Ilkeston u3a

learn
laugh
live

Newsletter

December 2026

This month join us at our

Open Christmas Meeting

on

Tuesday 1st December

10.00 am – 12 noon at The Arena, Ilkeston



Our speaker this month is:

Alistair Clark with: "A slow bike ride across Germany"
Alistair bought a second-hand bike in Berlin and set off to ride 650 kms almost to the Dutch border.

Also: a return visit from:

Angler's Mates

Refreshments available

Inside this issue:

- Scribblings from the Chair, p.2
- Committee members needed, p.3
- Derbyshire Fire and Rescue, p.4
- Membership renewal, p.5
- Interest Groups Round-up, p.6
- Poet's Corner, p.9
- What you wanted to share, p.10

Coming soon to our Open Meetings

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.

2nd March: "The Derwent Valley Mills" by Ashley Franklin. The photographs were used to produce a book which shows "people and places, industrial heritage and wildlife"

6th April: Interest Groups Fair

***** 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://www.facebook.com/groups/1226535837801301

Tel: 07760966325 Website: www.ilkestonu3a.org.uk

Scribblings from the Chair



Hello Members

Welcome to December's Newsletter! As usual the December meeting will include entertainment, a speaker and refreshments! What is more it will be free - raffle tickets will be available at the usual price. Anglers' Mates will be our entertainment, followed by refreshments, then we will hear about travels across Germany! There will be just one payback! As you register you will be asked if you would be willing to answer two multiple choice questions all responses are anonymous.

You can, from 1st of December, renew your membership and pay on-line, and if you wish to do it by cash/cheque there will be the opportunity at the December meeting. Just a reminder that the cost is reduced for next year - £20 for full members and £12 for Associates.

Dr David Martin has described an opportunity to help the University of Loughborough in some research. If possible, could I encourage you to take part?

Many thanks to all the members of the committee and volunteers, who have helped in so many different ways to ensure that Ilkeston U3A has run so smoothly over the last year. Could you help on the committee (we have two members who are retiring from the committee in March) or volunteer for any role? Please have a word with any member of the committee if you would like to know more.

Finally, I would just like to wish everyone a Good Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on 1st December at Open Meeting.

Andrew

Committee Members needed

Committee Members urgently needed to keep Ilkeston u3a running.
Can you help?

79 u3a branches have folded since Covid!



Ilkeston u3a committee members are vital, they act as Trustees responsible for governance, financial management and uphold the organisation's charitable aims ensuring that Ilkeston u3a runs smoothly, legally and effectively to serve its members; YOU!

4 volunteers (minimum) are needed.

The Management Committee works as a team to make decisions and has ultimate responsibility for the organisation. They collectively provide leadership, manage operations like membership, speakers and interest groups and ensure sustainability making them essential for the entire u3a's existence and success.

Talk to any committee member (look for their badge) and ask them about their role.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue - Community Risk Management Plan 2027-2032 (CRMP) Consultation



Derbyshire Fire and Rescue are asking for your views on their Community Risk Management Plan 2027-2032 (CRMP).

This plan sets out their priorities and how they will keep communities safe. The consultation **closes 23:59 on Friday 4 December**, and your feedback will help make sure the plan is right and that they haven't missed anything.

They want to hear from as many people as possible, including local residents, businesses, community and voluntary groups, partner organisations, councils, other emergency services, and our own staff.

All responses will be considered by the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority, the elected members who oversee their work.

Any changes identified through this consultation will be made before the plan is finalised in early 2027. By involving a wide range of voices, they aim to create a plan that is stronger, more inclusive, and better reflects the needs of our communities.

Taking part

https://ow.ly/ytQE50XFzU5

Membership Renewal

Don't forget, you need to renew your membership of Ilkeston u3a for another year from 1 December up to 31 January. There will be forms for you to fill in at the Open Meeting and hand them in there and then. You can pay on the day, £20 full membership or £12 associate. Of course, you could pay easily online instead – our preferred method of payment.

From 1 December you will be able to renew paperless on our website. Once your renewal is processed, you'll get the 2027 badge and be able to continue to enjoy all your Interest Groups.

Jacky Wilding
Membership Secretary



Many thanks to all who have contributed to our Newsletter over the past year. We have had a good variety of news and articles, but there is always room for more. You don't have to be a group leader. If you have something of relevance and interest to share with our members, please send it to me at the address below.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all,
Janis

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Interest Groups Round-up

Maths for Fun

Vulnerability to fraud in later life

The Ilkeston u3a Maths for Fun Group have been engaged with Loughborough University research and I thought that the following opportunity to participate in research into vulnerability to fraud may be of interest to others in Ilkeston u3a and beyond.

David Martin

Participants Wanted – Win a £20 Love2shop Voucher!

We are looking for participants for a research study investigating how attention to numbers influences vulnerability to fraud in later life. The research aims to improve our understanding of how numerical information affects susceptibility to scams, ultimately helping to develop strategies to better protect people, particularly older adults, from financial fraud.

What's involved?

- The study takes approximately 30–35 minutes to complete.
- You could win one of 10 £20 Love2shop vouchers!
- After completing the study, you can enter the prize draw by providing your contact details through a separate Microsoft Form.

Winners will be notified on 16 January 2027.

Interested? Visit:

https://research.sc/participant/login/dynamic/030EF858-FF52-4C51-9525-62173A18FA1C

Your participation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Interest Groups Round-up continued

Craft

This month we have two different projects to show.

Firstly, there is the glass fusion that we did the previous month. This was something we had never done before, but which proved to be a great success, and we had some fantastic results.






This month it was an old favourite, silk painting, and as usual there were some great designs.

→






Barbara, Val and Deb

Interest Groups Round-up continued

Patchwork and Quilting



Kathy has completed her quilt and isn't it a beauty!

Jenny Whittaker

Line Dancing

Just a reminder for all dancers that there is no meeting in December

Merry Christmas to all U3A Members.

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Ann Wheatley

Garden Group

For our October meeting Barbara G chaired the meeting in my absence on holiday. It was an informal meeting for members to bring along plants, seeds etc. for swapping with other members, which I understand went very well. One member has managed to grow the same geranium year to year for 30 years – quite an achievement! Thank you to Barbara for chairing the meeting.

Our last meeting of the year in November will be the 'fuddle' and Pam has a quiz for us to keep the grey cells going. Also, members will hopefully come along with ideas for the 2027 programme.

Thank you to all the members who have supported the Group throughout 2026 and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

The first meeting in 2027 will be on **Friday 26th February**.

Barbara Bailey

Poet's Corner

Images of Christmas
by
Janet Reeve

Myriad candles burning bright
Casting shadows in the night,
Symbolising " Christ is born",
Born in a stall on Christmas morn.





Rosy-faced children, eyes aglow,
Singing carols in the snow,
Sing of Jesus in a manger bare,
Ox and asses lowing there,

People bustling through the town,
Jostling, pushing, up and down,
Buying food and presents galore,
Wonder who they are all for?





Flashing lights on all the streets,
Bikes and dolls and other treats,
Filling shops to overflowing,
Mum wonders,
"Where's all my cash going?"

Homeless, orphans, sad and lonely,
Gaze around and sigh "If only
Someone would remember us
Amid all the activity and fuss".





Jesus Christ, the best image of all,
Born at Christmas in a stall,
Born to save the world from sin,
Forget worldly things and let Him in!

What you wanted to share

