

This month join us at our
Monthly Open Meeting
on

Tuesday 7th January
10.00 am–12 noon at
The Arena
Ilkeston

Our Speaker this month is
Paul Sturgess
With a presentation on
Life in Derby in the 1950's

Refreshments available
Doors open at 9.45 am

Inside this issue:

- Letter from the Chair, p.2
- Nominations for 2025 Committee, p.3
- Membership Renewal, p.4
- Interest Groups Round-up, p.4
- What You Wanted to Share, p.7

Coming soon to our Open Meetings

4th February: Talk on Fire Safety by Sharon Tassi from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue

4th March: Talk on A History of Tea Drinking in Britain, by Maggie Slingsby

1st April: Interest Groups Fair—New annual date to showcase Groups' activities

*** 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> Tel: 07760 966325

Letter from the Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Hello Members!

As we welcome in 2025 I wish you a year full of laughter, life and endless opportunities. Ilkeston u3a is certainly a place to start!

After their festive break Interest Groups will be gearing up to start afresh, so there are many chances to meet up with old friends and make new ones, learn new things and have some fun. We look forward to several new Interest Groups starting soon too!

Don't forget that our membership year also starts afresh each 1st January, so please make sure you renew your membership before 31st January. You can renew online through our website www.ilkestonu3a.org.uk or by completing a paper form (download from the website or available at meetings). Please note our insurance only allows for a 1 month period of grace for renewals hence the 31st deadline. After that date you'll need to re-apply as a new member promptly if you wish to continue attending any groups. Thank you to the many members who have already renewed, it really does make administration easier.

The first Open Meeting of 2025 will be on Tuesday 7th January. As the membership table is likely to be busy with renewals our speaker will be starting 10-15 minutes later than usual, which will also give us time to enjoy a cuppa, catch up with others, and acclimatise ourselves with the different seating layout. The scaffolding will still be in place at The Arena so please come prepared to park elsewhere, although we do have a few spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders.

January is a busy month for the Committee as we finalise the financial accounts, have them inspected, and prepare the Annual Report and other AGM paperwork for distribution to members in early February. It is also an important time for you to help Ilkeston u3a grow and thrive by volunteering to stand on the next committee. We need more volunteers willing to help manage our activities. Many hands make light work, please don't leave it to a few! Give me a call for an informal non-committal chat and find out more about the role. Nomination forms are on the website and the deadline is 4th February.

Finally, please tune into Erewash Sounds Breakfast Show on Monday 20th at 8am to cheer on Alyson and myself as we promote our wonderful organisation to the local community. Thank you!

Best Wishes

Christine Keighley

Chair, 07760 966325, chair@ilkestonu3a.org.uk



Nominations for 2025 Committee

Nominations for 2025 Committee NOW OPEN!



Ilkeston u3a Committee is a group of members who meet regularly to manage the general running of the organisation, monitor finances, agree publicity, arrange events, and support group leaders, etc., for the overall benefit of all members.

Committee Members are elected by the membership at the AGM held in early March. The rules of Ilkeston u3a (our Constitution) say 7 – 12 members serve on the committee for one year, but they can stand for election again, if they wish, for 3-6 years depending on the role they take on.

Committee Members can take on a specific role or be general committee members helping out with everything. Responsibilities are allocated to roles to make sure the tasks get done. Take a look at Committee Roles in the Members Area of the website under documents. Committees work well as a team if they are made up of people with different skills or abilities so there is always a valuable contribution any member can bring to the team.

Ilkeston u3a must have a least 7 committee members to continue, but it is better to have more, up to 12. At the time of writing 5 current committee members are likely to stand again for election, which means **more volunteers are needed** to keep things going.



Can you help? Do you like organising things? Do you like chatting with people? Do you like writing creatively? Do you like handling money? Do you like keeping records? Would you like to give something back to u3a? Then come and join the team!

Every member has something to offer. We are a member-led organisation all said and done, and everything we do comes from, or is for, the membership.

People who are new to u3a may think they don't know enough yet to be a committee member, but it's quite the opposite! Newer members bring fresh ideas, and that makes for a more vibrant and forward thinking u3a, so please do consider offering your time to help Ilkeston u3a continue to thrive.

Nominations for the next committee are now OPEN! You can download the Nomination Form from the Members Area, Forms. However, there is no need to wait until the Spring if you want to join now and get to know what is involved. Phone Christine for a chat or come to the next committee meeting. **07760 966325**

Membership Renewal 2025

This is a reminder to renew your membership before 31 January. You can renew either by using a printed form or, with effect from 1 December, there is now a new online form that you can submit. If you are used to internet banking then it is very easy to pay online from your own bank, but this year we would like the reference to change a little, being Membership Number first followed by surname. This will make it easy to identify members, especially if they have a long surname. You can still pay by cash or cheque as well.

Jacky
Membership Secretary

Interest Groups Round-up

French Conversation

We were in a festive mood at our final meeting of the year and enjoyed some delicious home baked treats, made by Ann Hill.

Happy New Year to everyone at Ilkeston u3a!



Glen Pickering

Interest Groups Round-up

Patchwork & Quilting As we have all been busy doing other things there isn't much to show from Patchwork & Quilting and Knit & Stitch this time.



This patchwork wall hanging has been made by Anne Wood. Isn't it beautiful!

Knit and Stitch



A Nativity scene made from felt and two cross stitch pictures made into one wall hanging both made by Jenny Whittaker.



Jenny Whittaker

Garden Group

We held the final meeting of the year for the group at the end of November, which involved a fuddle, quiz and gathering ideas for the programme for 2025. It was a most pleasant meeting and I came away with plenty of ideas for putting together a programme. The quiz was a close run thing and 3 groups were successful in gaining a 'cash' prize (chocolate of course!) to distribute to their fellow team members. The first meeting for 2025 will be held on Friday 28th February and I will be distributing the programme in due course with the details of the meeting.

Best wishes for 2025 to everyone!

Barbara Bailey

Interest Groups Round-up

Craft Another of Deb's ideas. She must spend an awful lot of time tik-toking! She does find some great ideas though. This time it is a wreath made from Ferrero Rocher chocolates. As usual, no two are the same but all look fantastic.

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year.



Barbara, Deb & Val

Golf and Table Tennis There is not much to say on **Golf** due to illness and holidays.

Table Tennis is now full and we have a waiting list. However we did have a nice Christmas meal out.



Peter Winfield

Rambling December's walk was more of a 5 mile 'amble' around Attenborough Nature Reserve. We had a good turnout with plenty of breath to walk and talk and enjoy watching the wildlife. At Beeston Weir café, we brought hot drinks to consume on the way back. That hot chocolate was heavenly! We concluded our ramble at the Corn Mill at Chilwell, where the atmosphere was very festive. Several groups were enjoying a meal including a "Golden Years" group (the pub's description, not mine!). They had a singer to entertain them and we couldn't help but enjoy the music too. Some of them were having a boogie as we left!

It's been a year of extreme weather, and we had to cancel February and March's walks due to the rain and floods, but we have since enjoyed some great walks and camaraderie. We welcomed about a dozen new members to our group, some of whom only became members of Ilkeston u3a to be able to join the Rambling Group. So I think we have had a very successful year.

Happy New Year to all!

Janis Henshaw

What you Wanted to Share



We walked past a heavily pierced and tattooed young woman,
sitting, perhaps living on the pavement.
She had journals lying around her I saw one in her hands.
She was writing, her handwriting was bewitching.
Not that I could discern what it was that she had written.
It was the earnestness of her demeanour that made me wonder.
What potential was there in her and her writings.
I am sure she defined herself there within.
How could the world not see,
how beautiful that human was?

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