groups Round-up

**History** The speaker for our March meeting was Simon Unsworth who gave us a talk on

### **One Folklore and Mythology of Derbyshire and the Peak District**

Simon displayed from the start his love and knowledge of Derbyshire, beginning with how villages, places and towns earned their names, and reeled of places ending in Ash for instance, Monyash, Ashford as well as Ford, Dale, Well and our local Hallams for starters. I'm sure we can all add places and lists, just as it is with modern day surnames which have all been reused and mis-spelt over the years giving a wonderful delight of derivations.

Simon went on to cover names of places that had been copied and used in many different places, for instance, Lovers' Leaps at Buxton, Stoney Middleton, Winster, Matlock and Dovedale. These all vary in the telling of lost or unrequited love and having different endings.

Imps, devils and ghosts came into the stories, some with rather rude names which I will leave the reader to ponder on.

We had a very entertaining morning, and I think it very probable that we will be having Simon back again, and again.

**Alwyn Holmes**

### **Garden Spalding Visit**

**Group** Just a reminder of the forthcoming visit to Spalding on **Friday 26th April** to see the tulips in the Springfield Festival Gardens. The Little's coach will be at Wharncliffe Road and will depart at 9.30 a.m. but I would appreciate it if members could congregate for 9.15a.m.

**Many thanks  
Barbara Bailey**

**Scrabble Group** The Scrabble group now have some vacancies should any u3a member wish to join us.

We meet at the Rutland Cottage public house, which is on Heanor Road, on the second Monday of each month from 2 pm until 4 pm or thereabouts depending on the competitiveness of players. There is no charge for being a member of the group but the landlady does like us all to buy a drink at the bar be it tea, coffee, a soft drink or an alcoholic one. It's only fair really since she lets us have the space to play.

We play 2 games and each game is played by 2 players unless we have an odd number attending in which case we may have to have a 3 player game. The first opponent is decided by chance i.e. whoever you draw a matching card with, whereas the second game is decided on a league of the day basis.

Don't forget members, if you have a scrabble board of your own then please bring it along with you. New members are always welcome, whether you've never played before or are an expert.

**Ann Shoebridge**



## Interest Groups Round-up

**Craft** This month we have been making spring baubles, something different from the norm. Another idea from Val.



Made from 4 circles of card in 5 different designs with a triangle shape scored in the centre to bend the circles into triangular shapes. These were glued together to form a globe that fitted inside the bauble. As you can see, as displayed by two of the members, they look great.

**Barbara Green**

**Flat Green Bowling** Just a reminder to you Bowlers, the first session is on **Monday 6 May, 1pm to 3pm**. Venue - **Stanton Clubhouse Bowling Club, Lowes Lane, Stanton**—at the side of the old Main Office Block. Because of the ongoing redevelopment at Stanton, there may occasionally be traffic lights to contend with.

Just a reminder, you will need to wear flat soled shoes and if you have your own bowls, please bring them along, as there is a limited supply of Club bowls.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with me - 07910 834 979

**Best wishes  
Kevin McKay**

**Patchwork and Quilting** These are our latest offering from the Patchwork group. The first two blocks in a lovely yellow and green colourway are by Marion.





## Interest Groups Round-up

**Patchwork and Quilting Continued** The next four are the latest block, made by Anne, Val, Jenny and Elaine. Golly this block was hard, so many small pieces!



The next picture is of the first three blocks made by Barbara, she has chosen a lovely peach and fawn colourway.

*Elaine*  
↙

*Barbara*  
↘



Christine's latest offering in batiks are stunning, as a lover of batiks myself I cannot wait to see the finished quilt.

← *Christine*



Val has been working on this wall hanging for quite a while and now that it is finished it is superb. I hope that she will bring it to the October open meeting so that you can all see what a fantastic job she has made of it.

**Jenny Whittaker**

## What you Wanted to Share

### Fantasy World by Janet Reeve

Descending like the gigantic crater  
Of a dormant volcano.  
Feeling a little afraid,  
A little fearful of overbalancing,  
Whirling, twirling through space,  
Falling! . . . Falling!  
Plummeting down,  
Down into the deepest depths.  
But inquisitive,  
Wondering enough what lies beyond  
To overcome the fear,  
To peer, hesitantly, over the edge  
And glimpse the wonders below.

No expected explosion,  
No eruption of molten lava,

But a truly amazing sight!  
A veritable box of delights!  
A brilliant exotic world,  
Full of light and happy sounds;  
Bubbling brooks, cascading waterfalls,  
Colourful birds singing sweetly  
Among the lush, verdant undergrowth,  
Smiling, hopeful people beckoning  
This hesitant, apprehensive child  
To join them  
In their joyous, jubilant journey  
Through this Other World!

**(This was written after a very vivid dream!)**





## What you Wanted to Share

### *Ephemera*

*We are only transitory imprints  
on the earth's database,  
Our contribution is a nought and one  
in the algorithm of eternity.*

*If noughts were all united  
and so were all the ones,  
We all could band together, till  
the battles all were won.*

*2020 Graham Peel*