

This month join us at our Open Meeting  
on

**Tuesday 6th August**  
**10.00 am at The Arena**  
**Ilkeston**

When we will welcome our  
speaker:

**Gerald Price**  
**With an illustrated talk on the**  
**Woodland Trust and the**  
**importance of woodlands**

Doors open at 9.45 am  
Refreshments available

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Wing Flight!!



## Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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

1st October: Interest Groups Fair

5th November: Trustees Week. 'Derbyshire  
is far from the coast. Yet the county has  
many connections with the sea'—talk by Liz  
Keeley.

3rd December: The Art of Christmas cards  
by Danny Wells

### \*\*\* 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



Dear Members

July turned out to be quite lovely, although a long month between Open Meetings, so I'm looking forward to next week and seeing as many of you as can come and meet up, to enjoy a cuppa, have a chat, and enjoy our guest speaker, Gerald Price, from The Woodland Trust.

Before then let's extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Dennis and Richard. We hope you enjoy all that Ilkeston u3a has to offer.

Wasn't it fabulous to see the write-up and super photo of many of our Group Leaders in July's Ilkeston Life newspaper, celebrating *Volunteers' Week*. Thank you, Steven, for your continuing efforts to promote Ilkeston u3a.

And we are doing more promotion with a stall at the fantastic crowd-pulling Ilkeston Classic Vehicle Show on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Please come by and give your support, and if you have an hour to spare we would greatly appreciate volunteers on the rota – just to chat to people who want to know a little more about what we do. Please contact myself or Steven if you can help on the rota. Thank you!

We are also looking for a small team of volunteers who enjoy social media to help us set up a Facebook Page (see p.3). If this is something you'd like to know more about please come and have a chat, or email [chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk)

If none of the above volunteer slots appeals to you, how about helping us on the Committee, or the Policy Sub-Committee. We have spare seats at the table and welcome new ideas and alternative viewpoints, so please don't be shy. It is an opportunity for you to see what goes on and how Ilkeston u3a is managed.

At the last committee meeting, among other things, we watched an inspirational presentation from Ashbourne u3a about how successful their Facebook promotion has been, hence the new initiative above, and also approved a draft Safeguarding Policy drawn up by the Policy Sub-Committee, which you can view on our website. Safeguarding is an important issue and is designed to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals. All u3a members have a responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns and this policy tells you how you can go about doing so appropriately.



Best wishes to you all, and hope to see you at Open Meeting, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Christine Keighley, Chair**  
[chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk) / 07660 966325

## Do you like Facebook or Social Media?



Recently the Committee watched an inspirational presentation by the Chair of Ashbourne u3a about the power of social media, and particularly Facebook, in promoting and raising the profile of u3a and bringing in new members.

We'd like to set up our own Public Facebook Page (as opposed to the current private Ilkeston u3a Facebook group) and are looking for a small team of interested volunteers to keep it going. We believe it will only require 2-4 volunteer members who are motivated and enjoy social media, so please come forward if you can help.

Have a look at Ashbourne u3a page to give you an idea of what we hope to achieve. <https://www.facebook.com/ashbourneanddistrictu3aa>  
Initially the time commitment could be a couple of hours or so a week, but ongoing we are led to believe it is achievable in half hour stints. Please let me or any Committee Member know if you are interested, we'd highly appreciate your help on this project. Thank you!

**Christine Keighley, Chair**  
[chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk) / 07660 966325

## Chair Elect for the Third Age Trust

I wish to inform you that **Allan Walmsley** has been elected as the next Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Third Age Trust. He will take office at Third Age Trust's AGM to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

A founding member of Kings Norton and District u3a, Allan has served on the Board since 2020, first as Trustee for the West Midlands and more recently as Vice Chair.

Allan said "I'm delighted to become Chair-Elect. It will be an honour to lead one of the UK's leading member organisations, and a movement that already influences the lives of so many people. I hope to lead on continued growth and creating an ever-widening range of learning and social opportunities for our members."

## What to do in case of FIRE!

Do you know what to do if the fire alarm went off at either of our two most used venues?

The alarm sounds quite frequently at the **Fire Station Community Room**, and we have got used to waiting to see if it stops before resuming our activities as, so far, all the alarms have been for our valiant firefighters to attend a call out.

But what if an alarm didn't stop? Would you all know what to do?

***Here's your mission! If you choose to accept it, seek out the Fire Procedures Notice at the Fire Station, read, memorise, and take heed of the designated Assembly Point. And, Group Leaders, don't forget to pick up your register on the way out.***



Attendance at **The Arena** for our monthly Open Meetings has increased somewhat over recent months with over 100 members regularly attending. That's wonderful, but again, it is prudent to be aware of your surroundings and know what to do in an emergency, particularly as we meet on the first floor.

There are set Fire Procedures at The Arena, and if a fire alarm sounded members would be directed as to which exit to take and when it was safe to do so. We have a designated Fire Officer at each meeting who would follow the initial procedure or checking the 'fire board' to ascertain the seat of the fire, and report back to the Chair (or delegate) who would then direct proceeding for exiting the room safely.

There are fire refuge areas for the less mobile members on the landings at the top of each stairwell and the two Assembly Points are just outside the perimeter railings, one on Rutland Street if you exit down the main stairwell, and the other on Cotmanhay Road if you exit down the back stairwell.

The **Reception Sign In sheet** is critical in the event of a fire as this gives us a head count, and the names of those present if there is any discrepancy. Please ensure you **always** sign in at Open Meeting and also if you leave early to let someone know.

Thank you,

**Christine Keighley, Chair**

## Heritage and Classic Vehicle Show

### Ilkeston u3a to Participate in Heritage and Classic Vehicle Show

The annual Heritage and Classic Vehicle show will be held on Sunday, 11 August beginning at 10:00 on the Ilkeston Market Place. Ilkeston u3a will have a marquee at the show, shared with the Ilkeston Hospital League of Friends, just like we did in 2023. We will be promoting all that is great about being a u3a member, our groups, our activities and the great social environment that we enjoy through our membership.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We would like to invite any Ilkeston u3a member who wishes to come along and join us at the marquee for an hour or two, to contact us on 07760 966 325 or to speak with Steven Schmidt (Vice Chair) either before or after our next Open Meeting being held on Tuesday, 6 August at the Arena.



Steven Schmidt

## First Aid Kit at the Fire Station



Please note we have purchased our own First Aid Kit for the Fire Station Community Room for Ilkeston u3a members' use. It is located in the store cupboard next to our box of mugs. The kit will be maintained by the Committee.

Steven Schmidt

## Fit for the Future

### Fit for the Future: shaping the structure of the u3a movement

The Third Age Trust Board have put forward a special resolution at the AGM to change the Articles of Association for the Third Age Trust, in order to enable a change in the governance structure. This is the next step in the u3a Fit for the Future strategy, ensuring that our movement has a robust structure in which u3as have more of a voice.

We will be hosting special *Ask Away* Q&A events for u3a members to find out more about the Board's special resolution, the Fit for the Future strategic plan.

The event will be taking place on the following dates:

**Thursday 1 August - 2pm.** Book now

**Wednesday 14 August - 10am.** Book now

**Wednesday 11 September - 10am.** Book now

You can also read a summary of the proposal on the u3a website.

## Appeal for Help

### !! Website Volunteers Needed !!

Is there anyone who feels suitably or even partially qualified to assist me? Even some knowledge of websites would be useful and if you have knowledge of coding this would be super helpful although not essential.

**Training** will be provided to anyone who feels they may be able to help and, of course, I am happy to do some 'on-the-job' training myself. Some of you may know that I'm a former IT Lecturer and so am perfectly qualified to assist with and drive your training.

Please email me if you think you can help. **Thank you.**

**Ann Shoebridge**

[webmaster@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@ilkestonu3a.org.uk)

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Craft** Craft are helping to re-populate the hedgehog shortage! I hope you are impressed.



**Barbara Green**

**Bridge** Come along and let us dispel some myths you may have about the game of bridge. We are a 'social' bridge group so a relaxed atmosphere prevails.

Bridge is played along similar lines to whist; highest card wins, one suit is trumps. You have a partner to help you win as many tricks as you can. There are some simple rules to help to let your partner know what cards you hold.

The basic rules are fairly simple and we can progress to more involved ones as and when our experience grows.

If you would like to give it a try, we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays every month from 2-4pm at the Rutland Cottage pub on Heanor Road, Ilkeston.

**Andrew Wright**

**Golf** Hello from Golf! Due to work commitments I was unable to play when the group met in July, but five members did. The best score on the day was Mick D with 37, followed by Steve 39, Terry 41, David P 49, and Ann 57. Hopefully we will have a full turn out on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Table Tennis** Table tennis group now has a small number of spaces free. If anyone would like to join, please let me or other players know if you wish to join us.



**Peter Winfield**

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Poetry for Pleasure** I took over as co-ordinator of Poetry for Pleasure group from Yvonne Muckle when she and Malcolm moved to Sussex.

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays on zoom, and are glad that Yvonne is still able to join us. The wonders of technology!

We often have a theme, usually related to the time of year or events. Recently we had “Babies/New Life” celebrating the birth of Graham Peel’s new grandson, “St. George”, “Country and Western Song Lyrics”, “Thought provoking events” and “Summer in the City”. We are always amazed at the variety of the poems and poets we come up with!

As you will know from the Newsletter, I write poetry and so does Graham, but you don’t need to write poetry, just have a love of it, and enjoy sharing it with others.

We are a small group which works well on zoom, but would welcome a couple more members. If you feel like joining us you would be very welcome. We tend to put the world to rights and listen to one another’s “woes” as well as enjoying and discussing poetry!

**Janet Reeve**

P.S. I have entered the ICTAF (Ilkeston Community Theatre and Arts Festival) Poetry Competition and have won third prize! The prizes will be presented at the “One Voice Concert” by the Mayor. This will be at 7pm at St. Mary’s Church on 17<sup>th</sup> August at the end of the Festival week.

**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

**Garden Group** For the **June** meeting we visited Felley Priory. We have previously visited in February and April so it was good to see the gardens in another season. It was certainly worth it for the wonderful display in the borders and rose garden.



The borders were bursting with an assortment of delphiniums, turks caps, lilies, sea holly erygium, pink and white astrantias, phlox, achillea (also terracotta) veronica spikes, verbascums, alliums and a lovely hebe with a mass of pink flowers.



The Rose Garden had a wonderful assortment of David Austin roses some of which a member of staff had the mammoth job of deadheading! There were also varieties of roses around the rest of the garden.

The lawns and topiary were in superb condition. A 400 year old pear tree, which is positioned against the house, is still going strong. There was still evidence of flowers on a couple of Magnolia Grandiflora.



The tea room is always worth a visit and two tables had been reserved for us so we were able to enjoy refreshments outside in the sunshine.



~~X~~

Our **July** meeting was the annual Potato Competition which brings out the competitive spirit of the members! Geoff and Glen were kind enough to host the event for us and we were able to enjoy their lovely garden in the sunshine which you will get a flavour of in the photographs below.

It was a close run thing but Lynne Thorpe was the overall winner with 2lb 4ozs of potatoes which is not a bad yield from one potato planted in a 12" pot.



Lynne Thorpe  
Winner

**Barbara Bailey**

## Interest Groups Round-up

### ***NEW GROUP!!      NEW GROUP!!*** ***Scala Cinema Interest Group***

**Who's up for a film?** We have the most delightful and unique cinema right here in the centre of Ilkeston. Tickets for the latest films and varied refreshments are all very reasonably priced, they even sell wine! **What more could we want . . . ?**

**How about a considerable discount on tickets? Oh, yes please!**

The Committee is delighted to tell you that a £2.50 discount has been agreed with the management of Scala Cinema for u3a members attending as an Interest Group! This means an afternoon matinee would currently cost less than £5. What a fabulous deal.

Parking is right next door, free after 6pm, or only £1.50 for 3 hours otherwise.

So, who's interested in joining the group? All those interested will get together soon and work out how you want the new interest group to operate and we'll go from there.

Please let Christine or Annette know if you are interested at the August Open Meeting, or email [chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk) or [groupscoordinator@ilkestonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscoordinator@ilkestonu3a.org.uk)



## Interest Groups Round-up

**History 1** For our July meeting we decided to move away from our indoor session. Bearing in mind the horrible weather we had been having, we were trusting to luck. Mike our group leader picked the warmest day of the year so far. We should all have purchased a lottery ticket.



Mike had arranged a visit the Wollaton Village Dovecote Museum. We had had a visit a few years ago to this venue, but now they have increased their displays, also we have a number of newer members who hadn't been there. A good visit is always worth repeating and it is free, but they suggest a donation.

The Dovecote is a building erected around 1565, at the time of the original Wollaton Hall, by Sir Francis Willoughby and whilst it has had

various uses since, many of the dove nests still remain inside, the reason being that the doves would breed in their hundreds. This would supply much needed meat and eggs for the Willoughby family table throughout the whole year.

Added to this they now have a WWII display, covering the time when American and Italian troops were based in Wollaton Park along with German prisoners of war. It is certainly well worth a visit; however, I should point out that opening times are very limited, but details can be found on their website ([www.spanglefish.com/Wollaton Historical](http://www.spanglefish.com/Wollaton_Historical)).

It really is worth a visit, very small but fascinating. Our group concluded our visit with a visit to the Admiral Rodney, 5 mins walk away, for an enjoyable lunch.

**Alwyn Holmes**

**Rambling** We have welcomed a large number of new members to the Rambling Group in recent months and for our July walk almost everyone on our mailing list attended, including some for their first time with us, and we had the largest group EVER! There were 24 of us and we were led by Carol and Mandy on a six mile walk from West Hallam, passing through Stanley Common, Morley and Stanley. We had the most perfect weather, after a few days of rain and cool temperatures. For us the day was sunny and warm, the route was very scenic, the countryside was lush and the company was great! We rounded off the walk, as



always, with a pub lunch. Thankfully, the Newdigate Arms was able to accommodate us all. Many thanks to Carol for organising this with the pub for such a large group.

**Janis Henshaw**

## Interest Groups Round-up

### Patchwork & Quilting

Pictures from the Patchwork group for this month.



The first is this month's block by Jenny Whittaker, the second is by Barbara Green and the third by Anne Wood



The fourth is by Elaine Barrett, the fifth is an older block by Elaine and the sixth is by Val Buxton



The seventh is by Marian Stopper, and the eighth and ninth are catch up blocks by Wanda Labuda, who had an operation on her hand a little while ago.



The tenth is an embroidered panel which will be put into a tote bag, made by Jenny Whittaker. The eleventh is a small appliqué wall hanging by Christine Keighley and lastly a tote bag by Marian.

**Jenny Whittaker**

## What You Wanted to Share

# JOY TAKES TO THE SKY!

One of our members, Joy McFarland, has completed one of her ambitions, to Wing Walk!

Having been given the gift from her husband she completed this on June 22nd. She took to the sky over Lincolnshire, early on Saturday morning. Joy was very lucky with the weather. Blue skies after the persistent rain we had in the previous few weeks . Lucky girl!

Joy's words: "It was amazing and I would do it again even though my arms and legs ached for a few days after. The only difficulty I had was getting on board . With all the cables and the actual wings it proved a bit tricky. After that it was enjoyment all the way with some amazing views"

Joy decided to make the flight a fund raising activity for Diabetes UK and she managed to make over £1000 and the money is still coming in. Well done Joy! She also managed to make front page news in Ilkeston Life and had two interviews with Twiggy on Radio Derby



**Barbara Green**

## What You Wanted to Share

### The Pied Piper of Hampden Park by Janet Reeve

All the birds, both water and land, know him as their feeder,  
All the birds, both water and land, follow him as their leader,  
In his stained, crumpled trousers, held up by bright braces,  
Traces of food down his shirt,  
No Pied Piper's hat, but a cloth cap he wears,  
Dirty brown boots on his feet,  
Feet that stroll daily along with this haunting song,  
Calling, calling, "Come, come . . . follow me"

From his pocket he trails the seeds the birds love,  
So they follow, and follow him close.  
Rooks, sparrows, seagulls, doves, . . . oh, and ducks,  
All are chancing their luck!  
Quarrelling and screeching like pied piper children  
Over the seeds he has strewn on the path.

As I watch in absorbed fascination  
Suddenly, as if out of thin air, with whoops of laughter  
Excited children rush at his following birds  
Scattering them, scattering them all far and wide,  
Pied Piper sighed, tears spring to his watery eyes  
And he slumps on a near-by park bench,

The years catching up on him now.  
He is joined by his lady companion  
Who pats gently his pocket of seeds.  
"Have you no more?" she whispers, sensing his need,  
They will follow again, follow again you know  
You are the Pied Piper, they know so,  
They will follow again, they will follow again  
The Pied Piper of this Hampden Park!"

## What You Wanted to Share

### *Power of Love Concert*

**“André Rieu is ready to blow you away with his brand new cinema concert 'Power of Love'.**

From his picturesque hometown of Maastricht The King of the Waltz presents a must-see big screen spectacular. Accompanied by his world famous Johann Strauss Orchestra and a cast of hundreds this promises to be the music event of the summer by one of the world's most prolific artists. In a concert overflowing with passion André's unique repertoire combines classical, musicals, pop and rock! . . .” says the write up on the Scala Cinema website about this special showing at our unique local ‘picture house’.

**Tickets can be pre-booked online at £14.50 each, or £12 concessionary.**



Expect iconic film scores, beautiful waltzes, tear-jerking ballads and unexpected chart hits in a concert for all the family

31st August—19:30

1st September—14:30



Scan QR code to  
book tickets online!

