

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

**Tuesday 6th October
10.00 am – 12 noon at
The Arena, Ilkeston**

Our speaker this month is:

**Max Biddulph
“Owd Ilson Fair”**

**Max traces the social
history of the Ilkeston
Charter Fair which
remains Derbyshire’s
premier street fair 774
years after its inception**

Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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

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

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1226535837801301>
Tel: 07760 96632 Website: www.ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Chairman's Corner

Hello Members

A relatively short Chairman's Corner this month but still with opportunities and thanks.

Firstly, many thanks to Margarete for putting up the display for U3A week in the library and also to all the others involved in preparing the display. Secondly, thanks to all who are willing to act as Interest Group Leaders, who enable Ilkeston U3A to be such a rich tapestry and give us, the members, so many different opportunities. We especially thank those who are retiring after leading the groups for a number of years.

This brings us on to opportunities. Firstly, there has been a suggestion for three new interest groups and there will be an opportunity to express an interest in them at October's Open meeting by signing up. The first is an Indoor Kurling group, the second is a Cribbage group and the third is a Well Being light exercise group. At the minute you would just be expressing an interest, and we are just seeing if there would be enough for any of the groups. Is there a group you would like to see? Would you be interested in leading a group? If so, have a word with Lynne.

The second opportunity is that for the Christmas meeting we are having a speaker and also further entertainment by Anglers Mates. We will be having the usual larger Raffle with extra prizes!! If you have any prizes you can donate, please see Margarete or any member of the committee.

The last opportunity is: would you be interested in joining the Committee? We meet monthly for a relatively short meeting - if you are interested, please have a word with any member of the committee for more details.

Our October Open Meeting is on Tuesday 6th October at the usual time and place, when we will welcome Max Biddulph for his talk about 'Owd Ilson Fair'. What would October in Ilkeston be like without it!

Andrew Davies

Interest Groups round up

Patchwork & Quilting

The members of the Patchwork group were given a small bag of fabric and tasked with making a bag from it. It could be any style or size but they had to use the majority of the fabric in their bag, adding material from their own stash if they wished. They were given two months to complete the challenge and I am pleased to say the majority did manage it.



The first photo is a bag made for cowboy boots by Kathy, something she had always been meaning to make for her line dancing class.



The second is a beach bag made by Janet, ready for next year!



The third is the bag made by Marian. The fourth is a sewing/craft bag made by Elaine. The fifth is a small rucksack style bag made by Anne. The sixth is by Wanda who has also made a water bottle cover from the leftovers.



The seventh photo is of the two bags made by Val. A drawstring bag and a 'Japanese rice bag' with ends that are made to look like flowers.



The eighth photo is a lunch bag made by Jenny.



There have also been other finished projects this month.

Christine has made a charity quilt called 'Positivity' how apt! It is gorgeous. She has also made some green mug mats. Anne has finished the most stunning wall hanging. Very professional! Barbara has finished her group quilt at long last, but it was worth the wait. It looks so smart with its two matching cushions.

Jenny Whittaker

Interest Groups round up – continued

History 1

For our September meeting we had a speaker, Jackie Morgan, who gave us a very well-researched talk on Ghengis Khan and the Mongolian Empire, and she really had researched her subject.

Born, Temujin, around 1160 in the Mongolian Steppes, his early life was extreme poverty and hardship after his father was poisoned by a rival. He overcame betrayal and capture by rival clans, building alliances through military brilliance and personal loyalty. In 1206 at a grand assembly, he unified the tribes of the Mongolian plateau and was given the title Genghis Khan, meaning "Universal Ruler". He reformed society by establishing a meritocracy, creating a unified written legal code, and enforcing religious freedom.

He conquered northern China and many other kingdoms, but, as Jackie described in great detail, all these victories were at tremendous loss of life. No one was spared, no prisoners taken as she described rivers flowing with blood, amongst other gory descriptions. He expanded west into Central Asia and Persia after trade envoys were murdered, devastating the Khwarazmian Empire. Genghis Khan died in 1227 during a final campaign, leaving an empire stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Caspian Sea. His heirs, including his son Ogedei and grandson Kublai Khan pushed the borders even further into Europe, the Middle East and China.

Jackie's talk gave us far more than can be given here or recalled. Thank you, Jackie.

Alwyn Holmes

Craft

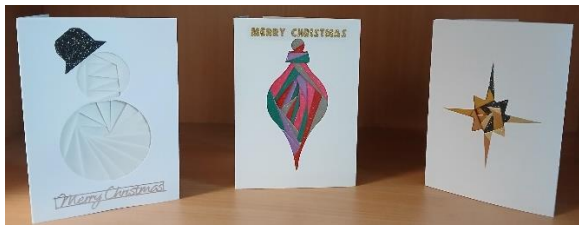
This month the ladies have been doing Iris folding. This is another favourite activity of the group. As usual, there was a great variety of designs.



Continued overleaf

Interest Groups round up

Craft - continued



Barbara, Deb and Val

EXCITING NEWS!! THREE new INTEREST GROUPS

Kurling . . . indoors

Well Being . . . light exercise

Cribbage . . . a card game to help keep the brain going.

If you are interested in any of these new groups, there will be sign-up sheets around the room on open meeting day.

Also, if you wish to join other groups and are finding that there are waiting lists, please pop a note on the sign-up sheets and we will see if we can start a new group or squeeze you into an existing one.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to join new groups, contact Lynne, Groups Coordinator at:
lynnethorpe91@gmail.com , phone: 07910 136536 or contact any Committee Member.



Interest Groups round up

Garden Group

For our September meeting we met at the Community Room for a talk from Steve Walton (Steve the Gardener). With narrative and slides he took us on his journey of 25 years of gardening from spending 3/4 weeks during the Summer holidays at his grandad's smallholding in Lincolnshire, where his passion for gardening started. He had a huge garden, with amazing soil, which contained a massive vegetable garden. His grandad would make things out of nothing such as scarecrows and fencing. During this time helping in the garden his journey into horticulture began. The land was in the Walton blood as his great grandad worked at West Park, his father was a farmer and an uncle's garden, where Steve worked whilst at school, was opened for the NGS.



Steve's first job was at Bardill's Garden Centre where he worked for 10 years and undertook a Level 2 Horticultural Course. During this time, he was tasked with a project in 2001 when there was a re-run of Crossroads, and he did pots and border planting for the set. This entailed growing plants out of season. He then went on to Broomfield College for 2 years to continue the Level 2 course. From there, a 3-year course for Level 3 was taken at Brackenhurst College. During this time, he did 2 weeks work experience at the Council and was involved in the wicker structures which were placed around the district. Also, as a project during this time, he was involved in putting together troughs for the Brackenhurst Graduation ceremony at Southwell Minster.

On graduating he went to work for Landmark – a company who provide garden maintenance services to householders, country homes, etc. and for whom Steve works 2 days a week. On other days he has been a judge for Erewash in Bloom and East Midland Small Village RHS Britain in Bloom judge during, which time he saw some amazing planting displays. For the past 15 years, together with the children, he has been maintaining the garden at Grange School.

He has been a co-presenter on Erewash Sound for the past 7 years and visited many places around the Borough during this time and from February this year he now has his own 'gig' on Sunday evenings. For the past 5 years he has been back at Broomfield College 2 days a week, teaching apprentices.



He has been involved with Gardeners World Live for the past 20 years, helping planting of display borders. However, this year he applied to do his own border. The theme was 'Once Upon a Time – Returning to my Roots' which would be a tribute to his grandad. The application deadline was 31st January 2026 which involved a visual and scale drawing and detailed explanation of why it was chosen. This involved a divided raised bed, on which the left side was grandad's style and the right side how Steve would do in the present day. In mid-February his application was accepted. On 17th

March information was received about the show etc. and a detailed pack of information, which included a requirement on where the plants came from.

Interest Groups round up

Garden Group - continued

Steve had a plot for a mock-up in which to practice the design. He had to source 'rustic' fencing and a picket fence, as that would have been what grandad used. He managed to obtain these from Elvaston Castle and Broomfield, (who also provided a silver birch tree (it's amazing what having contacts can do!) Participants are given £250 by the BBC to purchase plants so he had a good time buying from various locations! His dad became his enthusiastic apprentice.



he was awarded Silver Merit but as he said, it was more to his grandad's memory than the prize. Anything left from the displays is distributed to communities and charities around Birmingham.

It was a lovely story and a good presentation.

Not surprisingly Steve's holidays are spent at such destinations as Disneyland Paris, Sky Garden, London, the Eden Project and RHS Bridgewater!

Participants were allowed on the site the Saturday before the opening and had 4 days to construct the border as judging took place on the Wednesday. There were 35 borders to assess. They are provided with a raised bed and soil and then the fun begins. The two beds showed the difference in planting styles from grandad's – lupins, carnations, scabias and a broken brick path - to Steve's tropical style of bananas, cannas and coleus and more formal paving. As a memory to grandad, he put a mug and rich tea biscuits on a seat on the display which remained just before judging when a crow swept down on it! His efforts paid off and



Barbara Bailey

Is She What She Seems? By Janet Reeve



This strange little girl rose out of the sea,
Skin scaly and shiny and green as a pea,
As she stepped out on the firm sandy shore
I noticed the shimmering dress that she wore.
She gazed around and sniffed the clear air,
As it was the very first time she'd been there.

She'd lived all her young life under the waves,
But now the spell was broken and she'd been saved
From the cruel curse put upon her at birth,
And now was able to walk and talk on this earth,
To breathe through her nose instead of through gills,
So, her lungs with fresh salty air she fills.

She skips up the cliff like a lithe mountain goat
Just as this little boy jumps out of his boat,
He spots her perched on an out-jutting rock
The lengthening shadows reflecting her frock
That shimmered and shivered in the late evening breeze.
As she sat on the rock her frame seemed to freeze
As still as a statue, even her long seaweedy hair,
Had he imagined that she really was there?

He shook his head, and he looked up again,
Yes . . . she was there . . . he wasn't insane.
He tried his very best to climb up the cliff,
But his movements, unlike hers, were rigid and stiff,
Slipping and sliding, but gaining no ground,
As the little girl's laughter tinkled around.
Echoing back from the vast ocean below,
Mocking his efforts, he was struggling so.

Losing his grip, he let out a shrill cry
Stumbled and tumbled right out of the sky
Hitting the unforgiving ground with a thud
Then sank into the sand as though it were mud.
Sucking him in, sucking him in to a watery grave,
He was suddenly covered by an incoming wave.

As if by magic, the little girl was there by his side,
A smile on her face, her eyes open wide,
For one day, and one only she'd been set free
To find a soul mate, a friend, to take under the sea,
She'd had only one day to live on the land,
So, she goes to the boy and takes hold of his hand,
"You're mine now, to live under the sea,
My soulmate, my friend, living there forever with me".

Poet's Corner

Is she what she seems? – continued

Her magic is working and he opens his eyes
Gazes at her beauty, and contentedly sighs,
Together they dive into the receding waves
Pulled under together to the new life she craves.

So.....if YOU see a little girl come out of the sea
Skin scaly and shiny and green as a pea
BEWARE!!!

WHY THE CHANGE OF STYLE?

The Mighty Microsoft have decided not to continue to support **Publisher**, their desktop publishing program, which has been a very versatile facility to produce documents such as this one. Not only is it being discontinued from this month, but I would no longer be able to open the old files or use anything contained in them.

So, this month's newsletter has been produced using **Word** – a very good word processing facility, but not so easy to create what I usually do.

As you will see, the layout is much less fussy. Let me know what you think of it and I would welcome helpful suggestions for improvement.

Janis Henshaw