

NEWSLETTER Issue 4 January 2016

All the very best to all our members for 2016, I hope you were able to have a wonderful Xmas. Having had a very mild November & December we will no doubt suffer some wintry weather in January & February but at least the days are slowly starting to lengthen. Should we suffer really severe weather and not able to hold our monthly meeting we will do our very best to advise members by email and telephone and perhaps use Mansfield 103.2

Our membership now stands at 128 and there were also 13 visitors at our December meeting and the Interest Groups continue to develop – see the details in this Newsletter.

To date we have had 'temporary' membership of the U3A but we anticipate receiving our 'full' membership at the January monthly meeting when we hope that both the Chairman of the Nottinghamshire Network Jeremy Lloyd and Jane Pavier the Regional Trustee will be present.

We are aware that one or two members didn't receive their last Newsletter by email, please let us know if you are not receiving them and we will update our records.

At the last Committee Meeting we agreed on the Membership Fee for 2016/17 (1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017) will be £18 which we hope will be in line with your expectations. At this early stage of our development it is a challenge to establish a budget – hopefully we won't run out of funds!!

Mike King, Chairman

**LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE
WITH THE U3A**



**Wishing
You All A Happy,
Healthy and Active
Membership
of the
U3A
in 2016**

OUR JANUARY SPEAKER

What a better way to start our 2016 meeting
than with

MUSIC OF THE MUSICALS

by Chris Shaw

Thursday January 7th 1.45^{pm}

Chris has been an amateur/semi professional singer most of her life performing on stage in musicals and operas in the UK and East Midlands.

She took a degree in the background to opera productions when her children started school and now gives leisure classes in aspects of musicals, opera and film soundtracks for the WEA. Using clips from the classics we love, she will be taking us on a trip through the magical world of musicals, with gossip on the background events that shaped the finished shows.

THANK YOU

To everyone who helps with
'meeting and greeting,'
setting up the tables
and audio equipment etc.,
at our main meetings.

And the VIP ladies
who look after the tea bar.

**Also a Special
THANK YOU**

To Clipstone Co-op
who donated the mince pies, many of us
enjoyed at our December Meeting

LOOKING BACK AT OUR DECEMBER MEETING

In December Michelle (Micky) Bradley said, "where do I begin, there is so much." How right she was. Her enthusiasm and passion covering hundreds of years of history around the area of Kings Clipstone was amazing to listen to.

We learnt of Kings and Princes who had visited and hunted in the area. The ruins of King Johns Palace and the archaeological digs by Mercian Archaeology (www.mercian-as.co.uk) which took place on the surrounding field. The purchase of the 'Tin Tabernacle' and the hopes for its community use.

An award from 'The Peoples Millions Big Lottery Bid' has enabled extra research and the opportunity to bring many school children onto the site to discover hands on history. Mickey also brought an amazing display of maps, photographs and documents for us to look at - see the photographs below.

There was also the opportunity to investigate the various groups that are now up and running, and discuss these with Group leaders. Or sit and enjoy being members of the U3A as in the bottom picture.



PARKING

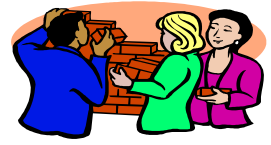
When attending our meetings at St Albans do respect our neighbours by not parking on the residential streets.

Please use either the car park at the Prince Charles pub, Kingsway Hall, or the Forest Town Arena.

There are two disabled parking spaces available at St Albans towards the rear of the church



INTEREST GROUPS



Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

2nd Thursday 10am

In January the group will meet at Rufford Park

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

Meet 2nd Friday of the month

10 am - 12 noon at the Forest Town Arena.

All FT & District members welcome.

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

4/5 people per session

Next meeting 8th January 2pm - Members Home

Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

2nd Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena

Fabric Upcycling

Group Leader: *New group leader needed for this enthusiastic group*

Family History

Group Leader: *Glynis Benford-Chapman*

1st Tuesday 10am Meet - St John's Centre, Mansf.

New members welcome

Film/Videos

Group Leader: *Arline Littlewood*

Dates still to be decided

Gardening

Group Leader: *Marian Story*

Monthly, various dates

Next meeting Thursday 14th January, 1pm at Forest Town Arena car park to walk to two nearby gardens and vegetable plot

Local History

Group Leader: *Pauline Marples*

3rd Thursday 2.15pm Meet - Members Home

Making Photo Books

Group Leader: *Marian Batt*

4th Wednesday 2pm Meet -Members Home

Photography for Fun

Group Leader: *There is interest in this group but a leader is needed*

Contact Group Co-ordinator Denise

Rambling

(Forest Town & District U3A Rambling Group)

Group Leader: *Alan Radford*

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Meet - Forest Town Arena car park, assemble Pump Hollow Road end for lift sharing to depart at 8:40 am.

Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marlene Mee*

2nd Tuesday 10.30am. Meet Various Locations

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: *Joseph Bell*

First Meeting - still to be arranged

60's Music Appreciation

Group Leader: *Keith Bancroft*

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

First Meeting Friday 5th Feb

On rare occasions the meeting could be the 2nd Friday so always check the newsletter.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS

Rummikub

Scrabble

Cycling

Table Tennis

World War One Military History

Painting and Drawing

GROUP REPORTS



Bird Watching - Lynne Cooper

The first meeting of the Bird Watching group took place, as planned, on Thursday December 10th. I pretty soon had reason to believe we were in for a good day when I spotted an owl from my car on the way to meet up with everyone! However, my initial hopes were soon dashed when it registered that what I was looking at was a man-made model put on a roof to scare off other birds!!

Anyway, we were still very well blessed with 19 different species spotted despite the rain and dullness of the morning. We were fortunate enough to have an expert (Keith) in our midst which made it more interesting. He drew our attention to little flighty blobs that we would otherwise probably have missed and, what's more, he was able to identify them for us.

We all enjoyed our first experience together at Sherwood Forest and, over a cuppa in the café, we decided upon a few further local venues for the future, with the intention of going back to Sherwood Forest fairly regularly so that we can observe the seasonal changes in woodland birds. Our next venue is at Rufford Park on the Thursday 2nd of January.

Bridge - Steve Evans

The bridge for beginners group held its first meeting on Friday 11th December 2015 at Forest Town Arena. There were 8 members who attended plus the group leader. We learnt the basics of the game whilst socialising and having fun. Next meeting will be at Forest Town Arena on Friday 8th January 2016 at 10am.

Craft - Jane Freeman

Monday 16th November 2015- Seven ladies attended the first session of the Crafting group, and brought with them several bags full of examples of all their not inconsiderable skills of knitting, crochet, embroidery, machine and hand-stitched patchwork and card making. After a very lively discussion, it was decided to concentrate on knitting or crocheting squares to make knee blankets for the patients at the

Sir John Eastwood Hospice. One of the group agreed provide us all with a pattern to work with, and we left with promises to turn up next month with bags full of squares, to be assembled at the next session. Details of the meeting were passed on to all the ladies who were not able to attend, so they would have the opportunity to join in at home, if they wished.

Monday 14th December 2015 - Eight ladies attended this month, returning with a variety of vibrant squares, which provoked an interesting conversation on the combination of colours and the sizes of the blankets and methods of stitching them together. Work began on this task, rewarded by tea, coffee and Christmas biscuits and mince pies. Next month, hopefully, more blankets will be completed, and a new project decided on for the coming months.

Family History - Glynis Benford-Chapman

At the meeting on 1st December in St Johns Centre only seven members attended which was disappointing. We had a discussion on census returns followed by a short quiz, Members were asked about their own research and help was given where possible. The topic at our next meeting on the 5th January will be birth, marriage and death certificates. New members are welcome to join the group



Gardening - Marian Storey

A few of the gardening group enjoyed a car share visit to Hollybeck Garden Centre at Oxton recently, which was a new garden centre for a couple of us, and we would recommend a visit there for anyone, gardener or not, due to the great variety of plants, sundries and seasonal items available. We also participated, as you have to, in the delightful refreshments on offer.

Whilst there we decided to vary the dates we meet up so hopefully more gardening group members will be able to join us on other visits. Many thanks to Liz for her suggestions below, more suggestions welcomed.

January 14th Two nearby gardens including Liz's father's large garden and vegetable plot.

February 3rd Talk on 'Queen of Climbers' Clematis at Hollybeck Garden Centre.

March 7th Rueben Shaw Garden Centre, Moor Green
(Contact Marian for more information)

Local History - Pauline Marples

Ten members met on the 17th December at the group leaders home. Jenny told us of Lectures by Dennis Hill she had attended this year and gave details of ones that he will be doing in 2016. Malcolm demonstrated

the history of pillar boxes using cast models. He then told of two Mansfield Foundries which made pillar boxes, and showed photographs of some of them to be found around the country. Additionally he spoke about the history of the Mansfield Post Office A tea break then gave the opportunity to chat and look at folders of post box photographs. During the break the lap top was connected to the television and it was then time for Richard to show us photographs, and tell us more of Long House he had once again been working on near Winchester. These were fascinating to see and very interesting to hear about, it was an aspect of local history we hadn't expected to learn in Forest Town.



Music - 60's Appreciation - Keith Bancroft

My ideas are for people to bring along cd's and records to listen to also any interesting memorabilia from the era. Sell or exchange records & cd's. Also I will bring my acoustic guitar and perform a few 60's songs I have booked the Sherwood Room at the arena for the following dates :- Fri 5th Feb, Fri 4th Mar and Fri 8th Apr. I think these dates will work out ok, as they are all the day after the U3A monthly meeting

Photo Books - Marian Batt

The purpose of this group is to learn how to use software on peoples own laptop, in order to clean up photographs so that they can then use them to make personalised gifts. The next step



is to become familiar with websites that produce personalised gifts and learn how to upload photographs and use editing software .

I have had two meetings since we began the group with four ladies and they are getting on very well, two ladies have already made and

purchased items from the Tesco website and were very pleased with their efforts. As there is a small waiting list I have decided to begin an additional group so both groups will meet every four weeks.

Short Walks -Marlene Mee



The Short Walk Group ready for 'stepping out'. Unfortunately I was only given a photo and no information on where they went (Ed).

Rambling Group - Alan Radford

A late adjustment to the Rambling Group's walk on 2nd December became necessary after the preliminary walk (or 'recee', to check the safety aspects) that I did found the paths through Millers Dale had suffered from the heavy November rainfalls – a long stretch was deeply flooded and impassable. So on the walk day, after reaching the end of Monsal Dale we followed an amended route up Deep Dale and on to the stone cottages of Sheldon Village, enjoying views across the fields to Magpie Mine, the former lead mine. A descent downhill to the River Wye and picturesque Ashford-in-the-Water, followed by a gentle ascent to pass by Churchdale Hall, then continuing a little further to join the Monsal Trail. From here a really nice stretch of the Trail led us back to our starting point at Monsal Head and a welcome drink together at the end of the walk, an enjoyable 8½ miles in length.

The Group's next ramble on Wednesday 6th January will be to Sherwood Forest (8½ miles), meeting up at Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. All of the rambles are moderate ones between 7 and 9 miles in length and are on every first and third Wednesday of the month. Why not come and join us?

Woodworking

At the December meeting Joseph Bell brought along a number of interesting items he had made, which attracted a lot of attention. The start date for this group is still being decided.

ABOUT THE U3A

Below are snippets found in various U3A leaflets/handouts :-

'If you are no longer in full time employment, or raising a family, a new world of opportunity awaits at your local U3A.'

'The University of the Third Age gives you the chance to enjoy the things you have always wanted to do and make new Friends.'

The U3A is all voluntary - we can learn from one another and anyone can start an interest group'

'Learning a new subject or brushing up on your existing knowledge can rekindle your curiosity and give you a new lease of life'

'Above all the U3A exists to help you make friends, develop your interests and enjoy yourself.'

'As one door closes, another one opens - this can be very true of retirement. In the case of the U3A not just one door but many are opened to an enthusiastic member.'



REMEMBER

Groups can be any size, it just needs a few people who are members of Forest Town & District U3A to be interested in the same topic, and one person to act as group leader to start them. For more advice or suggestions for new groups contact;

Forest Town U3A Steering Committee

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	
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Marples
Publicity	
Webmaster	Bob Hunt

Discovered in

U3A SIGNPOST

International Newsletter January 2016

Needlework/knitting Groups: Lots of free knitting patterns available as pdf downloads at :-

<http://www.loveknitting.com/free-knitting-patterns>

Also recommended is the [TIPNUT website](http://www.tipnut.co.uk)

a wonderful collection of Craft Projects, Patterns & Tutorials, all of them free.

OUR FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Patrick Smith MBE has a very interesting profile both as a former maths teacher, and in the field of sport. Indeed his MBE awarded in 2002, was for services to School Sport.

On reading of his involvement as a Football Referee in the Barcelona Paralympic Games 1992, a Games Maker at the 2012 Olympic Games Volunteer, and at 2015 World Cerebral Palsy Championships in Nottingham, we are aware that Patrick is a very active person. He has lived in Nottingham for many years, and not surprisingly he is a member of Nottingham U3A.

Additional to all Patrick's interesting background, he is also an experienced speaker and his topic in February is not about sport but, 'Andalucía' a breathtaking area in Southern Spain. The historical buildings and atmosphere are wonderful whilst experience of the annual Seville Fair adds another layer. We look forward in anticipation to this illustrated talk.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk by the

14th January 2016

