

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

**Tuesday 1st September
10.00 am–12 noon at
The Arena, Ilkeston**

Our speaker this month is:

**Anna-Louise Pickering
Presenting
“The Eye of the Tiger”**

**Anna-Louise and her mother,
Pollyanna’s 2nd expedition
into India, where Pollyanna
painted the increasingly
endangered Royal Bengal
Tiger.**

Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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.

1st December: “A slow bike ride across Germany” by Alistair Clark. Alistair bought a second-hand bike in Karl Marx Allee in Berlin and set off to ride 650 kms almost to the Dutch Border.

There will also be a return visit by “Angler’s Mates” prior to the talk.

***** 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.

Website: www.ilkestonu3a.org.uk or Tel: 07760 966325

Find us on

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1226535837801301>

Chairman's Corner



Hello Members

I trust that everyone is appreciating the cooler weather.

It was good to have such a good attendance again at Open Meeting in August. Many thanks to Russell for his continued organising of such a strong set of speakers—it is much appreciated. Would you be interested in helping Russell or shadowing him as he continues to prepare the programme for our enjoyment? (Just speak to Russell if you are interested).

The History groups will be doing a small presentation at the next open meeting. If your interest group would like to have a table at a future open meeting, please have a word with Lynne. Lynne also has another invitation, if you are relatively new to u3a and would like to know more or get to know other members. You are welcome to drop into Leggs on South Street on 3rd September at 10:30 am.

We had a stall at the Shipley Scarecrow Festival at the start of August. Many thanks to Alyson for organising and manning it. We will be doing our usual display for u3a week at Ilkeston Library—many thanks to Margarete for setting up the display.

Finally a little bit of good news, in that the committee are able to say that, after reviewing finances, we believe that we will be in a position for next year to reduce the membership fees! More details to follow in later newsletters (don't forget it is available both on the website and in paper form now).

I look forward to seeing you at Open Meeting on 1st September to see more pictures and hear more about Wild Life from Anna-Louise Pickering.

Andrew

Attention: Winter fuel scams

I saw this notice in a Derbyshire County Council newsletter and thought it was very relevant for our members.

Alyson Marriott

Winter fuel scams

It might seem a bit odd to talk about winter fuel scams when we're experiencing such warm weather. But last year, criminals targeted UK adults between August and October, and this year is likely to be no different.

Remember, most Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically.

You shouldn't need to apply, and you'll **never** be asked to provide personal or banking details by text message or email.

Criminals often target people who may be less confident dealing with unexpected texts, emails, or phone calls. They exploit confusion by sending fake "apply now" texts and emails.

Received a message you're unsure about? Check it using the Ask Silver Scam Checker or visit GOV.UK for trusted information.

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/ask-silver

Find out more



Lynne just wanted to say . . .

1st thing: A great opportunity to start or expand a group

There is a slot booked at the Fire Station for a new group on the **4th Wednesday of the month**. This is a fantastic opportunity to expand our interest groups! Don't miss out, just ring me!

2nd thing: For the attention of all new or nearly new members . . .

. . . come along to Leggs on South Street, 10.30 am on 3rd September, for a free **coffee**! Meet new people and discuss your u3a requirements and expectations. I look forward to seeing you.



Freepngimg.com

Lynne Thorpe
Interest group coordinator

Ilkeston u3a at the Shipley Scarecrow Festival

Our latest adventure was a display table at the Shipley Scarecrow Festival at Shipley Parish Room. The event was very well attended, and it was lovely to meet and talk to so many people. Thanks to Deb Bond who assisted me.

The theme for the scarecrow festival this year was 'The Movies'. The scarecrows were built by the community, local groups and schools. They will be on show for the remainder of the month should you wish to take a look and have a laugh. There are plenty more to see down at The Field at Shipley DE75 7JH.



Alyson Marriott

Interest Groups Round-up

Garden Group



The July meeting was our annual potato competition which this year Wendy and John kindly hosted for us. In spite of the dry weather there was an interesting assortment—in size and shapes of the potatoes. The variety was Nicola (thanks to Anne), which we hadn't tried before, and it brought forth interesting results—from the winning entry from Dennis (pictured left) of 3lb 8.5 ounces to 9 ounces. Mainly the weights were between 1lb and 3lb which, from one potato, is a good yield and they cooked well too.

John did the honours of emptying each container to gather together the potatoes for weighing and Wendy provided cakes and drinks, which we enjoyed in their very welcoming garden.



For our August meeting we were scheduled to visit Hydrangea Derby but due to a lack of support and learning that the display of hydrangeas would not be good, we decided to cancel the visit. Therefore a suggestion was made to meet in Victoria Park for an informal get together on our usual meeting date.

Barbara Bailey



Interest Groups Round-up

Craft The ladies have put their own designs on pre-cut step cards and a die cut machine, with some fantastic results



Barbara, Val and Deb

Interest Groups Round-up

Definitely not Rocket Science

At the July meeting we had snippets of articles from the news followed by discussion. We were then entertained by Colin who had been experimenting with Chronography at home. He was separating the colours from ink and food colourings. After coffee we then watched a film on the migration of birds.



Marian Stopper

Poet's Corner

Poor, poor trees

by

Janet Reeve



Poor, poor trees,

Mutilated beyond all recognition
From what they were yesterday

Many storeys high,
Man, appearing the size of an ant in a hat,
Perched precariously up in the sky,
Held by a slim nylon rope,
Hacking branches mercilessly away
Branches dropping hesitantly to the ground,
To be regurgitated in a growling spitting
machine.

Poor, poor trees,

Branches devoid of scope for growth this
year,
Stumpy, ugly, distorted arms
Restricted, unable to reach out and unfurl
their ugliness
To smoothness and elegance.

Poor, poor trees,

Changing my view from beauty to
destruction.

I can feel their pain in my heart,
Their sadness fills my eyes
And I look away.

Next year

I know they will leaf again

BUT

"Seeing" and "Knowing"
Are very different concepts!

Poor, poor trees!

Free image by c.pxhere.com

The Devonshire Collection

**Bakewell u3a
Chatsworth Group**



THE DEVONSHIRE COLLECTION

**Passions, Personalities and Patronage
Simon Seligman**

Simon has spent almost 30 years working in the arts, heritage, tourism and communication. Throughout his engaging presentation he will explore the Devonshire collection chronologically by collector, over 17 generations from 1550 to the present day, by way of explaining how such a diverse range of art and artefacts ended up under one roof, from precious drawings by Rembrandt and Raphael to modern work by Lucian Freud, Elisabeth Frink and Edmund de Waal.

Wednesday, 16th September 2026 | 2PM

Venue: Bakewell Town Hall, The Square, Bakewell DE45 1BT

Tickets from TicketSource £5.00.

<http://www.ticketsource.com/bakewell-u3a>

Tea and coffee available afterwards.



**This event is open to all Bu3a members,
their guests and anyone interested in
discovering more about Chatsworth.**