

This month join us at our
Monthly Open Meeting

on

Tuesday 2nd December

**10.00 am–12.30 noon at
The Arena
Ilkeston**

Our Speaker this month is

Liz Keeley

**“Boarding Schools for girls in
Victorian Derbyshire”**

**Where were they? What were
they like? And who went to
them?**

Plus entertainment by

Anglers’ Mates

Festive refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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

3rd February: “Waterman to Waterperry” by Angela Nightingale. A look into the family life of Joseph Warner Henley MP. From humble beginnings to Westminster alongside Disraeli.

3rd March: “Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker” by Stephen Flinders. It’s surprising what turns up when you delve into your family history!

*** 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

Also at: www.ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Chairman's Corner



Hello Members,

Where has the year gone? We have already arrived at the December Newsletter! Firstly thanks to all who have contributed to it in any way during the year and to Janis for her compiling and editing it. A sincere thanks to those who have contributed prizes for our Christmas meeting—we are most grateful.

Talking of the Christmas meeting it will take a slightly different form and will include not just the talk by Liz Keeling, with tales from a bygone age, which we are looking forward to, but also singing from the Anglers' Mates. Thanks to all who have put so much effort into the planning and preparation for the meeting. Please don't forget that it will be an extended meeting and will be from 10-12:30.

Talking of time flying it is time to renew membership ready for 2026. We would be most grateful if you could please do it either on line or at the open meetings, it does assist the treasurer and membership secretary when renewals are completed promptly.

Finally could we wish everyone a good Christmas and extend good wishes for 2026. See you on December 2nd.

Regards

Andrew



Membership Renewal

In order to enjoy another year of Open meetings each month, as well as your chosen Interest Groups, it is time to renew your membership. You need to do this during DECEMBER or JANUARY. From 1 December to 31 January—this gives you ample time to renew, please do so as soon as possible.

I will have forms for you to complete at the Open meetings or you can renew paperless online on our website: ilkestonu3a.org.uk.

If you will not be renewing for whatever reason please let me know as soon as possible in order to save time and effort. Thank you.

Jacky

Membership Secretary

membership@ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Message from National u3a

National u3a are asking for stories, ideas and recommendations from u3a members to feature in the u3a matters magazine regarding:

- ♦ **winter and spring recipes—ideally with seasonal ingredients**
- ♦ **audiobooks you've enjoyed recently**
- ♦ **any other news, stories or recommendations of interest to other members.**

Members are asked to submit recommendations to the magazine editor directly please at editor@u3a.org.uk

Christmas Jumpers



On December 2nd, the day draws near,
Ilkeston u3a brings festive cheer.
Pull on jumpers, bright and bold,
With sparkles, snow, and threads of gold.

Friends together, hearts sincere,
Sharing smiles and Christmas cheer.
In every stitch, good will appears—
Wear your jumper, the season's here!

Renewal Season: January 2026

Renewal Season: January 2026

As the year turns fresh and new,
A gentle reminder comes to you.
The bond we share, strong and true,
Awaits renewal—January's due.

Together we've grown, achieved, and dreamed,
Through every challenge, bright we've gleamed.
Now let's continue, side by side,
With open hearts and renewed pride.

Your membership keeps the u3a spirit alive,
Helping our community learn and thrive.
So take a moment, make it clear—
Renew today, embrace the year.

For every voice, each hand, each friend,
Our shared journey need not end.
January calls—come join once more,
The best of us is still in store.

u3a university of the third age

ILKESTON u3a
New Member / Renewal Membership 2026

Registered Charity Number: 1184754

Full Name Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms	Membership number
Email (preferred contact method)	Telephone
Address	Mobile
	Postcode

MEMBERSHIP FEES
I wish to join / renew my membership at Ilkeston u3a and agree to abide by the CODE OF CONDUCT (detailed on page 2). Please select one of the following options:

FULL Membership - I am not a member of another u3a. Fees include a £4.00 subscription paid to our national organisation, the Third Age Trust, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover.

☐ Jan - Dec £22.50
☐ Jul - Dec £11.25

ASSOCIATE Membership - I am a full member of another u3a. Please provide proof of your current membership by completing the following information and showing your membership card:
Name of u3a _____ MShip No _____ Period of subscription _____

☐ Jan - Dec £15.00
☐ Jul - Dec £7.50

Fees are payable by one of the following methods (please tick):

☐ Preferred Method - Bank transfer payable to:
Ilkeston u3a; Sort Code 30-96-26; A/C No 79570068; Ref: Member No/Surname

☐ Cheque payable to Ilkeston u3a
☐ Cash

Renewal Form available On Line + separate Bank Transfer (preferred option as no bank charges!) to Ilkeston u3a; Sort code 30 - 96 – 26; A/C No 79570068;

Ref: Surname & First Name (or Initial/s)

OR paper copy via Bank Transfer/ Cash /Cheque.

Attention all Group Leaders!

We are fast approaching the end of the year when I need to complete the 2025 accounts for Ilkeston u3a.

With that in mind, could all Group Leaders, that **do not** collect money at their groups, send me an email, identifying your group and stating that there is a nil return.

Email: treasurer@ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Income and expenditure sheets (with receipts) from all other Group Leaders, need to be handed in as soon as possible after your last meeting of the year and before the end of December. Some groups have already finished and I will be available at our December Open Meeting to collect them then.

Thank you all very much.

Margarete Peel

Treasurer Ilkeston u3a

West Hallam Poppy Cascade



The ladies in our Knit and Stitch group were asked to help by knitting or crocheting poppies for the planned poppy cascade in West Hallam. Many of our ladies rose to the challenge and helped towards producing over 6,000 poppies that were eventually donated to West Hallam Women's Institute for incorporation into the Remembrance Day tribute in November.

Val Buxton

Additional Note: Don't they look amazing! I sent the knitting pattern to my American penfriend, Donna Krause, who lives in Wisconsin, and she was delighted to take up the challenge to make some poppies for the display. She sent me six, beautifully knitted, though somewhat larger than most. Their post office charged her over \$20 to send them! I was horrified.

Janis Henshaw

Interest Groups Round-up

Tenpin Bowling

Ten pin bowling continues to be well attended with between 10—16 participating each month.

Congratulations to Angie, Annie and Graham for personal best scores recently.

We are looking forward to a Christmas lunch at the Newdigate West Hallam.



Nick Morley

Book Group 2

We have a vacancy in the group. We tend to meet in members' homes around Ilkeston on the last Tuesday of every month at 2pm.

We read one book a month—mainly fiction but also some non fiction. We are a friendly group and Derbyshire Library Service provides the books.

Please contact me via the u3a website.

**Thanks
David Storer**

Interest Groups Round-up

Craft Both groups joined together this month because of the cancellation of the room for one of our weeks.

This month's activity was run by Alyson and we enjoyed making crepe paper poppies. Here's a photo of a selection the group made.



Barbara Deb and Val

History 1 For our November meeting we welcomed Steven Flinders. He's always very good for an interesting talk and there are no worries regarding hearing him. However we had a change from a talk. Instead of sitting and listening, we had to participate and use our brains. Stephen had brought along a chest with various numbered items inside and we were divided into small groups, all at separate tables, each table with a sheet of paper, face down, school exam style. He then proceeded to unpack his chest, placing an item on each table. We were then told to turn our papers over to find a list of numbers corresponding with the items, each item being moved around the tables, each number with a cryptic clue, such as Mid 1950s, a relic of the Cold War era, Rolling and Ravelling etc. I would not try to give too much away in case the reader has an opportunity to attend one of these sessions. This is the third that I have seen, and I think that Stephen said he had five of these chests, all with different eclectic items inside. It really was a brain teaser and not simple. Out of 10, the scores were around 3 or 4, which Stephen told us was about average and he has taken these chests around the area, to various groups. If you get the chance to attend one of these events, don't hesitate, they are very entertaining. Stephen must have visited every antique and curio shop for miles around and even some from abroad, it really did result in a lot of chatter, speculation, and laughter. Many thanks, Stephen, another string to your bow—and that could be another clue.

Alwyn Holmes

Interest Groups Round-up

Knit & Stitch

Val Buxton has been busy again, making Christmas items for charity

She has made a family of gnomes and some reindeer wreaths. They will be going to the friends of Ilkeston hospital for sale. Aren't they lovely, she is so clever.



My duck now has a dress but the duckling is going to have to wait a while!

Patchwork & Quilting

Marian has made another cushion, it is really smart, made in the style of cathedral windows. (First picture)



Christine has made a set of 4 reversible cushion covers for Christmas and also a peacock block to go into her quilt. The colours are so good I can't wait to see it finished.

I have made another child's quilt, this time it is a set of turtles. I hope it will eventually go to a little boy.



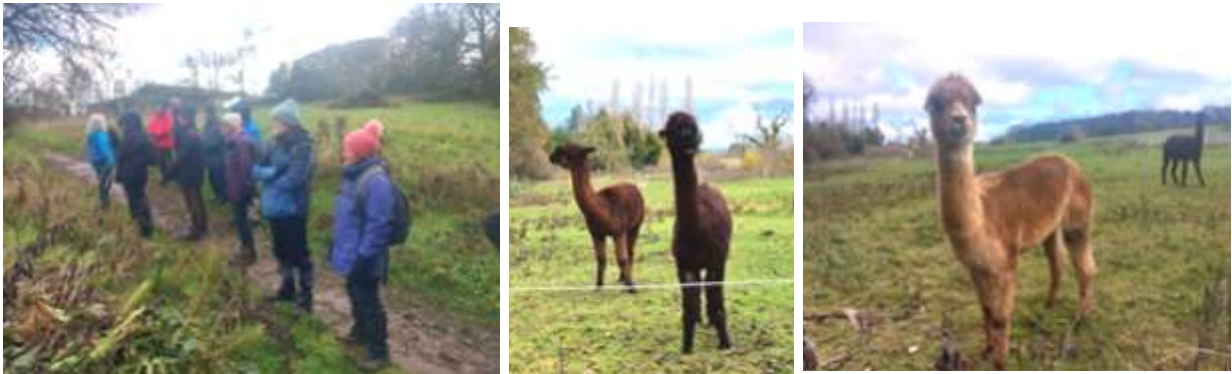
Some of the others in the group have also made blocks and other items but they are a little shy about sharing them with you all!

Jenny Whittaker

Interest Groups Round-up

Rambling We had been gloomily watching the weather, following Storm Claudia and further rain the day before the November walk. But the day dawned clear and bright and 16 of us set off in fine form from The Navigation pub in Breaston for a six mile walk, taking in Draycott, Hopwell Hall and Risley. Overnight the temperature had taken a nose dive and it was a very chilly start. The first part of the walk followed the route of the old Derby canal, now filled in, but it provided a good firm footpath.

We do encounter some curious farm animals sometimes, like these alpacas in Risley, which we were all looking at with such interest.



It was a very enjoyable walk, and afterwards we all piled into the Bridge Inn in Sandiacre for a good meal.

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At the beginning of this year Dennis announced that he would be stepping down as Rambling Group leader in December, giving a full year's notice. He has been doing the task for about ten years and felt he had had enough of organising it. During the time he has been running it we have seen the group grow from sometimes less than 8 on an outing to regularly 16—24 walkers. We have become a bunch of good friends, which is apparent from the amount of chatter that ensues during the walks. It doesn't matter who we are walking with at any given moment, the conversation just flows. And most people stay for a meal at the end of the walk if they can. It must do wonders for our well being! The hope is that someone else (or a group of people) will come forward to carry on the good work. Perhaps we have become a victim of our own success, as a larger group means more organisation is necessary with the pubs who provide our victuals. But it's up to Dennis's successor to organise the group however they wish. Sadly, if no one volunteers to continue, the Rambling Group will finish after the December walk on the 17th.

**Janis Henshaw**

## What you Wanted to Share



Festive images flit before our eyes  
Turkey, plum pudding and mince pies,  
Holly and ivy. And mistletoe too,  
Under which you kiss the one you woo.

Fiery embers making our faces glow  
As we roast sweet chestnuts very slow.  
Fairy lights, tinsel and bright shiny balls  
Decking the trees, and all of the halls.

Carol singers and church bell ringers,  
Big brass bands, the music bringers.

Good old Santa on his sleigh  
Pulled by Rudolph all the way,  
Carrying every kind of toy  
To delight each girl and boy.



People bustling here and there  
No time.. No time to stand and share  
A cheery word with those they meet  
Hurrying, scurrying down the street.

No time to think of the first Christmas day,  
To think of Jesus, a babe in the hay,  
No time to think of Mary, His mother mild  
Nursing and loving Him, God's precious child,



No time to think of the shepherds and Magi  
three  
Bowing before the child on bended knee,  
No time for reflection on what Christmas  
means,  
It's not just a set of Nativity scenes,

A real man came in human form, to feel  
our pain  
And heal us all, before He died and rose  
again!

## What you Wanted to Share

### The Twelve Days of Christmas . . . in other words by Janet Reeve

On the first day of Christmas a good? friend gave to me . . .  
A Santa on a snowy sleigh



|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| On the second day . . .   | 2 Christmas Trees    |
| On the third day . . .    | 3 Holly Leaves       |
| On the fourth day . . .   | 4 Tinkling Bells     |
| On the fifth day . . .    | 5 BRUSSEL SPROUTS    |
| On the sixth day . . .    | 6 Reindeer Romping   |
| On the seventh day . . .  | 7 Pigs in Blankets   |
| On the eighth day . . .   | 8 Jazzy Jumpers      |
| On the ninth day . . .    | 9 Chocolate Crackers |
| On the tenth day . . .    | 10 Angels Singing    |
| On the eleventh day . . . | 11 Fairies Dancing   |
| On the twelfth day . . .  | 12 Lights A-flashing |

Just a load of nonsense really!!

Janet xx