



### 'MIKES MUSINGS'

A very warm welcome to the May edition of our Newsletter which I hope you find a useful source of information about your U3A. This is **your** Newsletter and if you have any contributions or comments please forward them to Pauline Marples our newsletter editor.

If you have any comments about any aspects of our U3A please either speak to me at the monthly meetings or email me at [mikethos42@yahoo.com](mailto:mikethos42@yahoo.com); I really value your views.

#### **Membership and Executive Committee**

We have completed membership renewal for the coming year and this has been successful and that together with a number of new members we now have 124 members in total. I am sure that you will all agree that we now want to build on that base to increase our membership; with more members you get new ideas and it helps to keep our U3A vibrant.

Unfortunately we have not been inundated with nominations for the new committee, to date only existing members of the committee have been proposed. WE DO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT ON THE COMMITTEE please consider if you could put your name forward, I know there are very able members who would be valuable members of the committee; nominations can be received up to and including the date of our May meeting (5<sup>th</sup> May).

#### **Royal Revelry**

Just a reminder about this event which will be taking place at the John Fretwell Sports Centre on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June. This is a free event with displays from neighbouring U3A's, outdoor activities and musical items including our very own 'Rave On' group.

*Mike King - Chairman*

## OUR MAY MEETING

To be held Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> in St Alban's Church

1:45 sign in

1:55 Chairman's Welcome and introduction to the  
**Marples Team**

**Malcolm the technician & Pauline the talker**  
who will tell us about

**Forest Town the Village that Grew out of Coal**

Discover how Forest Town was developed, from the sinking of Mansfield Colliery, how a Royal visit made headline news and of miner who made his operatic debut in New York. Look carefully for the photo from which our U3A logo was designed.

This will be followed by

- time for refreshments, and chatting
- talking to Group leaders or committee members and learning more of the various group activities
- renewing subscriptions or joining for the first time.
- notices regarding our own U3A and activities relating to other U3A groups.

## THANK YOU

**To County Councillors  
Alan Bell & Colleen Harwood**

**who have kindly donated  
£250 each  
towards the work of our U3A,  
this is very much appreciated.**



**It is with great sadness we have  
to tell you of the death of**

**Suzanne Herring  
on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Suzanne was a founder member of the  
Steering Committee, and as such took on the  
role of Membership Secretary.  
She always had a cheerful outlook on life and  
will be greatly missed.**

## ABOUT THE U3A

**U3A is the University of the Third Age**, a nation wide organisation for people who are retired or semi retired. It is not a university in the traditional sense, people don't study for qualifications, but they can join informal interest groups and share knowledge and experience. By doing this people can enjoy taking part, meeting others and making new friend.

Forest Town & District U3A is only 8 months old but already has a wide variety of interest groups as you will discover in this newsletter. More are being added all the time as members take up the challenge of running or joining a group. Being a member of the U3A and an interest group helps people to get out of the house and combat loneliness. Additionally we have a monthly meeting with a speaker.

Our membership fees are only £18 for the 2016/17 year which runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> March, if you are not already a member why not think about joining today.

## LOOKING BACK TO APRIL



In April we had a very enlightening talk by Kris about the work of the Samaritans and how they had been supporting the community since 1971.

We learnt about the background to the Samaritan organisation, what becoming a volunteer involves, the training, supervision and debriefing after a session on the telephone.

Most of us discovered it was a much wider service than we thought, and that a vast amount of people with varying problems and the need of someone to talk to are helped, not just suicides. A very moving CD with back ground music enlarging on peoples needs was the finale to this excellent talk.

The Samaritans are based at 1 Grove St. Mansfield  
Tel: 116 123 (free to call)  
email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

## DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

### MAIN MEETINGS

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Speaker - *Forest Town The Village That Grew Out of Coal*
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun - **AGM & Speaker - Bluebell Wood Hospice, also craft and other displays. (more below)**
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Jul - Speaker - *Old and Curious Occupations*
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug - Speaker - *Gardens of Carmarthen Sth Wales*
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Sep - Speaker - Veolia Waste Recycle
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct - Speaker - Action For Hearing Loss
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov - Speaker - Mansfield Area in WW1
- Thursday 1st Dec - Christmas event

### Royal Revelry

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Day event at the John Fretwell Centre, Sookholme.

## THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

The meeting in St Alban's Church will start with the **AGM**.

This will be followed by

**Russell Hall**

**from Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice  
who will talk on**

**'Wotsits, Spray cream and Spaniels:  
A day in the life of a fundraiser.'**

A title like that leaves us all guessing, but in brief Russell's talk will reflect on the wonderful work of this Children's Hospice. The service it provides and the funding needed and how the vast majority of it is raised. We will also hear about the kind of activities fund raisers get up to and some of the more quirky activities supporters have used.

There will then be time for refreshments and chatting and looking at displays put on by our members of:

Woodwork, Crafts, Patchwork, Postboxes, Photo Books and Royalty in Forest Town

## OUR U3A WEB SITE

<http://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town>

Do take a look for up to-date information, photos etc and links to other U3A sites.



# INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

## GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup>		Computer & IT Skills-1	Rambling	<b>MAIN MEETING</b>	Music - 60s Appreciation*
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Craft	Short Walks		Bird Watching	Bridge for Beginners
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scrabble & Rummikub	Computer & IT Skills-2 Book Club	Rambling	Local History	Strollers
4 <sup>th</sup>		Drama			Bridge for Beginners

\* Not always 1st Friday, please check in Newsletter  
Photo Books (Twice a month) will be changing  
 Trace Your Family History -once a month date to be decided  
Woodworking (Toys) No specific day

### Bird Watching



**Group Leader: Lynne Cooper**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10am**

This month we visited Sherwood Forest to look for the new spring migrants and to look for woodlark on Budby Common. Migrants seen were willow warbler, chiffchaff and tree pipit. Although we could hear woodlarks at a distance we didn't see any. Our visit to the common was worthwhile though as we saw 3 buzzards and a few linnets. On the way back to the café we were fortunate to get good views of a willow tit which is not very common nowadays.

Next month we are going a bit further afield to Attenborough Nature Reserve hoping to see Cetti's Warbler and Bittern.

### Bridge for Beginners

**Group Leader: Steve Evans**

**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
 10 am - 12 noon at the Forest Town Arena.**

### Book Club



The Book Club will meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 2 to 3pm at Forest Town Library. The Library services allocate a new book every month. At the meetings the book of the month will be reviewed in a light-hearted way over tea and biscuits and a new title issued to read during the following month. A great strength of a Book Club is the wide range of books offered and possibly includes books that you would have never chosen to read.

*(You may not like all the books and don't get past Chapter 3 but that's OK!!)*

For the first meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May the book is "Heartbreak Hotel" by Deborah Moggach, (author of "The Exotic Marigold Hotel") and is a romantic comedy set in a run-down Welsh B&B!

Come to Forest Town Library, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm to collect the book, have a cup of tea and chat. Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Ann Stanford.*

### Computer and IT Skills

**Group Leader: Bob Hunt**

**4/5 people per session**

Computer groups 1 and 2 met recently at the Prince Charles pub in Forest Town.

In Group 1 we looked at transferring video from a camcorder to a PC, when you plug a device into a computer the computer recognises it as another storage unit and allows you to transfer files, this time although the computer recognised the camera it didn't recognise the file format and needed the software supplied with the camera to be installed, always check the packaging for supplied software, sometimes it is in a recess at the bottom of the packaging.

In Group 2 we looked at word processing, formatting the page, changing the font and font size and style and the alignment of the text.

The next meeting of group 1 at the Prince Charles pub will be on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. May at 2 pm.

The Group 2 meeting will be one week later than usual on the fourth Thursday, May the 26<sup>th</sup>. at 10 am. as I will be in Bonnie Scotland the week before.

[I think Happy Birthday wishes are in order Bob - Ed]  
Bob Hunt

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### Craft

**Group Leader: Jane Freeman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena**

There were 9 ladies in attendance this month, 2 of whom had returned after post-operative convalescence, but had been far from idle, bringing with them a further selection of twiddle muffs to be admired.



These, and other muffs and beautiful minute knitted garments for the neonatal unit were being delivered to King's Mill this week by one of the group many thanks for doing this.

We all continued our respective projects whilst "chewing the fat" on many issues one of which was The Royal Yarn - Bombing nothing sinister in any way! This involves knitting or crocheting patriotic squares which will be used for festooning tree trunks, railings and lamp posts in Mansfield Town centre on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday street party all are welcome to attend.

Another subject discussed was the impending referendum, with the enormous expense involved in distributing leaflets to all households, giving allegedly "unbiased" information regarding the vote to leave/remain in the EU. No doubt, all will be revealed in due course!

On a lighter note, we tried to collect suggestion on how to concentrate on following complex [knitting, crochet] patterns at the same time as reading the subtitles on the current series of gripping "Scandi Dramas" being shown on Channel 4 on Saturday evenings. No-one has yet come up with a viable solution to doing both answers on a postcard, please.

### Drama



**Group Leader:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 11am Meet Forest Town Arena,**

**First meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May**

An initial meeting was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April and there was enough interest to start this group - they will now get their 'Act together' and plan their future activities. [No major production are anticipated in the near future -Ed].

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### Family History - see Trace Your Family History

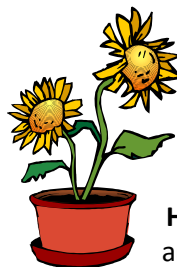
### Gardening

**Group Leader: Marian Story**

**Monthly, various dates**

Several of us enjoyed our visit to Sherwood U3A's Meeting in April; what a busy, lively group they are and all made us feel very welcome for the brilliant talk given by Martin Fish, BBC Radio Presenter and former Rufford Abbey Head Gardener.

Afterwards ten of us enjoyed a visit to Sue Robb's Berry Hill garden and her allotment too and Sue enlightened us regarding her vegetable growing and delightful garden followed by refreshments. With plans underway for the coming month we are delighted to receive the opportunity of a return visit later in the year to see the changes that are being made.



Three of us are braving the 'Arctic Blast' forecast for 23<sup>rd</sup> April when we are visiting the Harrogate Flower Show – if we survive the elements we will be off to view the bluebells at **Hodstock Priory on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May** and a visit to another member's garden later in the month. You are welcome to join us.

A few freebie gardening magazines, small outdoor tomato plants etc and maybe some cosmos plants will be available if you would like to grow them on further yourself – if so, please bring a bag with you.

*Marian*





We then headed for Hartington and its most impressive Youth Hostel at Hartington Hall, a classic Jacobean manor house, where we had lunch in the grounds. Afterwards we made the compulsory stop at the Old Cheese Shop in the Market Square, which sells stilton from the Hartington Creamery, before re-joining the River Dove in the woodland of Beresford Dale. This was near the 1674 Fishing Temple of 'Compleat Anglers' Charles Cotton and Izaak Walton; we also passed by Pike Pool with its tall spire of rock.

We continued through Narrow Dale then on into Alstonefield, where we did a circuit of the village to admire the cottages and gardens and, finding the George Inn open, quickly returned for drinks/cuppas. Another really enjoyable day.



*Sometimes strangers wish to join the group!*

**Our 20<sup>th</sup> April** ramble was into the former lead mining area west of Matlock. We had a lovely bonus that day – it was a warm, bright, sunny day for a change! We set off from the car park we had discovered in Bonsall and walked through St James' churchyard with its many flowers on to the focal point of the village, the Market Cross, with a shaft dated 1671. This is complemented by the adjacent Kings Head Inn of 1677. A rough track from Bonsall led us to the top of Masson Hill, giving marvellous views of Matlock, Riber Castle and Darley Dale.

We then walked to Wensley Dale, not on the scale or grandeur of its Yorkshire namesake, but nevertheless a lovely valley carpeted with masses of celandines. Next we passed through an old lead mining area; from here-on regular evidence was seen in the form of covered shafts and grassy mounds. Then on over Brightgate Hill to Upper Town and Horse Dale, with lovely bright flowers hanging over the garden walls. Finally a circuit of Bonsall Moor was rewarded with wood anemonies, masses of celandines, and other spring flowers.

After returning to Bonsall we changed our boots and retired to the nearby Fountain Café. Absolutely wonderful, a well-earned rest sitting in the sun on the Fountain's veranda sipping coffees/teas and watching the world go by!

Our next rambles will be Thorpe Salvin, Chesterfield Canal, Lindrick Dale (Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> May, 8½ m), followed by Minninglow, Parwich, Uppermoor Farm (Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8½ m), meeting at Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. New members welcome.

*Alan Radford*

### **Scrabble & Rummikub**

**Group Leader: Celia Tassle**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena**

Seven members plus a visitor from Australia met a Celia's. We played Uno and Rummikub, Tea and cakes were enjoyed. We hope our visitor enjoyed her time with us, and took back happy memories of the U3A games group. We meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every month at the Arena 2-4pm

*Celia*

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### **Short Walks**

**Group Leader: Marlene Mee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10.30am.**

**Meet Various Locations**

**Please Note** this month we will be meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> (the first Tuesday not the second). meet Arena 10am for lifts, 10.30am at 'The Coopers', Woodhouse Road, for a Pleasley Vale walk

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### **Strollers**

**Group Leader: Denise Doud**

**Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10am**

The 15<sup>th</sup> April saw six of us stroll around the grounds of Newstead Abbey. We followed the way marked short walk around the lake and experienced a

miniscule Niagara Falls by standing behind the overflow fall from the lake. We continued across the field to join the Japanese garden and worked our way through the various garden areas to our much welcomed drinks stop. Despite the weather warning we survived the vagaries of the weather and decided upon the Pleasley Pit area for our next stroll on Friday 20th May. Do join us.

## Trace Your Family History

**Group Leader: Malcolm Marples**

**Meet - To be decided**



This Family History Group will be looking at basic family history records, and where to find them. We will also consider ways of recording your research to make it

interesting. In the main it will be aimed at beginners, however people who have already done research can always learn something new. Researching family history needs to be fun and this is what we will aim to do - even if we discover skeletons in the cupboard.



## Woodworking (Toys)

**Group Leader: Joseph Bell**

Three regular people are meeting every week in Josephs garage They are all working on different projects such as wood turning and making toys.

*Joseph*

## **NEWSLETTER - DEADLINE**

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to [pauline@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline@mp-marples.co.uk) by the **21<sup>st</sup> May—sooner if possible.**

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	Kath Wolstonholme
Minutes Sec	Jill Gascoyne
Social Secretary	
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Marples
Website Editor	Bob Hunt

## HOW TO START A GROUP

- Have an idea/think of something that interests you.
- Speak to Denise, the Group Co-ordinator (contact details below)
- Arrange an initial interest meeting

This is how all the groups without a leader begin by getting those interested together to ask what they want from the group, any ideas, day and time to have the meeting. Sometimes a group develops from this, sometimes it doesn't, but at least the idea has been tried.

## SOCIAL SECRETARY NEEDED

To arrange Theatre Visits, Lunch Outings Please discuss with Mike King - Chairman, contact details below.

## Stop Press - Local History Group

Negotiations are in hand to book the Flint Avenue Community Centre (off Laurel Avenue Forest Town) and hold our meetings there from Thursday June 16th. This will mean the people on the waiting list and others will be able to join the group.

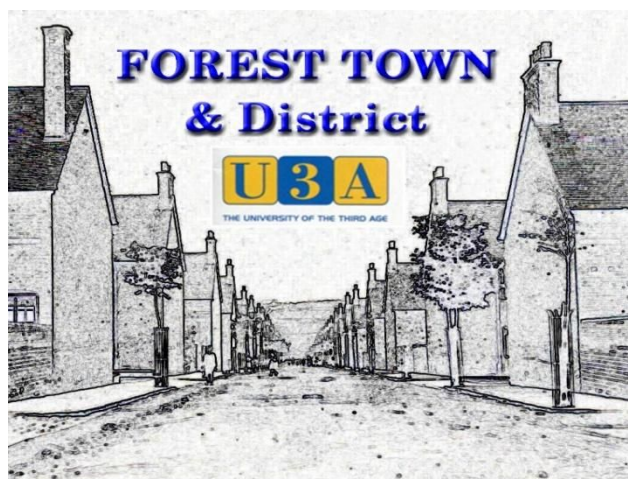


*Pauline Marples 01623 431783  
pauline@mp-marples.co.uk*

## Stop Press - Theatre Visit

**Sound of Music, Theatre Royal,  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2pm**

All seats £29. 50 if 10 or more seats are purchased. Names to Denise/Ann at the May meeting with all monies paid by June meeting.



## PROGRAMME for the "ROYAL REVELRY"

TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 at the JOHN FRETWELL CENTRE START 10AM

### INSIDE

#### Music in the Function Room

- Retford U3A Choir and Recorder Group will perform from 12 to 12.45
- Forest Town & District U3A "Rave On" will perform from 1 to 1.30pm
- Ashfield U3A Ukele & Guitar Group will perform from 2 to 2.45

#### Competitions

- Ashfield U3A invite you to make a "crown"
- Dukeries U3A ask for captions for their Royal Picture Quiz. Prize to the most humorous.

#### Exhibitions

Throughout the day there will be displays of art, photography, craft and memorabilia with a "royal" flavour. Thanks to Ashfield, Dukeries, Forest Town & District, Hucknall, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford, Sherwood and Sutton U3As

### OUTSIDE

- Enter the Bowls Competition organised by Mansfield U3A.
- **Session 1** 11am to 12 noon, **Session 2** 1 to 2pm

Did you want to have a go at Croquet? Now's your chance. Between 3 and 3.30pm Sutton U3A invite you to come outside and learn some "royal" moves.

Please vacate the Function Room by **3.30pm** to enable the "Royal" tea to be set up. Please note that Afternoon Tea will be served at 4pm but ticket holders only will be welcome into the Function Room. **Anyone not having a ticket will be taken to The Tower.**

Throughout the day you will be seeing "roving" photographers. Please note if you do not want your photograph taken inform the photographers when s/he points her/his camera at you.

With thanks to all of the Neighbourhood U3As who have contributed:-

Ashfield, Dukeries, Forest Town & District, Hucknall, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford, Sherwood, Sutton and Worksop.