

**This month join us at our  
Monthly Open Meeting**

**on**

**Tuesday 2nd September**

**10.00 am–12 noon at**

**The Arena**

**Ilkeston**

**Our Speaker this month is**

**Stephen Flinders with his  
presentation of:**

**“The Magnificent Seven”**

**The answer to a major  
problem in the 19th century**

**Refreshments available**

### **Inside this issue:**

- Letter from the Chair, p.2
- Notices, p.3
- Interest Groups Round-up, p.4–7
- What You Wanted to Share, p.8–9

### **Coming soon to our Open Meetings**

7th October: “The Ealing Comedies” by Robert Mee. Everyone of a certain age will remember these classic films

4th November: “A brief history of hospitals in Ilkeston and the charities supporting them”, by Steven Schmidt

1st Dec: “Boarding Schools for girls in Victorian Derbyshire” by Liz Keeley. Where were they, what were they like and who went to them? Historical detective work with photos and documents.

6th January: “Experiencing Africa” by Paul Sturges. After accepting an invitation to teach at the University of Botswana, Paul spent many years travelling Africa.

### **\*\*\* 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

## A Few Words from the Chair



### **Hello Members,**

So we now move into September. I trust those who have had their holidays have had a good break and those going away later—such as ourselves—are looking forward to a good break.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Car Show and making it such a success. Special mention should be made to Russell, Alyson and Margarete who, along with others from the committee, put so much effort into the organisation of the stall and making it so successful.

During u3a week at the end of the month there will be a display in Ilkeston Library and posters in Sandiacre and Heanor libraries publicising the u3a.

Have a good month and see you, all being well, on 2nd September.

**Andrew Davies**

## Heritage Car Show

Ilkeston u3a had a good day at the recent Heritage Car Show Ilkeston Market Place, on a very sunny day, with numerous visitors enquiring at the stall.

Thanks to Russell for setting it up and taking control of the stall, the volunteers who gave up their time to help out during the day and those members who popped by to say 'hello'.



**Alyson Marriott**

## Personal data, positive aging, and you

At an online learning event (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>) at 2pm on Tuesday 16th September, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports back on u3a members' views on the sharing of personal data, following the focus groups meeting of u3a members with the ONS, including those from Ilkeston u3a. In addition, as part of the u3a Week (20-28 September 2025), at 2pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September the ONS will be doing another presentation, on 'What do official statistics reveal about positive ageing?'

**Dr. David Martin**  
**u3a National Subject Advisor for Mathematics and Statistics**

## Let me know . . .

If your address, email or phone number change, please let me know so that I can update your record. Also if you are currently receiving the magazine "u3a Matters" and you no longer want to have it, please also let me know, as this will save Ilkeston u3a some money and you some paper through your door. Thanks.

**Jacky Wilding**  
**Membership Secretary**

## Poppies



Many thanks to everyone who has let me have poppies. They have been gratefully received. I will send photos of the finished display.

**Deb Bond**

## Interest Groups Round-up

**French Topics Studies** The topics undertaken on this occasion were the French national anthem and the story behind the 14 July, France's National day. After a burst of the Marseillaise we munched our way through French, Belgian and English goodies before tackling the history of the day itself—we don't really need an excuse but the 14 July is perfect!



**Jacky Wilding**

**Walking Tennis** Walking tennis is a new addition to Ilkeston U3A, which started in April this year. We play on the Rutland recreation centre on Oakwell Drive. We have a strong base of regular players, who find it a very enjoyable, fun activity with the added benefits of low impact outdoor activity in the fresh air.

I would encourage any members to try it out, you don't need to have played before, just pick up a racket and hit a ball and, because the game is played as a doubles match with slightly different rules to normal tennis the exercise is gentle and as energetic as you want.

We play every fortnight and there is ample free parking on site. Come and give it a try! You won't regret it.



**Dennis Wint**

**Flat Green Bowls** The last bowling session for this season will be on **Monday, 1st September**.

**Kevin McKay**



## Interest Groups Round-up

**Garden Group** *(My most sincere apologies to Barbara and the Garden Group members. In last month's newsletter I omitted the last two paragraphs of the article on their return visit to the Walled Garden at Wollaton Park. So here they are!)*

Conservation contractors were employed to replace fallen bricks and repair one of the pillars, the cost of which was covered by donations from the afore-mentioned societies, Nottingham Civic Society and some from the Council. Work has continued from then on . . .

The Garden is now full of flowers, fruit bushes/trees and vegetables all set out in well prepared plots and raised beds. A willow hedge has been planted and it is thought that when it is established, it may house statues from local artists. A Heritage Garden houses plants that may have been used in the original planting and also a Sensory Garden has some wonderful aids for a relaxing space. The only original planting is a Cedar tree, which a few years ago was destined to be destroyed for safety reasons, but has been saved by particular pruning and now is a feature in the Garden.

One of the volunteers has lots of ideas for raising money but in the meantime they have Spring/Summer/Autumn Open Days and produce and refreshments can be purchased as well as enjoying seeing the work achieved in the garden. The Garden is also open for viewing on Thursday each week. Well worth a visit!!

**Barbara Bailey**

**Rambling** Our walk this month was much longer than we usually do, at over eight miles! But it was a much cooler day than the previous Wednesday when we had the fourth heatwave of the summer. Fifteen of us set off from Duffield on our epic trek for a circular walk via the Golf Course, Hazelwood, over towards Quarndon and back to Duffield. It was a great walk with some amazing views over the valley. We never know what we will encounter along the way. A batch of freshly baked sourdough bread for one thing and Hazelwood Spring, constructed to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 (the main water supply for local people until 1952!) But who was the strange young man brandishing his stick



in the first picture? Just our son, Gavin, who joined us on his day off! Dennis and I had tried out the walk in September, when we found that the

bridge over the R. Ecclesbourne had been destroyed in a storm. We had abandoned the walk there (after crossing on a plank!!). The debris beside the walkers in the last picture has now been pulled out of the river, along with the remains of the bridge, and a new, very substantial one has been created. No balancing tricks required now! Lunch with the group was at the Holly Bush in Makeney. Lovely grub!

**Janis Henshaw**

## Interest Groups Round-up

### Patchwork & Quilting

More blocks made for inclusion in their 'year of quilting' quilt.



The first photo shows the beautiful blues made by Val.

Kathy has completed the centre panel, this quilt is going to look stunning.

The next photo shows the first ones made by Sue Titterton. A very new quilter and so even more special, as she will tell you herself, these are not easy!



Elaine has made some more to add to her quilt, lovely.

Christine has made some blocks from a different pattern. All the same but oh so different! I hope she will share a photo of the completed quilt .

Anne has made a wall hanging of birds through the seasons, ideal gift for a bird watcher.



Finally I have made another baby quilt for a future great grandchild and a bag for my friend's birthday.

**Jenny Whittaker**



## Interest Groups Round-up

**Craft** This month The craft ladies have been Silk Painting sun catchers. As usual some beautiful results.



Barbara, Val, Deb

## What you Wanted to Share

### **Time is running out** **by** **Janet Reeves**

War-torn grieving countries  
Stopping in their tracks,  
Lands of unrest . . . destruction  
In hands of evil men.  
Black bands of soulless death,  
Sands of time . . . stagnant  
Unturning  
Slowly running dry,

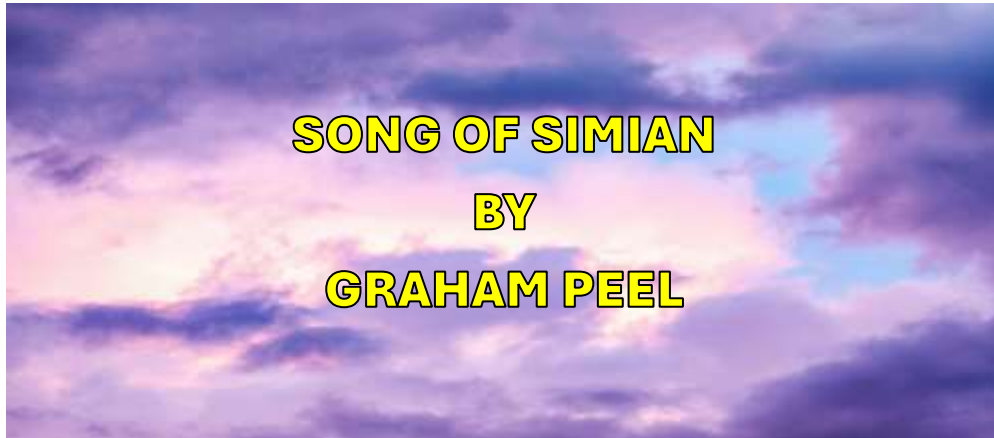
Continuing  
Desperately, fervently,  
Talks for lasting peace,  
Gold bands of trusting hope  
In hands of caring men,  
Keep the moving sands  
Turning,  
Turning  
In this giant egg-timer  
For life.



This was written a few years ago and about different countries but is still so true today with the situations between Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Gaza.



## What you wanted to share



*The symbiosis of all natural elements is  
calling to us from our long distanced past.  
The song to our souls sing of diversity and harmony.  
Sleep is the last vestige of our natural connectivity.  
In our depths revulsion is clawing at us.  
Foods make us sick, and cheap entertainments  
fill our vacuous minds.  
Soon no one will be left who can read because  
apathy will become so overwhelming.*

*Anthropocene man now deaf to all reason,  
dumb to all understanding and  
blind to all he has done.*