

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

**on
Tuesday 3rd February
10.00 am–12 noon at
The Arena
Ilkeston**

Our Speaker this month is

Angela Nightingale
“Waterman to Waterperry”
The presentation looks into the family life of Joseph Warner Henley MP. From humble beginnings, spectacular business opportunities and an important role in Westminster alongside Disraeli

Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

3rd March: “Burma and the Karen People” by Carol Brooks. A detailed history and current situation of the wonderful Karen people Carol has worked with over the years.

7th April: Activities Fair

5th May: “Teacher, Trader, Lion Tamer and Spy” by Ian Green. The story of the Wheeldon family, who were at the centre of a political storm of feminism, socialism and pacifism during the First World War.

2nd June: “Getting crabs, throwing stones and other offences”. Night-watchmen’s notebook in the 1830’s led to this talk of a detailed picture of a different side of life.

***** 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

Chairman's Corner



Hello Members

It is difficult to realise that, as I write it, is nearly the end of January. As we begin to prepare for the Annual General Meeting, which will be held as part of the March Meeting, we realise how lucky we are with all who offer their time to help Ilkeston U3A run so smoothly. Whether as group leaders, in the welcoming team at open meetings, making the refreshments, compiling the newsletter, maintaining our website or on the committee, we are very grateful for all help which continues to be given. Would you like to help in any way? Have a word with any of the committee and we won't say no!!

Many thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for the coming year. If you still have to collect your new badge, please pick it up on one of the welcome tables, and when you've collected it please don't forget to wear it at Open Meetings. Thanks to Jacky and Margarete for all the work put in to ensure the smooth running of the renewals once more.

Finally have a good month and I look forward to seeing you at the Open Meeting on 3rd February.

Andrew

WANTED: Committee Members!



Committee Members urgently needed to keep Ilkeston u3a running

Ilkeston u3a committee members are vital. They act as Trustees, responsible for governance, financial management and uphold the organisation's charitable aims, ensuring that Ilkeston u3a runs smoothly, legally and effectively to serve its members—YOU!

Four volunteers are needed

The Management Committee works as a team to make decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the organisation. They collectively provide leadership, manage operations like membership, speakers and interest groups and ensure sustainability, making them essential for the entire u3a's existence and success.

Talk to any committee member (look for their badge) and ask them about their role.

WANTED: Volunteers!

To all members

We are looking for a few volunteers to help out at the Main Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

If anyone would be interested in covering positions when people are either on holiday or absent for health reasons, could you please get in touch with either me or another member of the committee?

To give you an idea as to the positions: the signing in register and selling the raffle tickets are examples.

Thank you in advance

Barbara Green
Volunteer Coordinator

Data Debate and Shaping the 2031 Census

Report of our data debate and an opportunity to help shape the 2031 Census

This article has two links to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The first links to the publication of the data debate that members of Ilkeston u3a participated in, and the second links to a consultation which ends on the 4th February to help shape the 2031 Census.

Firstly, earlier in the year members of our local u3as, including Ilkeston u3a, took part in a data debate which was jointly organised by the ONS and the u3a. The published results can be found at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/usingpublicdatatoproducestatistics/peoplesattitudetodata/theonsdatadebates/theonsdatadebate65plus>

Secondly, the ONS have launched a public consultation to help shape Census 2031 in England and Wales. Census topics have changed over time to capture the changing needs of society and allow for analysis of what matters most to communities and policymakers. Through this consultation, people can tell the ONS how they use census data and their requirements for topic data from Census 2031.

Key information:

- ◆ You can respond in English or Welsh by **4 February 2026**.
- ◆ You can complete the consultation on behalf of an organisation or as an individual.
- ◆ There is a Word document version of the consultation questions available for you to download and use for collaboration with colleagues before submitting your final response online (scroll to the bottom of the consultation website).

David Martin

U3a Online Learning Events

The u3a has a regular programme of online learning events. These events which cover a wide range of topics can be viewed and booked at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events>

Two events at the beginning of February are:

Smashing particles – behind the scenes at CERN

Online event

Thursday 5th February 2pm to 3pm

Overview

In this talk, Dr Octavio Dominguez CERN explores the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva.

About the speaker

Dr Octavio Dominguez studied physics in his native Seville (Spain) before continuing his research journey across Europe—from solar energy in Germany to superconducting magnets in Italy, and finally to Switzerland, where he completed a PhD in Accelerator Physics at CERN.



The Mathematicians' Library

Online event

Friday February 6th 10am to 11am

Overview

Thomas K. Briggs explores some of the publications that have been instrumental in the development of mathematics throughout history.

About the speaker

Thomas K. Briggs is a freelance museum learning consultant, maths communicator, and author based in Milton Keynes.



Have you had Knee Replacement Surgery?

Have you had knee replacement surgery? Are you interested in being involved in a study with Manchester University, not just pain levels, but day-to-day movement and activity?

From: Fu Lian Doble via Derbyshire Network u3a

We are running a study here at the University of Manchester. We want better understanding of how people actually recover after knee replacement surgery - not just pain levels, but day-to-day movement and activity. Doctors can measure pain reduction - but questions like everyday movement after surgery are a lot more difficult to answer.

Our study is unique because we want to help provide these answers by looking at fitness data from people's iPhones, along with fitness trackers, bringing the data together with surgery information already held securely in the National Joint Registry.

We believe that your u3a community is uniquely placed to help us with our important research project. While you yourself may not fit the eligibility, there may be members who are a good fit, or they in turn may know someone—their participation could make a real difference.

We truly value the work u3a does to keep older adults connected and active, and believe that our study goals align perfectly with yours. If you are able to support this, please do contact me via email. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Please respond to Fu Lian Doble (fulian.doble@manchester.ac.uk)

What you wanted to share



Mother Nature's little Miracle

I just wanted to share this with members to add a bit of colour to a dreary winter's day

I found this in my garden on December 30th.

Barbara Green

Interest Groups Round-up

Patchwork & Quilting These photos are the contributions from Patchwork for the last couple of months.



Elaine has made two lovely Christmas table runners and has also added another block towards her quilt.



After changing her mind about making this particular group quilt Marian is making blocks at a great pace. The two photos above show her prolific progress.



Wanda has appliquéd a lovely Robin with Holly and Ivy. She is also branching out into punch needle embroidery and I am looking forward to including a photo when she has completed her cushion cover.

Interest Groups Round-up



Christine is rivalling Marian for the amount of blocks she has made and has completed the whole middle section, very beautiful. **(see left)**

Val has added another couple of blocks to her quilt. Beautiful blues! **(see right)**



Kathy has added another three and I am feeling very guilty for not making anymore at all!



Anne has made a table runner out of some Courthouse steps blocks. This is lovely and made me feel very spring-like.

The rest of us just enjoyed Christmas!

Jenny Whittaker

Interest Groups Round-up

History 1 Well, our group has enjoyed changes over the holiday period. We enjoyed a very nice Christmas meal at Trinity Farm, Awwsworth. This event coincided with our leader, Michael Stone, standing down, after leading us through some fantastic times and experiences, that we have all thoroughly enjoyed, and we showed our appreciation in a suitable manner. Thank you, Mike, from one and all. At the same time we welcomed our new leader, Margarete Peel, and we look forward to her reign and further experiences.

Our January meeting, under Margarete, was inspired by our November meeting with Stephen Flinders and his unusual objects, which produced so much hilarity and pleasure. We were all asked to bring along some objects/photos etc. of our own and of historical interest for our own "show and tell" meeting. This produced a surprising variety of objects: a gas mask owned by the first lady mayor of Ilkeston, found in a loft, a bowler hat brush, a 1938 food pusher, a rare Denby bowl, an amazing display of old RAF badges, wings and medals also a bullet, a coin celebrating Queen Victorias 60th year of reign, Gang Show photographs from the 1950s, Spitfire badges purchased during WWII as fundraisers for actual Spitfire planes, and a 1918 letter from King George, welcoming the release of an Ilkeston ex-POW. And not forgetting Colin's hat.

Much discussion took place and was fully enjoyed.



Michael and Margarete

Alwyn Holmes

Poets' Corner



RESET, GATHER, GO AGAIN!

BY

Janet Reeve

When you're down and feeling blue,
Feeling rubbish through and through,
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

When life is tough, and you feel rough,
And tell yourself, "Enough's enough!"
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

When smiles slip, and spirits dip
And such sadness through you rips,
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

When you've been so mentally scarred,
And every path to you seems barred,
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

When your God seems so far away
Not listening in to what you pray,
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

When you feel the world's gone crazy,
And understanding of it's hazy,
Reset, Gather, Go Again!
Don't let your brain send you insane!

Whatever happens in your life,
Whatever trauma, stress or strife,
Reset! Gather! Go Again!

RESET! GATHER! GO AGAIN!

Life's for Living!
YES? YES!!!



Emojis from Pixabay

Poets' Corner

CAPITALISM BY GRAHAM PEEL

Capitalism is a beast!
It is finding the Internet a happy place to inhabit.
The capitalist juggernaut has parked itself at the junctions,
where toll booth is acquiring huge funds.
The capitalists have got in early enough to take control,
and prevent the Internet from becoming what it could be.
It could be a technology for the equitable distribution
of information and economic benefit of all.

Industrial capitalism is struggling
but digital capitalism is thriving.
Unfortunately for the many, the few are gaining control.
And that control is vested in a very few hands.

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