

This month join us at our

### Open Meeting

on

**Tuesday 5th May**  
10.00 am–12 noon at  
The Arena, Ilkeston

**Our speaker this month is:**

**Ian Green**

**“Teacher, Trader, Lion Tamer  
and Spy”**

**The story of an Ilkeston  
teacher and her family  
accused of plotting to murder  
the Prime Minister**

**Refreshments available**

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### Coming soon to our Open Meetings

**2nd June: “Getting crabs, throwing stones and other offences” by Jane Whitaker.**

**Night-watchmen’s notebook in the 1830’s led to this talk of a detailed picture of a different side of life.**

**7th July: “Film Musicals of the Swinging 60’s” by Mary de Ville. Clips of songs of the 60’s from notable films, interspersed with fashions, adverts, news, etc.**

**4th August: “Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker” by Stephen Flinders. “It’s amazing what turns up when you delve into your family history.”**

**1st September: “The Eye of the Tiger” by Anna-Louise Pickering. Pollyanna and Anna-Louise’s 2nd expedition into India, where Pollyanna painted the increasingly endangered Royal Bengal Tiger.**

### \*\*\* 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 was another excellent open meeting last month, where we saw Ashley Franklin's marvellous pictures of our county. It was good that he brought his jigsaws with him (and I did buy one for Sally - my wife). It was also good that so many were able to attend, even in Easter week.

In June we will be marking Volunteer Week and we are grateful to all who volunteer in any way to help with the running of Ilkeston U3A and the smooth running of the meetings. If you feel that you could help in anyway please have a word with any of the committee and I am sure we will not say no!!

After the April meeting being in Easter week, we find that the May open meeting will also be in a Bank Holiday week. I look forward to seeing you on 5th May, when Ian Green will be talking about an Ilkeston teacher and her family, who certainly had an interesting life!!

**Andrew**

## Interest Group Display at Open Meetings

At the open meeting in April Christine, who runs the Family History Group, had a display at the front next to the stage. It was a great success. It attracted members both old and new to take a look. By the end of the meeting seven new members had signed up to join the group.

If you wish to promote your group or start a new one, the display table will be available at every open meeting so book your space. It's also a lovely way of meeting and chatting to other u3a members.

Email me at [lynnethorpe91@gmail.com](mailto:lynnethorpe91@gmail.com)

Lynne Thorpe

### Have you seen and wonder why people hand me milk bottle tops and postage stamps at meetings?

I collect for a charity called Pathfinder Dogs. They are a registered charity that trains ONLY German Shepherd Dogs for blind adults in the UK.

<https://pathfinderdogs.org/>

Charity number SC035007



Regards, Alyson Marriott (Volunteer business secretary)

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Craft** This month The craft groups have been busy making pyramid-shaped cards. They are made from 6 pieces of larger squares folded in half to form a triangle, 4 smaller squares cut into triangles and 2 very small squares cut into triangles. By joining the larger shapes together to form the shape the other triangles are added along with embellishments to decorate.

We had some beautiful results. Thanks, Val for the idea!



**Barbara Green**

**Play Reading** I've run the Play Reading group for over 9 years and it's going really well. We are always open to new members. It's a fun afternoon and no-one criticises anyone.

We read a varied genre of plays. We meet twice a month at the fire station, on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, from 1.30 until 4.15. We each pay £4 a year subscription for the loan of the play sets.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact me by e-mail.



**Sue Widdowson**

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Garden Group** For the March meeting Colin Robbins, a volunteer ranger at Wollaton Park, had been invited to give a presentation on the history of Wollaton Park and gardens. Colin illustrated the talk with slides of past and present areas of the park and how it has evolved by the Willoughby family from medieval farmland into a public deer park and nature reserve.



The Willoughby's became involved over the centuries initially through Sir Richard Willoughby marrying Roger Mortyn's daughter, sometime between 1314 and 1319 (the land having been passed to Roger from Warner de Codnor).



Subsequently members of the Willoughby family inherited the land and hall and were responsible for the building of the Hall and adding to the estate with the gardens, lake, camellia house, stocking the park with wild deer for hunting and white cattle for farming, amongst other things.

Around 1460, prior to the park and hall, a hybrid oak took root at Arbour Hill which today is known as the Arbour Oak. Later the park had a further 100 acres added and was known as Wollaton Parke (parke

meaning an enclosed hunting ground) and across some of the estate there were public rights of way.

In 1688 Thomas Willoughby inherited from his brother Francis and continued to restore the hall and gardens. He was raised to the peerage in 1712 and took the title Baron Middleton, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Middleton.

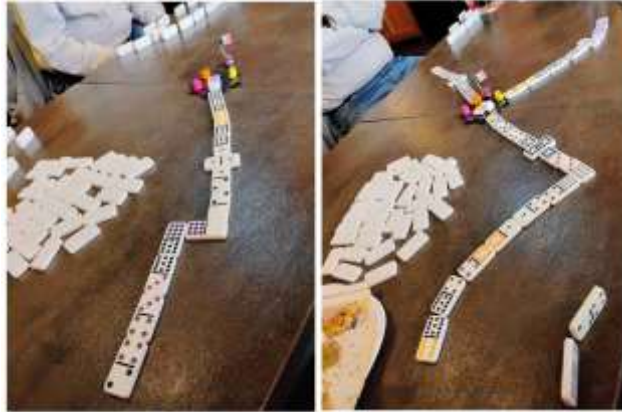
In 1922 on the death of Digby Willoughby, Godfrey Willoughby the 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Middleton inherited the estate and, due to substantial death duties, the family was forced to sell Wollaton Park. An agreement in September 1924 to sell to Nottingham City Council unfortunately was postponed, due to the death of Godfrey, until May 1925 when his son Michael (11<sup>th</sup> Baron Middleton) concluded the sale to Nottingham Corporation.

Colin gave a very detailed presentation and has also written a very informative book about the Park and I cannot do justice to his presentation because of all the information he has compiled.

**Barbara Bailey**

## Interest Groups Round-up

**Mexican Train** Once again I had a good run in Mexican Train - actually it was two times, one after the other. The photos show two runs of 12 dominoes. It's just pure luck but nice if it happens.



**Jacky Wilding**

**History 1** For our April meeting we were asked to look up famous or infamous characters in our family trees and present a short report on the subject. To lead the way, we had two guests with family tree interests to start the process. Gillian, our first guest spoke of a very dysfunctional family, not her own, which was not for the faint hearted. As a result I keep the details brief. The male in question committed bigamy, incest with a daughter and had many affairs, and apparently fathered 29 known children.

Moving swiftly on, our second guest speaker, John, spoke of a book found after his mother passed away, which led to a family connection with the Mormon Church and America. A large group of British and Scandinavians, some 65,000, made very perilous journeys over the seas and America in order to reach Salt Lake City. In the process many, many hundreds lost their lives.

Janet spoke of her Grandmother who became the first Lady Mayoress for Ilkeston, also an artist in the family.

Graham spoke of a Grandfather who won medals and certificates for his work in the production of seed potatoes in the 1800s. He also produced some of the certificates for us to see. So next time you are tucking into a plate of chips, just raise your eyes and say a thank you to Graham's Grandfather.

Sue and Colin talked on their joint family relationship with the Royal family. And I am sure that for anyone wanting further details, Colin will take great delight in explaining.

Dawn spoke on her family connection to the Severn family at Codnor and their connection to Phrenology (that is the old skill of reading your bumps to you and me), also the Codnor Alms Houses which were funded by the Severn Family.

A lot of other chatter took place amongst all of our members on the above topics, and another meeting was well enjoyed by all. Thank-You,

**Alwyn Holmes**

## Interest Groups Round-up

### Patchwork & Quilting



The first photo above is of Marian's new blocks. The second is of Val's completed quilt. Well done Val! The first of the group to complete it.



The third photo (left) is of a little basket I made out of hexagons.

The fourth photo (right) is of a beautiful table centre made by Wanda.

The next two photos below are either side of a spring/summer table runner, also by Wanda



### Knit & Stitch

Val has made the cutest little knitted rabbit to sell for charity. I really wish my grand daughters were younger!



Jenny Whittaker