

This month join us at our Open Meeting

on

Tuesday 4th June
10.00 am at The Arena
Ilkeston

To celebrate Volunteers Week

We will also welcome our speaker:

Liz Woledge

On Royal Crown Derby

Doors open at 9.45 am
Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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

3rd September: Peter Stubbs—speaking about The History of Crime in England over 1000 years.

1st October: Interest Groups Fair

*** 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>

May and June Highlights



Hello Members!

A highlight for your Committee during May was a venue change for our regular monthly committee meeting. The outgoing Mayor of Erewash, Cllr Frank Phillips, hosted us at Ilkeston Town Hall, and spent an enjoyable hour showing off the rooms, regalia, and history of the Borough to us. The silver mace is beautifully engraved with many icons symbolising the Borough and its industries, and is one of only 38 in the whole Country. The Mayor also explained the different sections of the chain of office and the various badges that can be worn with it. All very illuminating!

After that, and a cuppa, we got down to business holding our meeting in the room with the balcony. We managed to cover everything and approved the latest new Policy: **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**, which you can read on our website. Minutes of committee meetings, once approved, can be viewed at Open Meetings, along with all Ilkeston u3a Policies.

Nationally the **Fit for the Future consultation** report has just been circulated. It is a lengthy document but in summary Third Age Trust consider there is sufficient support from u3as for the concept of governance changes. You can read the report here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area/trust-and-board-updates/fit-for-the-future>

The first week of June is **National Volunteers Week** and we will be taking the opportunity to **Thank all our Very Important Volunteers!** As you know, Ilkeston u3a is a member-led registered charity. That means all members should do something towards the smooth running of our wonderful organisation. Without this input there would be no groups, no meetings, no website, no newsletter, no tea and coffee!, in fact, nothing for any of our members to enjoy. So, my humble thanks go to all those who offer to do something, be that a lot or a little . . . everything counts. To celebrate, at Open Meeting there will be a **'photo booth'** set up for everybody to have some fun (whether you volunteer or not). Afterwards as many Volunteers who are able will be convening for a **Volunteers Appreciation Event**, to include sharing good practise, discussing new ideas, and problem and solution chats. There will be a celebratory buffet lunch and Certificate presentations. Can't wait!

Also, during June we have promotional displays at the Library over Volunteers Week, and at Ilkeston Hospital on Monday 17th June. Following the success of last month's **New Members Coffee Morning** we are holding another, to which all are invited, on Wednesday 19th June, 10-11:30 at **The Observatory, Market Place**. Please come!

Take care everyone, and hope to see you at our 'VIV' June Open Meeting.

Christine Keighley, Chair

Ilkeston u3a Committee invited to Mayoral Offices

The Ilkeston u3a held its May Committee meeting in the offices of the Mayor of Erewash, Councillor Frank Phillips at his personal invitation. The Mayor is a strong supporter of the u3a, and made a special visit to our Ilkeston u3a 'Groups Fair' in October 2023.

The Committee were treated to a brief history of the Ilkeston and Erewash Boroughs, visited the Council Chamber and had the chance to examine the historical artifacts kept by the Mayor's office.



Mayor Frank Phillips explaining the history of the Council

Of particular interest were the ceremonial 'chains of office', the 1887 version generated for the very first Mayor of Ilkeston Borough, William Tatham (owner of the Kensington Lace Factory works). The second chain was made for the realigned Borough of Erewash 100 years later.



Christine and Mayor Frank Phillips

Not wanting to escape the fashion parade, the Mayor allowed Christine to 'don the robes of office'.

The Ilkeston u3a would again like to thank The Mayor and Sue Dunkley, Personal Assistant, for their kindness and hospitality. The Town Hall visit was greatly appreciated by the Committee, and we look forward to maintaining a close relationship with Councillor Phillips.

Steven Schmidt
Vice Chair

New Members Coffee Morning

The last Coffee Morning we held was a real success – lots of members mingling and discussing various topics.

We are holding another one on Wednesday 19 June from 10am onwards at the Observatory where you can partake of whatever you like: coffee, tea, breakfast and lunch if so desired. Come along and meet Group Leaders and other members and perhaps sign up to a new group. It's good to mingle!



Jacky
Membership Secretary

Interest Groups Round-up

Craft Something different this month. We have been making felt flower wreaths, another idea from Deb. As usual we have taken one idea and run with it. No two look the same but all look great!



Barbara, Val and Deb

Play Reading We meet on the first and third Friday of each month 1.30 to 4.15 pm, at the fire station. We do usually finish before 4.15 and you don't need to stay to the end if you have something else to go on to. You also don't need to come twice a month if you can't manage to. We're all included in the plays and it's great fun. If you haven't done this before, that's not a problem, most of us hadn't when we started. Nobody is going to criticise you. So, if you feel you'd like to try it, please contact me.



Sue Widdowson

Interest Groups Round-up

Patchwork and Quilting

Our photos from Patchwork and Quilting this month. The first group are some of the new blocks completed towards our block of the month quilt. I really can't wait to see the completed quilts, they are going to look terrific.



The first block is by Val, the second by Jenny and the next two blocks are by Barbara. The fourth is by Marion. Some of the other members of the group have started their blocks but due to holidays or illness have not yet completed them. I will submit them for your enjoyment another month.



Christine has made a large bag to take a current project. I have yet to see this 'in the flesh' but I am sure it will be even better than it looks in the photos and it looks fantastic in them.



Marion has made another sewing bag with some lovely fabric with bees on it. What you cannot see is that it also has bees on the lining. It is very attractive, please ask her to show it to you.



Val has made the next bag. It is made from circles joined together, the arcs are then turned back and stitched down, making a lovely petal block. Excellent work Val.



Anne has made this flower block by foundation piecing. It looks lovely and she has yet to decide whether to make more and make it onto something larger.

The last photo is of a quilt I have made for my grand daughter Nicole. It was meant as a going away present when she went to Uni but as she wants to go to Derby, I will give it her on her 18th birthday instead. It is made up of many, many quarter square triangles.



Jenny Whittaker

Interest Groups Round-up

Flat Green Bowling The Bowling season is underway but there is still time to come along and enjoy the summer season. We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month up to and including September, 1pm to 3pm at the Stanton Clubhouse Bowling Club, Lows Lane, Stanton. The bowling green is off the road, at the side of the old Stanton Main Offices. DE7 4QU. Beginners and experienced bowlers are welcome.

Kevin McKay

Family History During May some of the members of Ilkeston u3a Family History Group experienced an after-hours guided tour of Derby Local Studies Library. We felt very privileged to go behind the scenes on our private tour, and as some areas of the building were very tight on space we went in 2 small groups on different Saturday afternoons.

Staff members Lee and Kevin made us very welcome, and even put us in the cells on the lower floor of the previous Full Street Police Station! They seemed to be as proud of the building they inhabit as the mountains of precious archive material that they diligently care for.

The building was previously shared by the Police and Judicial services, and retains much of its former art-deco features. It had been left empty for many years but given a new lease of life with the Local Studies Library and all its archives, moving in about 10 years ago.

Our visit was illuminating and encouraged us all to consider using local studies libraries more in our family history research.



Pictured (left to right) are John, Alyson, Andrew, Christine & Jenny browsing the card index and perusing other historic documents which had been laid out for us to see.

Christine Keighley

Interest Groups Round-up

History 1 For our May meeting, we welcomed our own Debbie Jinks, who entertained us with a presentation entitled "If they'd known, would they still?", an exploration of unintended consequences".

Debbie started with an explanation of Marie and Pierre Curie discovering the element radium, which was intriguing, initially, because it glowed in the dark. The race was on, other possibilities for this new discovery were the treatment of cancer. It was a miracle substance, sold in pharmacies for all manner of ailments and widely believed that it would prevent aging. Companies sold radium toothpaste, radium cosmetics, and even radium water. Who can forget the appearance of wristwatches and bedside tables with glow in the dark dials? It was the proverbial, "best thing since sliced bread" as the saying goes, but who thought about the downside of this new craze?

Young women in New Jersey were recruited to paint watch dials. They were even encouraged to lick their brushes to keep the tips sharp and prevent the paint drying too soon, the result being that very shortly it was noticed that the girls, their clothing, together with all the room furnishings, were luminous in the dark. Despite the ladies being assured that their work was safe, serious illness and deaths were quick to follow, leading to legal challenges and compensation. All this brings us back to the question posed: would the Curies have continued with their research if they had known?

All this resulted in a very deep group discussion into this and other so-called brilliant inventions that lead to unintended consequences, plastics, various drugs and chemicals, fertilisers and crop sprays, and just what will arise from the production of all these new electric cars and the expected pollution? We wait to see.

This was altogether a very thought-provoking meeting. Congratulations go to Debbie for a very interesting session which produced so much discussion and left us all with much to think about.

Thank-you, Debbie.

Alwyn Holmes

Golf & Table Tennis Good news! **Golf** starts again on 3rd June, weather permitting. Three slots are booked: 10.00, 10.10 and 10.20 am.

No worries on **Table Tennis** though. The weather does not impact on us, but there are still no spaces at the moment.



Peter Winfield

Interest Groups Round-up

Rambling In May Dennis led the Rambling Group on a route that he and I had tried out in February. But we had found the land extremely waterlogged then and had been unable to walk it again with group until things had dried out somewhat. We had a good turnout on the day, with two new members, even with the slightly drizzly start.

We set off from the Sitwell Arms in Horsley Woodhouse, for a walk of around 5.5 miles, via Horsley, Coxbench, and Brackley Gate.



En route we came upon the delightful “Fairy Woodhus”, Someone’s children must have had a great deal of fun creating it.



Later, we passed, the remains of 12th century Horsley (or Horston) Castle, almost hidden by the trees surrounding it now. It’s not easy to see in the photo. It’s little more than a pile of stones with the

remains of its moat around it. Its very fascinating to think that it was just a short distance from us in Ilkeston.

We were not without some mud on our walk though, as the last picture attests to. We were all picking our way through this patch of it, stepping on anything that wasn’t mud, when Kate got herself marooned on a small square of rock with no firm ground to step on to around it. Sadly, Dennis didn’t get his shot until after she had stopped whirling her arms around to keep her balance!

It was a good walk and we were pleased that the weather had relented enough for us to do the route at last, and that the drizzle did eventually clear up. We rounded off the day in style with a lovely meal at the Sitwell Arms. We were seated in their very smart function room and had the pleasure of flowers on the table—a first for Ilkeston u3a Rambling Group! I think we all felt a little unworthy, dressed in our grubby walking gear! (Although we had changed out of our boots.) We were very impressed with the place. Hopefully we will return there another time.



Our next walk will be on Wednesday 19th June and will be led by Colin.

Janis Henshaw

What you Wanted to Share



TRUDGE? BY GRAHAM PEEL

Today I found myself a Drudge with a Trudge.
Wheelbarrowing wood chippings, to and from,
shovelling into a barrow and yes Trudging
from the compost area and into the walled garden
to dump my cargo onto the shrub borders.

So how did I develop this gait so labelled?
It dawned on me after an hour or so that
I was walking like Windy Miller.
Musing to myself upon this perception of
myself, I realised that I was in fact Trudging.

What is a Trudge? I wondered.
The inescapable truth was, that only a
Drudge
enacted this kind of persistent plod.

Fullofstuff 2020

What you Wanted to Share



Enchanted by the beauty, the magic, of this "ordinary" wood.
We wander the pathways,
Narrow pathways, criss-crossing this wild but structured wood,
A managed, coppiced wood, strange structures of woven sticks
Protecting new saplings from predators; foxes, rabbits, tiny muntjak deer,
All roaming freely, unafraid, but shy, very rarely seen.
Wild garlic carpeting the ground as far as the eye can see,
Flashes of blue, late bluebells struggling towards the light,
Peeping above garlic, wild primroses, white flowering nettles.
Sunshine, dappling twig & bark strewn ground beneath our feet,
Shining through dense canopies of branches above our heads,
Oak, ash, musk-smelling pine towering up, stretching, stretching out to the light.
Dwarfing we insignificant humans; alien beings in this natural, native world.
New life from wind-blown seeds sprouts on fallen trees,
Insects burrow in the bark, finding homes to raise new lives,



These fallen trees, left where they fall, creating natural, surreal sculptures,
Here, a long, gnarled, slithering fork-tongued snake,
There, a leathery -skinned elephant, trunk bellowing to the sky,
A "walking" tree with "eyes", nose, mouth & strange spindly arms,
Coming alive in our imagination, like the trees in "Lord of the Rings"!

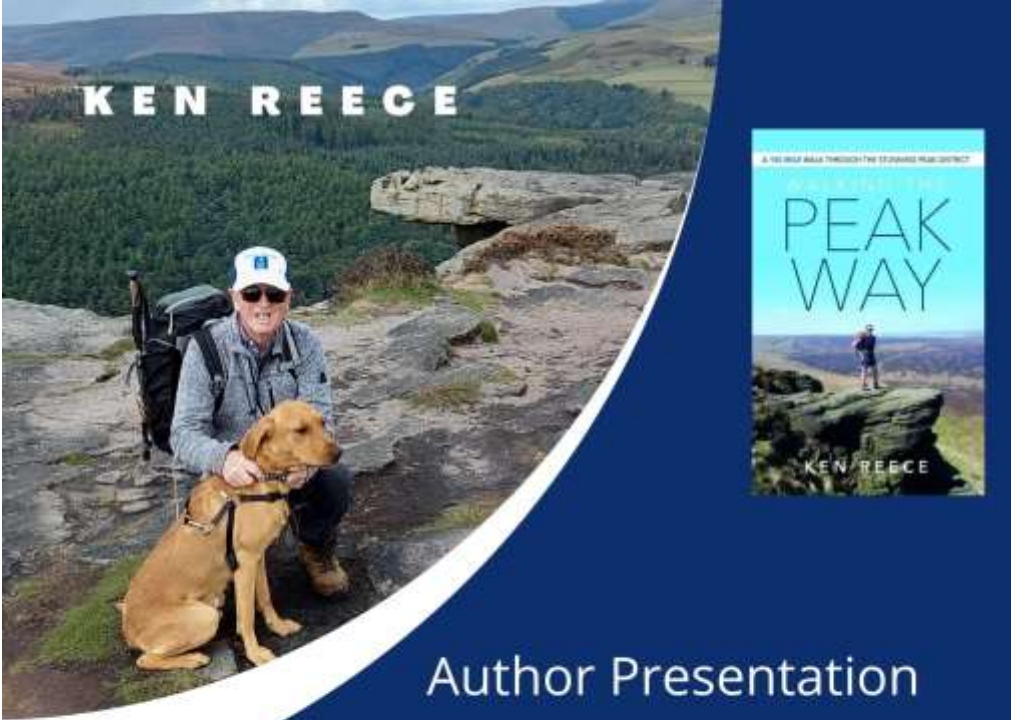
As the shadows lengthen, we follow the pathways out of this "ordinary" wood,

Magical memories, memories to stay in our imaginings . . . For ever!

Walking the Peak Way

I'm Ken Reece, the creator of the Peak Way Walk (a circular long-distance walk through the Peak District), and author of the guide book "Walking the Peak Way". You can find out about the walk at www.peakwaywalk.com. I'm making a presentation at Ilkeston Library on **Monday 10 June**.

Kind regards
Ken Reece



Author Presentation

PEAK WAY WALK

Ilkeston Library
Monday 10 June 2024
at 2.30pm

Guide Book available at special price

FREE Tickets from Eventbrite
or your library