



FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER

October 2015

Issue 1

NEWS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the first issue of our newsletter.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the U3A, it has been said that we are "A Youth Club for Retired and Semi-retired People".

At this first meeting, I encourage you to join in order for you to sign-up to the interest groups of your choice and to come to the monthly meetings. These are held here at St Albans on the 1st Thursday of the month. The interest groups that are being planned – some of which are being started today, with more starting each month. The interest groups, from my personal observations as a very new member of U3A, is that they are the life blood of the organisation and are greatly enjoyed by members.

There is no requirement for you to have any qualifications to join the U3A or any of the groups nor do we hand out qualifications or diplomas. We all have experience of the school of life. You would be surprised by what you have learned over the years which can then be passed on to others, as indeed you will learn from them. That is what U3A is all about and you can use your experiences and knowledge to lead or help in the leading of interest groups – quite possibly you have an interest or hobby you would like to share with other people. Please let us know if there is any group you would like to see running and it is possible other people are interested in the same thing.

The cost of membership is £12.00 for the period from the 1st October 2015 from to 31st March 2016. All interest groups have to be self-financing so you may have to contribute a small amount towards the cost of room hire and anything else associated with the costs of that group.

Whatever you do, enjoy the U3A – being a "Third-Ager" will change your life for the better.

Mike King

Chairman of the Steering Committee

The story so far

The launch of a Forest Town & District U3A (University of the Third Age) successfully took place at St. Albans Church on the 3rd September 2015. There were approximately 130 people in attendance which far exceeded expectations and there was a buzz of excitement as the meeting voted in favour of creating a Forest Town and District U3A.

The U3A provides educational opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to pursue their interests in a wide variety of activities as well as organising a monthly meeting and other events for all members. No qualifications are required to join the U3A.

The launch meeting heard Michaela Moody, the U3A National Vice Chairmen (formerly the East Midlands Regional Trustee), outline the workings of the U3A at local, county, regional and national levels. A representative of Sherwood U3A explained the development of her U3A and others locally and about the benefits to be had as a member of U3A. After the presentations volunteers came forward to form a Steering Committee to plan the activities of Forest Town & District U3A for the first year. Today is the Inaugural Meeting of the U3A. The purpose of which is to enrol members and to give them the opportunity to sign up for the first series of interest groups.

NEXT MEETING

SPEAKER

Liz Weston M.B.E.

Curator Mansfield Museum.

Thursday 5th November 1:45 at St Albans

MAIN MEETING DATES

Thursday 3rd DECEMBER at 1:45

Thursday 7th JANUARY at 1:45

Thursday 4th FEBRUARY at 1:45

Thursday 3rd MARCH at 1:45

Interest Groups

At the heart of the U3A are its interest groups. These are owned and driven by members who want to learn together. Groups have a leader and agree how often they want to meet and where. To join an interest group, you need to be a member of U3A.

In Nottinghamshire as a whole – across all the other U3As – there are over 120 different types of interest group. Interest groups are self managed and self funded. They draw upon the knowledge, skills and experience of their members to prepare and deliver a yearly programme to their group. The range of interests is very wide: art and music, both practical and appreciation, foreign languages, literature and poetry, creative writing, science and technology, history, both local and national, gardening, walking, computing, craft, card and board games, cycling, dancing of all sorts, bowling and genealogy to name but some. As we say in U3A 'Two's company, three's an interest group!'

Forest Town & District Interest Groups

Groups with leaders:-

- Short Walks
- Rambling
- Crafts-Sewing, Knitting etc
- Local History
- Woodworking
- Paper Craft
- Photography for fun
- Fabric Up cycling

Future issues of *The Newsletter* will carry details of interest group leaders. If there is a lot of interest for a particular interest group, an additional group will be started.

Groups needing leaders:-

- Gardening
- Long walks
- Bridge & Canasta
- Family History
- Singing for Fun

All the groups listed on the LEFT are available for signing up to TODAY. We hope to launch the above groups at our November meeting together with any others where interest has been shown and we have identified a leader for the group. We will continue to offer more groups in the months ahead as members come forward with further ideas & offers to lead.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

As far as possible we need to send out copies of *newsletter* by email. Please make sure that your email details are up to date. You need to notify the Membership Secretary of any changes. We will make printed copies available for members who don't have an email address.

POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

-and help needed. You all have the great opportunity to get involved at the beginning of this new U3A. As you may be aware, the Steering Committee rose to this challenge at the Launch Meeting. Now it is your turn. There will be many areas in the running of this U3A in which everyone can play their part. So watch this space & prepare to be a member of Team Forest Town and District!

STEERING COMMITTEE AND ROLES

Committee Position	Name
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King
V/Chair & Speaker Sec	Susan Wright
Business Secretary	Jennifer Wright
Treasurer	Lynne Cooper
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Doud
Asst Groups Co-ord.	Ann Stanford
Membership Sec.	Suzanne Herring
Asst Membership Sec	Kath Wolstonholme
Minutes Sec	Jill Gascoyne
Social Secretary	Anita Ward
Newsletter Editor	Vacant
Publicity	Vacant
Webmaster	Vacant

