

This month join us at our
Open Meeting
on

Tuesday 3rd November
10.00 am – 12 noon at
The Arena, Ilkeston

Our speaker this month is:

Mike Kelley with “Sudan”

Mike continues to entertain us
with his experiences of
working in the Sudan

Refreshments available

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Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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.

5th January: “Look what we found beneath the car park!” by Liz Keeley. The discovery of Richard III and other tales of car park archaeology from around the world.

2nd February: “An Officer and a Lady” by Carol Brooks. Carol rose from Officer Cadet to Commanding Officer, and in between worked on the Line of Communication when Nato entered Kosovo.

*** 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,

I am writing this Corner, having had some 'interesting' weather on our return train trip from Scotland, with the wind still blowing outside!! I trust that you have all managed to stay dry and safe.

Where has this year gone? We have now set the membership fees for 2027! The **Good News** is that this year they will be reduced to £20, and £12 for Associate Members.

At the December Open Meeting, in addition to our speaker, Alistair Clark, we will once again be welcoming the Angler's Mates to entertain us. There will also be some Christmas refreshments.

Many thanks for the offer of help with the laying of our wreath at the Remembrance Service at Ilkeston. All who are able to are welcome to attend.

It's just a short corner this month, but I look forward to meeting with everyone at the November Open Meeting on 3rd Nov. Meanwhile, stay safe!

Andrew Davies

Money Matters

2027 Subscriptions

Good news, and we don't hear a lot of that these days!!

The Ilkeston u3a bank account is in a good position, and the Committee has decided to reduce the 2027 subscriptions, as follows:

Full Membership including the u3a Matters magazine	£20
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Associate Membership	£12
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2027 Membership forms will be available at our November Open meeting, to be taken away and completed. Online forms will be available for completion or printing from 1st December.

The preferred method of payment is by Bank Transfer if at all possible. As you are probably aware, Lloyds Bank is closing on November 5th, making my role as Treasurer more difficult, with having to pay in cash and cheques (fees chargeable) at a suitable banking hub, possibly outside of Ilkeston. Your help paying via bank transfer would be much appreciated.

Gift Aid

For every £1 of your Membership fee, as a registered charity, we can claim 25p. If you are a current UK taxpayer, please consider signing the Gift Aid section on the Membership form.

We recently received a total of £756.16 for our 2025 claim, so it is of definite benefit to Ilkeston u3a.

Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust took place on Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 11am, as a hybrid meeting, allowing delegates to attend in person or online. I attended on behalf of Ilkeston via zoom. The full recording of the 3-hour event, plus presentation slides are available below.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/agm-2026>

Resolutions at the 2026 AGM

A member-initiated resolution, and two amendments to it, were debated at the AGM. The full wording of the original resolution and amendments can be found in the AGM agenda.

This resulted in the following resolution being voted on and adopted at the AGM:

This AGM calls on the Third Age Trust Board to conduct a formal consultation with u3as before undertaking any activity that would involve the Trust in advocacy, campaigning or public policy outside the promotion of the u3a movement.

Where such a consultation is undertaken, the Board shall publish the responses together with a reasoned statement of its conclusions and proposed actions, and report to the next AGM on how those conclusions have been acted upon.

It was interesting to hear that Derby u3a have celebrated 40 years this year along with 15 other u3a's and sad that 79 u3a's have closed owing to lack of membership and participation since covid- so I cannot stress the importance of us all playing our part please to help keep Ilkeston running.

Apparently, u3a is one of the largest membership organisations in the UK with over 435,000 active members in over 1,000 u3as. How did you get to find out about u3a? Spread the word.

Our vision

What we're trying to achieve.

A future where everyone has the opportunity to have a positive and fulfilling later life through lifelong learning.

Our mission

How we'll achieve this.

Promoting, supporting and strengthening the u3a movement.

Alyson Marriott Business Secretary.



u3a Council Representatives

Rosie Allen & John Butler

October 2026

What a success our first regional workshop for several years was: 96 u3a members attended from across all the county networks in our East Midlands region.



"Really inspirational day! Buzzing with ideas for future developments in our u3a".
Judy Stone, Vice Chair Chesterfield

To see photos and a write up of the event please go to our East Midlands Region website using this link: <https://eastmidlandsregion.u3asite.uk/>

To see the presentations from the Workshop use this link:
<https://eastmidlandsregion.u3asite.uk/promoting-your-u3a-resources-oct-13th-2026/> The password you will need is RopsleyNG33.

We heard from three speakers:

Sam Dukes, Head of Marketing at the Third Age Trust (TAT): Presentation "**National marketing for local growth**".

Surveys have been conducted which show that u3a means a great deal to its members but that general awareness of it amongst the wider public is not high. The focus at TAT is to gain media attention by publicising special noteworthy examples of u3a members doing exciting things and **we are all asked to forward these so that they can be used for national publicity**. Send them to communications@u3a.org.uk.

Alongside that is the need for local publicity and so TAT are, and will be, providing support to us to do that. Some publicity resources, including social media assets, have already been published that local u3as can use to promote the u3a locally: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/our-impact/u3a-impact-reports/u3a-and-me>

"From a relatively new committee, it is refreshing to be able to gain new ideas from other u3as".

Sheila Crawley, Vice Chair of the Third Age Trust, and member of Ashbourne u3a: "The Experience of using Social Media to Promote a u3a".

Here the strong message to take away is that Facebook is the way to go. This message resonated loud and clear in the room and all were grateful for the clear outline of how to go about creating a local impact by consistent posting and amplifying the reach of a u3a's public Facebook page.

Please find two presentations on this topic at the website :-

<https://eastmidlandsregion.u3asite.uk/promoting-your-u3a-resources-oct-13th-2026/>

Sheila has also set up a private Facebook group for anyone involved in social media on behalf of their u3a. Contact Sheila on this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1089142077409793>

"Many thanks for such practical advice, ideas and ways in which to make our u3a even more appealing!!"

Sharon Jupp, Chair at West Wolds u3a: "What if membership growth isn't a recruitment problem? What if it is a culture?"

Sharon's tale of continuous growth at West Wolds shows that u3as which focus on the development of "The Experience" and provide a positive, can do culture thrive. What an inspirational talk with so many good ideas to take forward.

"Fantastic, encouraging and exciting. Looking forward to further meetings & ideas".
Noelene Sapiro

"A great deal to think about. An excellent, well organised event".
David Thornton Bakewell u3a
CoChair

The day was funded from the East Midlands Council Reps budget and run and organised by members of the East Midlands Regional Support team. They were helped on the day by a number of other willing volunteers in moving heavy tables and 100 chairs, so that there was a real feeling of camaraderie.

There was a wonderful buzz of conversation in the room as everyone discussed what they had heard whilst enjoying tea, coffee and cakes. New contacts were made, and fresh ideas taken back to u3as. Whilst the majority were from Lincolnshire u3as even that involved travelling considerable distances, and some came from as far afield as Daventry and Bakewell. All agreed that it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Rosie Allen
Rosie.Allen@u3a.org.uk

John Butler
John.Butler@u3a.org.uk





You are respectfully invited to attend the **Remembrance Service**, commencing at **10.50am** at the Cenotaph in Ilkeston, to honour and remember all those who have served and sacrificed their lives for our country.

PARADE ARRANGEMENTS

The traditional parade will take place this year. Groups and organisations wishing to participate are requested to assemble at

**South Street car park
by 10.20am.**

At **10.40am**, the parade will proceed to the Cenotaph under the direction of the Parade Marshall.

CHURCH SERVICE

The Civic Party and representatives of organisations not participating in the parade are warmly invited to attend the morning service at

**St Mary's Parish Church
commencing at 10.00am.**

Following the short service, at approximately **10.45am**, the congregation will proceed to the Cenotaph to join the parade and uniformed groups for the Act of Remembrance.

We invite everyone to join us in paying tribute to those who gave their lives in the service of our country, and to remember all those affected by conflict.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



Interest Groups Round-up

Craft

Just a few pictures of the ladies having a go at glass fusion.



Dawn came to talk us through the process and then it was down to everyone to design their own. There should be some amazing results next month.

Barbara, Val and Deb

Bridge

You are cordially invited to join us to play, watch and learn about the card game 'Bridge'.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday every month at the Rutland Cottage pub on Heanor Road from 2-4pm.

Andrew Wright

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will be on 17th November. Please arrive at 1.30 pm, as we're having a hot drink and mince pies for our Christmas get together.

Don't forget, we will not be meeting in December. We'll start again on January 15th at 2pm.

Thank you,
Ann Wheatley

Interest Groups Round-up continued

Table Tennis

Just to let you know, Table Tennis goes from strength to strength and we now play twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.



Golf

Golf has suffered. Only 5 made it to the start line, as holidays and illness struck. However, we did manage some good scores: David 54, Tim 49, Terry 48. Mitch 46 and Peter 38.

Peter Winfield

An Art Exhibition by Pollyanna Pickering



If members are interested, there is an exhibition entitled **"Inspired by Nature"** displaying the work of Pollyanna Pickering.

The exhibition is on from 7th - 15th November, 10 am – 6 pm at "The Gallery", Brookvale House, Oaker, Matlock DE4 2JJ. Admission is free.

Her daughter, Anna Louise Pickering, is a regular speaker at our monthly open meetings, presenting her mother's work and the background stories of their travels and conservation work, as well as the animals that inspired her.

Russell Gough

Poet's Corner

A Squirrel . . . Really?

By Janet Reeve



Part 1

Strange furry creature, long prehensile tail,
Clinging, upside down, to the flimsy bird table,
Looking like the mast of a ship in full sail!

Stretching out to reach seeds, nuts, and tasty suet fat,
Strung on thin waving strings, way below
This elongated furry "snake", well fancy that!

Scampering up into the safety of trees,
Beady eyes twinkling out through leafy branches,
Seeking, seeking every opportunity to seize,

To seize this HIS cache, HIS private larder
At his leisure, there, just for HIS pleasure,
Ready meals, life made easier, birds' lives harder.

**Intuitive, versatile, intelligent
Lazy squirrel!!**

Part 2

Ran up bare branch of apple tree,
Picked rosy apple in his paws
A truly amazing sight to see!

Held in paws and claws, began to nibble
Apple, round and red and juicy,
Who are we to deny him or quibble!

Apple slipped out of tiny claws
Bouncing frighteningly on the ground
Lying there, crushed, bruised and ignored!

Scampers away along the fence
Bushy tail held proud and straight,
Disappearing into greenery dense

Before the Pussy Pounced!!

Free image by rawpixel.com

Derbyshire Alert

From: Derbyshire Constabulary via Neighbourhood Alert <alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk>
Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2026 10:21 am
To: alysonmarriott@live.co.uk <alysonmarriott@live.co.uk>
Subject: Could criminals use your leaked data? Find out how to stay one step ahead
[#781281370]



Could criminals use your leaked data? Find out how to stay one step ahead

The second edition of our fraud-fighting newsletter is now available.

Written by officers from our fraud team, this edition focuses on what can happen after your data is leaked, how this can be used by criminals and how to protect yourself.

Fraud Protect Officer Tammy Barnes said: "Thank you to everyone who got in touch with us with support and feedback for The Big Con.

"We're pleased to present this second edition, which is particularly topical considering people in Derbyshire and beyond may have been affected by the recent data breach of Manchester Airport Group.

"Please continue to share this newsletter with family, friends and networks. Being aware of how these criminals operate can be crucial if you're targeted by a scam."

The newsletter is attached to this email - please share it as far and wide as possible.

[The Big Con - Edition 2.pdf](#)



Message Sent By Evie Pugh (Police, Engagement Officer, Force)

The Big Con

Edition Two

Stop! Think
Fraud.

The Big Con

Data Breach

A data breach happens when information held by a company or organisation is accessed or stolen without permission.

Recent reports involving Manchester Airport Group highlighted how a breach can expose personal information such as email addresses, phone numbers, home addresses and purchase history. Criminals can use this information to make scams more convincing and targeted.

What should you do?

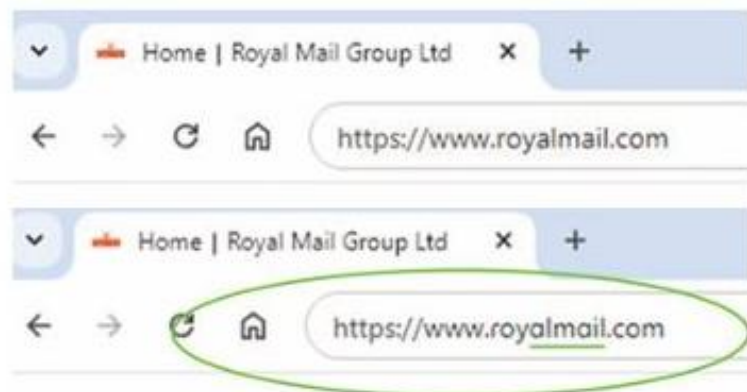
- Report stolen documents, including passports, bank cards and driving licences.
- Check bank statements and direct debits for unusual activity.
- Review your credit report for unfamiliar accounts.
- Use strong passwords and enable multi-factor authentication.

Stay alert

- Be cautious of unexpected emails, texts and phone calls.
- Verify requests using a trusted contact method.
- Avoid clicking links in unsolicited messages.
- If someone is pressuring you to act urgently, share information or send money, it could be a scam.

For more information about data breaches and your rights, visit the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
<https://ico.org.uk>

Spot the scam - The answer



If you remember our Spot the Scam challenge from Edition One, here's the answer - Visual spoofing.

This example uses a technique called visual spoofing, where criminals replace or combine letters with similar-looking characters (for example, using 'rn' instead of 'm' to create web addresses that appear legitimate at first glance).

Genuine: [royalmail.com](https://www.royalmail.com) (Aptos font)

Fake: [royalmail.com](https://www.royalmail.com) (Berlin Sans FB font)

In the fake address, the lowercase 'i' has been replaced with a capital 'I', making it look almost identical to the genuine website. Without seeing both addresses side by side, it would be extremely difficult to spot the difference.

Without seeing both addresses side by side, it would be extremely difficult to spot the difference.

The page also uses Royal Mail's name and logo to appear legitimate, a common tactic used to impersonate trusted organisations. If entered, your personal or payment details could be stolen.

Remember: A convincing website can still be a scam. Always check the web address carefully before sharing any information.

Did you know?

Have I Been Pwned is a FREE website where you can check if your email address or passwords have been exposed in a data breach and sign up for alerts about future breaches:
<https://haveibeenpwned.com>

Send your story for a future issue: TheBigCon@derbyshire.police.uk