

This month join us at our
Open Meeting

on

Tuesday 4th August
10.00 am–12 noon at
The Arena, Ilkeston

Our speaker this month is:

Stephen Flinders:

**“Robert Bruce Napoleon
Walker”**

**“It’s amazing what turns up
when you delve into your
family history!”**

Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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.

6th October: “Owd Ilson Fair” by Max Biddulph. Max traces the social history of the Ilkeston Charter Fair which remains Derbyshire’s premier street fair 774 years after its inception. *(A change to our previously advertised speaker)*

3rd November: “Sudan” by Mike Kelley. Mike continues to entertain us with his experiences of working in the Sudan.

*** 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,

Possibly I'm a spoil sport, but I have been relieved that it has been a little cooler for the morning walk during the last month!

It's a relatively short Chairman's Corner this month. There will be a change to the programmed speaker at the October Open Meeting. Please see details of this change in the section headed "*Coming soon to our Open Meetings*" on the front page of this Newsletter.

We decided at the committee meeting not to have the stall at the Classic Car Festival in town this year. We will be having our usual display in the library for U3A week in September, more details to come in the next Newsletter.

We have received a couple of invitations. The first is to keep our eyes open!! As you may remember, we took part in some research last year for Loughborough University into *Mathematics for everyday life*. We have received an invitation to take part in some further research - more details to follow - into Scams. (We will publish more details when received). The second invitation is one published later in the Newsletter (p.3) which is for a Regional Event being held on Tuesday 13th October in Grantham, looking at the use of Social Media, organised by U3A East Midlands Region. Best of all it is Free!!

Trusting that things will continue to get a little cooler. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Open Meeting on 4th August.

Andrew Davies

u3a East Midlands Region Workshop

u3a East Midlands Region Workshop - Tuesday 13th October 2026

As previously publicised, we are very pleased to announce the details of the first of three Regional Workshops for the East Midlands.

We encourage you to reserve your place as soon as possible, and do remember - every u3a member in the Region is invited.

Rosie Allen

John Butler

Rosie.Allen@u3a.org.uk John.Butler@u3a.org.uk

Council Representatives - u3a East Midlands Region



The poster is for a u3a East Midlands Region Workshop titled 'Promoting your u3a!'. It features the u3a logo and the tagline 'learn, laugh, live' in a blue circle. The main title 'Promoting your u3a!' is in large blue letters. Below this, the date, timing, and venue are listed in yellow boxes. A list of topics to be covered is provided, followed by the admission details and a call to reserve a place. The bottom of the poster has a blue banner with the slogan 'Stronger together Supporting u3as across the East Midlands'.

u3a | East Midlands Region
WORKSHOP

Promoting your u3a!

DATE: Tuesday 13th October 2026

TIMING: 10am Registration
10.30am - 2.30pm Workshop

VENUE: Ropsley Hall, Braceby Road
Ropsley, Grantham NG33 4BN

- Advice from the Trust's Sam Dukes, Head of Marketing
- Use of Social Media, Sheila Crawley, Trust Vice Chair
- A success story from a u3a
- An opportunity to share your own ideas

ADMISSION FREE
with light refreshments provided
Bring your own lunch

Reserve your place by emailing:
margot.nottsw@work@outlook.com
Include your name, u3a, county & email address

Stronger together
Supporting u3as across the East Midlands

Sign up to the u3a Friends newsletter
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/u3a-friends>



Ilkeston u3a will be there!



Ilkeston u3a will be there.

If you fancy volunteering for an hour or so please contact Alyson,
businesssecretaryilkestonu3a@outlook.com

Someone's been having a sort-out!

Hi,

I have been sorting out my loft and found oddments of wool suitable for people who knit post box covers, etc., plus some Aran and cotton yarns. I thought someone might know someone who will use it? I have knitting needles as well.

Also there are oddments of fabric for patchwork, chair covers or cushions.

If interested, please email me, as it is too heavy to carry down to the Open Meeting.



Wendy Wesley

Band Concert



Good u3a turn out for the band concert at Victoria Park on Sunday 26th July!
(Photo by Alyson Marriott)

Interest Groups Round-up

History 1 For our July meeting we took a trip to the Cat and Fiddle Windmill. The idea was to have a talk by the last miller and a video of the mill and the families who worked there. However, the Gremlins crept in and the projector refused to co-operate, but we enjoyed a very detailed explanation of the workings of the mill and the Smedley family who managed it from the 1870s until its closure in 1952.

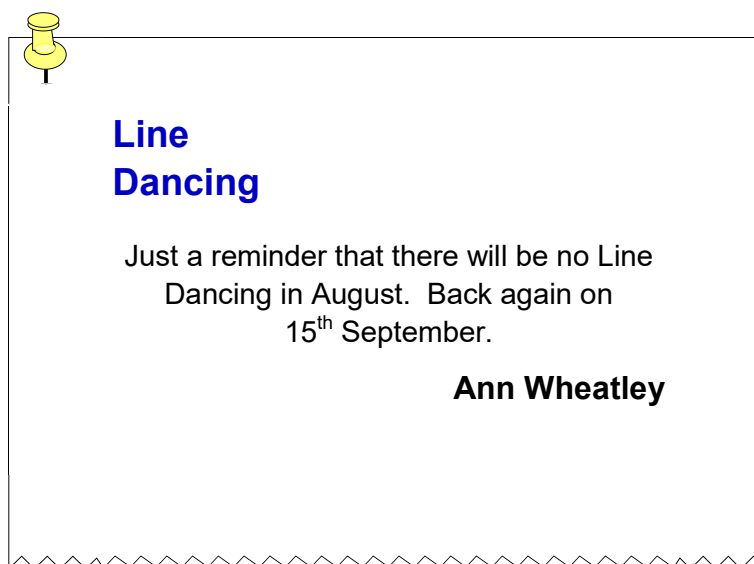
The mill is believed to have been constructed in 1788, the date inscribed on an upper cross tree on the mill. But this cannot be proved as timber from older mills was often reused. It was originally built as an open trestle post mill. It underwent modifications in 1844 when a brick and sandstone round house was added, converting it to a Midlands-type post mill. It remains remarkably well preserved and is almost in working condition.

The reason for the name, Cat and Fiddle is lost in the mists of time. Some speculate it may have been linked to a local inn. But whatever, the name adds a layer of charm to this historic structure.

It was a very interesting group meeting, apart from the Gremlin or maybe the cat! Who knows?

We finished off by availing ourselves of the hospitality of the excellent on-site coffee shop.

Alwyn Holmes



Interest Groups Round-up

Patchwork & Quilting 3 more blocks from Marian, she has nearly finished her quilt so watch this space! She has also made this little thread pot. Very useful!



Elaine has finished her quilt (left below). Very well done to her. It looks beautiful!



Christine had completed more blocks and made another panel (above first right). These have now been incorporated into her finished quilt, (second right) which looks amazing!



Wanda has completed another block (left) which I hope will go into her quilt, you can see why it's called drunkards path!



Anne has made a table runner from some blocks called Courthouse steps

Jenny completed a mainly black and white quilt in the square within a square pattern.



Jenny Whittaker

Interest Groups Round-up

Knit & Stitch

Wanda has made a cushion cover from punch embroidery. I am so impressed, I have always wanted to have a go at this.



Val has made another collection of knitted animals to sell at the 'Friends of Ilkeston hospital shop'. They are so cute.

If anyone would like to join us either for Patchwork and Quilting or Knit and Stitch there are places available and we would love to see you. Please contact me for details.

Jenny Whittaker

Craft This month we have made some gift bags and baskets. The little bags were made from cardboard tubes. The baskets from a template cut and folded into shape.

Some of you would have seen or even bought some at the main meeting.



Barbara, Val and Deb

Poet's Corner

Pigeon Pre-nuptials by *Janet Reeve*

Pigeon bathing in birdbath, water spraying around,
Squatting down briefly on the sun-baked ground,
Preening feathers after refreshing, cleansing shower,
Drying plumage, ready for his courtship hour.

Coyly landing on the red brick wall,
His lover awaiting, intimate mating call,
Billing and cooing, and side-step dancing,
Side-step dancing, pigeon romancing.

She scuttles shyly towards the fence,
Feathers raised in a form of defence,
Pretending to shun her lover's intention,
Not working though, I have to mention!

He shimmies nearer on one bent leg,
Head bobbing up and down to humbly beg
And make more advances to his beau,
Date her, mate her, and cosset her so!

**She succumbs
They fly down together,
Feather to feather**



**What ensues?
I leave YOU to discover!!**

Picture: free image by Pexel.com

Poet's Corner

The "Gestalt"
By
Graham Peel

*Not so much a poem, more of a cartouche of
words*

~~●~~

We feel more than we understand.

We understand more than we can think.

We think more than we can say.

*When we grasp the Gestalt we feel,
understand, think,
And only then may our words fulfil their task.*