

### 'MIKES MUSINGS'

A warm welcome to the July edition of our newsletter.

#### Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and June meeting at the temporary venue at Kingsway Hall, obviously we got the message through to the majority of members. Just a reminder that we will again use Kingsway Hall for the July meeting but revert to St Albans from August onwards.

#### Royal Revelry

A good number of our members attended the 'Royal Revelry' and in general this was a good well attended event, though I know there was some disappointment regarding the 'cream tea'. Pauline and Malcolm Marples put on a great display of photographs and memorabilia of the Coronation Celebrations in Forest Town and 'Rave On' were enthusiastically received for their two 'spots' and in addition raised £102 for Bluebell Wood Hospice – well done!

#### Newsletter – 'a plea'

I hope you agree that Pauline Marples on our behalf produces a great Newsletter which keeps you up to date with all things U3A both in words and pictures. The Newsletter is emailed out to all members for whom we have an email address and our expectation was that those members would either read the Newsletter online or print off to read. When we last checked there were about 20 members who did not have an email address and we agreed to print off copies for these members to collect at the monthly meeting.

**HOWEVER** at the last two meetings 50/60 printed copies were taken by members that would seem to indicate that though people receive the Newsletter by email many are also taking a printed copy.

Compiling, printing and collating the newsletter is done by Pauline at home, and as you can imagine it is very time consuming, every extra copy takes more time. Sixty newsletters each with 8 pages = 480 pages, additional to this of course is the cost - this is all the reason we need to keep the number of copies printed to a minimum.

I **DO** want every member to have access to a Newsletter but if you do receive one by email please don't take additionally a printed copy. Can we suggest you all check your emails just prior to the main meeting to look for your newsletter

If of course you have given us an email address and you are not receiving the Newsletter or are having difficulty in accessing the Newsletter please let a committee member know – our Website Editor and Computing & IT Skill Group Leader Bob Hunt maybe able to help.

*Mike King - Chairman*

### MAIN MEETING

**THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2.00pm**

**will be held in Kingsway Hall Forest Town**



Historian Dennis Hill will talk about 60 old occupations in 60 minutes, some of which you will be familiar with, while others you may never have heard of. Dennis takes a look at occupations from a wide period of time, from the mediaeval period right up to living memory. Some of those occupations may have only been part time for a small number of people, while others employed tens of thousands of people. The names of some occupations will cause quite a bit of amusement.

You will certainly end up the afternoon with a lot of curious facts that you will be able to talk about over the tea/coffee break.

This will be followed by various notices and the opportunity to look at what Groups are on offer.

### PLEASE SAY 'HELLO'

If you see someone sat on their own at our meetings please say 'hello' and make them feel welcome





We desperately need more members to volunteer their help at the Monthly Meetings. At present we only have approximately 6 people who are prepared to Meet & Greet, or man the Signing In table, as 2 people are needed at a time for both these jobs there are currently not enough to form a rota or to cover for holidays or illness.

If you can help out, it only requires an hour or two of your time at the Monthly Meeting, (not every month if we have enough volunteers), nothing more. We have Guidelines for both jobs and initially I would try to pair you up with someone who already knows the ropes. The more members who volunteer, the lighter the work load for everyone!

Are you technically minded? Our Sound System/Communications team of 3 would also appreciate more volunteers to form a rota and are willing to train anyone interested in its use.

The Refreshment Team already has a rota, 3 members on every third month or so, but the more the merrier!

Please give this some thought, this is **your** U3A and without extra volunteers the workload is currently falling on the same members month after month.

**Your U3A needs You!** Please speak to Jenny Wright (Secretary), or any of the members currently doing a job at the Monthly Meeting, who will pass your details on to me, or point you in my direction. Thanking you all in anticipation. *Jenny*

### GET WELL WISHES

We quite often hear of members that have health problems and even have to spend time in hospital. We don't want to mention names in case we miss someone out, and all our members are important to us, so to you all we say

**GET WELL SOON**

### THE WORK OF BLUEBELL WOOD CHILDRENS HOSPICE

This is what we all discovered as our June meeting, when Russ Hall gave us an outstanding presentation on this hospice situated in North Anston in South Yorkshire. The hospice supports children and families from a very wide catchment area including North Nottinghamshire.

Russ told us of the fantastic work of staff and volunteers and the amazing fund raising that is done by groups and individuals. It is amazing what people will do to raise money.

Before Russ could be properly thanked Keith Bancroft, guitarist in our very own U3A 'Rave On' Group stood up and said the group would raise funds for Bluebell Wood at the Royal Revelry to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June. (This the group did and besides setting all our feet tapping they raised £102).



U3A member Jan Dewhirst who was already aware of the work of Bluebell Wood presented Russ with a beautiful patchwork quilt for the hospice



Russ's talk has also inspired members of the Craft Group to knit baby clothes for the hospice.

For further information see [www.bluebellwood.org](http://www.bluebellwood.org)



## Members Displays at the June Meeting



Wooden Toys displayed by Joseph Bell of the Woodwork Group.



Patchwork by Jan Dewhirst.

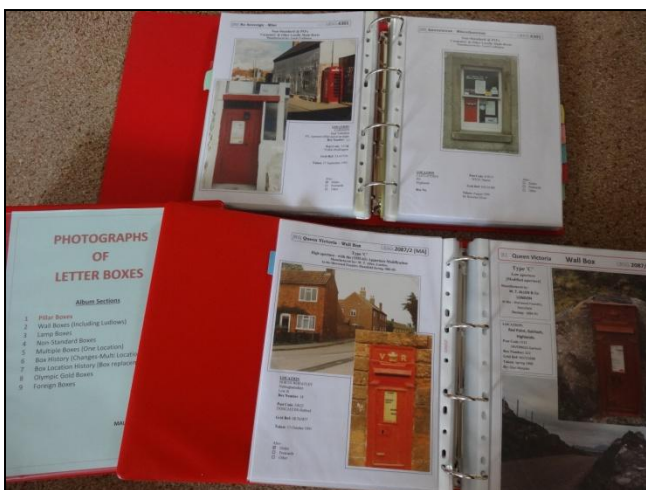
*Due to family commitments it is not possible for Jan to start a group at the moment.*



Pat Smedley's display of her father Aubrey's wooden fruit bowls which he made from wood planks when he was a joiner at Mansfield Colliery.



A wonderful display by the Craft Group showing a wide variety of work.



Some of you will have already heard that Malcolm Marples has a great interest in post boxes. Malcolm brought along just three of his albums showing a variety of Post Boxes, especially ones with that were made in Mansfield.



The local history display of how Forest Town celebrated the coronation.

The display was on show at our June Meeting and was then our contribution to the Royal Revelry event. Since then it has been in Forest Town Library.

# 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 Trace Your Family History	Computer & IT Skills-2 Book Club	Rambling	Local History	Strollers
4 <sup>th</sup>		Play Reading			Bridge for Beginners
Woodworking (Toys) No specific day					
* Not always 1st Friday, please check in Newsletter					

### Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

 Date change - July

Contact 01623 652430

Email [lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk)

The July meeting will be on on **Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July** at 9.0am meeting at Sunningdale Farm up at the end of Cox's Lane in Mansfield Woodhouse. If you need a lift or directions give me a ring 01623 652430 nearer the time or see me at the July main meeting. *Lynne*

### 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 Flint Avenue Centre.

Contact 01623 470282

Email [steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)

### Book Club

Group Leader: *Ann Stanford*

Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
2.05 - 3.05 at Forest Town Library.

Contact 01623 641864

Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)

There was a mixed reaction to last months book 'Heartbreak Hotel' by Deborah Moggach. Some members loved it and could liken the characters to present day people and events, while others decided it was a book they could not read.

The group socialised over a cup of tea and considered books for further reading. The book chosen to read this month for future discussion is 'The Last Runaway' by Tracy Chevalier.

### Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

4/5 people per session

Email [bukw90@gmail.com](mailto:bukw90@gmail.com)

At the recent meeting of the computer group the topic was word processing. We also discussed upgrading to Windows 10 and the way Microsoft is forcing this upgrade onto Windows users machines and the problems this has caused for some users.

### Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

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

Contact 01623 624003

Email [jam.freeman@btinternet.com](mailto:jam.freeman@btinternet.com)

Despite the dismal "summer " weather, we all met in a cheerful mood, and soon set to work, comparing the items that had been produced since last month.

Lots more very tiny premature baby garments and small blankets had been knitted, with the promise of even more being made. We also had a thank-you email from the PALS office for the latest donation of knitting; they were very keen for us to "carry on creating", as such items are in great demand.

A new project of small blankets/shawls for the Bluebell Hospice, was begun to be given for the babies who passed away whilst there.

As usual this month there were many Topics under discussion.

### Drama - see Play Reading

### Family History - see Trace Your Family History



### Gardening

**Group Leader: Marian Story**

**Monthly, various dates**

**Contact 01623 631544**

**Email [miku4me1@btinternet.com](mailto:miku4me1@btinternet.com)**



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May a goodly crowd (14 of us!) visited Linda's garden in Forest Town; many thanks, therefore, to her for being a cheerful and willing host. We had a thoroughly enjoyable tour of her captivating garden, peopled by small sculptured creatures (e.g. an elephant!) and hosting thriving, healthy shrubs, some trained up fences, walls and trellises. Gravel and chipped bark made good ground cover.

Linda and her husband have created an attractive and neat garden with colourful containers and many interesting features (we kept spotting things to talk about!). I think we would all like to offer thanks to her for refreshments, enjoyed outdoors.

*Kay T.*

### Local History

**Group Leader: Pauline Marples**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre**

**Contact 01623 431783**

**Email [pauline.mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline.mp-marples.co.uk)**

**NEW VENUE**



June was our first meeting at the Flint Avenue Centre and it provided us with ample space to sit as a group and additionally use tables to display documents etc.

There was also a good Kitchen area for refreshment to be kept away from documents and photos.

We first discussed what we knew of the history of the five venues in Forest Town used by the U3A, The Arena (Forest Town Welfare), Kingsway Hall (The Drill Hall), St Albans Church, Forest Town Library and the Flint Avenue Centre. There was then the opportunity to discover more from a wide variety of documents and photographs.

At our next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> July we will look at local history in old and new newspapers also printed leaflets.

*Pauline M*

### Music - 60's Appreciation

**Group Leader: Keith Bancroft**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm**

**Contact 01623 618099**

**Email [keithbcroft@gmail.com](mailto:keithbcroft@gmail.com)**

Another good attendance for the June meeting where "Rave On" rehearsed the songs they were to perform in their second spot at the Royal Revelry at the John Fretwell Centre. The quiz was compiled by Valerie Newborough which went down well with everyone.

The July meeting is on Fri 8<sup>th</sup> when Keith and John will perform as a duo with a selection of songs different to the usual rock 'n' roll theme. Just a reminder that everyone who has put their names down for the concert visits at the Mansfield Palace should bring their ticket money with them to the meeting and hand it to Valerie. If you have not yet put your name down you can also do it at the meeting.

Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Sept - That'll Be The Day £23.50

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct - Roy Orbison Story £21.00

*Keith B*

### Play Reading

**Group Leader:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm Meet Forest Town Arena,**

**For further information contact Denise Doude**

**01623 619856**

**Email [dmdoud52@gmail.com](mailto:dmdoud52@gmail.com)**

After a second meeting it was decided that the Drama Group would now be called 'Play Reading' and a new time (as above) was decided on.

### Rambling

**Group Leader: Alan Radford**

**Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Wednesdays of each month.**

**Contact Alan Radford 01623 427934;**

**[walk days only]: mobile 07851 422466)**

**Email [alan.radford@which.net](mailto:alan.radford@which.net)**

Two more highly enjoyable rambles! On the 1<sup>st</sup> June we set off from Hulme End west of Hartington for a lively exploration of the Manifold Valley. Hulme End was the northern terminus of the Leek & Manifold Light Railway that closed in 1934. We reached East Ecton after crossing flowery fields then started a zig-zag ascent of Ecton Hill, which was extensively worked for copper, and old shafts and hollows abound. In a late 18<sup>th</sup> century boom period, the Duke of Devonshire's huge profits paid for building The Crescent in Buxton.

After enjoying the views, we dropped down to the former Pepper Inn then uphill again between Wetton Hill's twin peaks to the village green in Wetton for lunch. Following easy concession paths we were then able to descend down to Thor's Cave, where two of the group inspected the vast interior and a side 'window' looking out onto the valley. Afterwards, descending into the valley, we passed several little children with parents going up to the cave, all excitedly expecting they would be finding a bear living inside!

At the valley bottom we crossed the River Manifold. River? It was completely dry. It is famous for these dry stretches but further on we found water again. We also managed to walk safely through a slippery ford crossing a tributary, then returned along the Manifold Trail to the cars before retiring to the Visitor Centre café.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June we set off from Hathersage, with its many connections with the Bronte family and *Jane Eyre*, and climbed away to Birley Farm and Nether Hurst. After ascending a steep staircase we stopped for a drink at Bamford Filters, where the waters from the reservoirs in this area are filtered before being piped away. Revived and refreshed, we passed by flowery hedgerows to the centre of Bamford, the highest remaining village in the Derwent valley.

Four sculptured standing stones, 'touchstones', are situated around the village illustrating the role of the classical elements Air, Water, Earth and Fire, which have all played their part in the history of Bamford. The 'Earth' and 'Fire' touchstones in the village centre and at the weir at Bamford Mill, a cotton mill until the 1960s, were on our route. Continuing, we enjoyed the views from the Touchstone Trail, a former railway for the construction of Derwent and Howden dams, then walked beside the Derwent for lunch at the Stepping Stones.

Detouring past Offerton Hall and Callow Farm, we returned via Leadmill Bridge to the old industrial part of Hathersage. To round off the day we drove up the hill for a visit into St Michael's Church and a look at Little John's Grave, then returned to the Deli on the main street for relaxing cups.



Next rambles: Alport Height, Alderwasley & Shining Cliff Woods (Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7¾m), followed by Calver, Longstone Moor & Rowland (Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> July, 9¾m), meeting at Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. New members always welcome. *Alan Radford*

### **Scrabble & Rummikub**

**Group Leader: Celia Tassle**

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

**Contact 01623 627905**

### **Short Walks**

**Group Leader: Marlene Mee**

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

**Meet Various Locations**

**Contact - 01623-409072**

**E.mail [marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com](mailto:marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com)**

### **Strollers**

**Group Leader: Denise Doud**

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

**Contact 01623 619856**

**Email [dmdoud52@gmail.com](mailto:dmdoud52@gmail.com)**

The weather was very kind to the five members of the strolling group, who met on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Burnt Stump Inn car park at 10am for their monthly stroll. Thankfully the rain held off and it became quite warm, given the wet and torrential conditions we'd had all week.

Having chatted with one of the dog walkers to find the way; we ambled through the woods, up slopes and down, listening to the bird song and admiring the plants. We found the small lake, which was planted with purple flowering rhododendrons beautifully reflected in the water. There was a flotilla of 10 small ducklings paddling in the shallows, being closely watched by their mother.

We then walked back towards the car park and ended with a cup of coffee and a natter in the Burnt Stump Inn. The next stroll will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Edwinstowe strolling through Sherwood Forest before the schools break up. *Ann A*

## Trace Your Family History

NEW VENUE

Group Leader: **Malcolm Marples**

Meet 2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday- Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email [malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk)

Malcolm gave various examples and different formats of how to record your family history and what value this had to research. Each group member then spoke about their own individual research which proved very interesting revealing different backgrounds and places, including America.

The topic at the next meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> July will be the Civil Registration of Births/Marriages and Deaths.

## Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: **Joseph Bell** Contact 01623 631236



## NOW HEAR THIS!

**Board Games** - Sheet to be put out at the July Meeting for people interested in this group

**Current Affairs** - Des O'Leary has offered to run a group. [there are certainly plenty of current affairs to talk about at the moment - Ed] A signing up sheet will be put out at the July meeting for those interested.

**Calligraphy** - there are three members interested in this at the moment - is there any member who has a specific knowledge of the hobby/art?

**Painting & Drawing** - Six people interested and it is suggested this group will run from October to April/

**Petanque** - Sheet being put out at the July Meeting for people who be interested in this group.

**Ten Pin Bowling** - Sheet to be put out at the July Meeting for people who be interested in this group.

**Sound of Music, Theatre Royal, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2pm - SORRY NO PLACES LEFT**

## 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **This now stands at 143**

Just a reminder - 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. This entitles you to attend our Main meeting and join many of our groups. Also to receive our monthly newsletter.

If you are already a member of another U3A where you pay a full membership fee, the fee with ourselves will be £14.50. Please bring your other membership card with you to qualify for this.

## **NOTICES FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**GUESTS** While it is permissible to take a guest to a group meeting, you must first contact the Group Leader to ensure this is acceptable.

**OUTINGS** If you plan to organise an outing/event for members that involves finance, this must first be agreed with the Executive Committee.

**NAMES** - if you have signed up for a group and then changed your mind can you please inform Denise Group Co-ordinator.

**NEWSLETTERS AND .PDF DOCUMENTS ON THE WEBSITE.** To read the .pdf files (*portable document file*) on the website you will need to install Adobe Reader or Adobe Reader DC onto your PC, ipad or tablet,

I have put a download link and guidance notes for this on the **Computer and IT Group** page on the Forest Town & District U3A website:

[www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town)

Bob Hunt

## DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

### **MAIN MEETINGS**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jul | - Speaker - <i>Old and Curious Occupations</i>                     |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug | - Speaker - <i>Gardens of Carmarthen South Wales</i>               |
| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sep | - Speaker - <i>Veolia Waste Recycle</i>                            |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct | - Speaker - <i>Action For Hearing Loss</i>                         |
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov | - Speaker - <i>Mansfield Area in WW1, Including Clipstone Camp</i> |
| Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec | - Christmas event  |



**2017**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan      Photographic Wildlife survey of  
Sherwood Forest  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb      The White Peak Way  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar      Changing Lives Through  
Fairtrade

### 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> July sooner if possible.**

### 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST MAIN MEETING IN ST ALBAN'S CHURCH 1.45pm

**Mike Davey**  
*will tell us about*

### 'The National Botanic Garden of Wales and Aberglasney Gardens'

These two gardens are located near to Carmarthen within a short distance of each other, and are situated on the south and north sides respectively of the beautiful River Towey. The National Botanic Garden is the most recent Botanic Garden to be created world-wide, with its formal borders, wild flower meadows, lakes and cascades, stumpery, and a double-walled kitchen garden. The kitchen garden has schools' allotments. Two modern glasshouses contain large collections of Mediterranean and tropical plants. The gardens and house at Aberglasney were established by the wealthy cleric Bishop Anthony Rudd in the 1600s. The house and gardens have an interesting history relating to their past owners, some of whom are reputed to haunt the gardens. The cloister garden is unique, since it is the only one still in existence. Other features include woodland areas and formal borders, a well stocked kitchen garden, a yew tunnel, ponds and cottages.

The tomb of Bishop Rudd and his family in the nearby church at Llangathen is well worth a visit; the churchyard is especially beautiful at the beginning of June. There are pleasant walks along the estuary of the River Towey, while the Brecon Beacons are not far away. Wander home through Wales and Herefordshire!

### Our Forest Town & District U3a Web Site <http://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town>

Do take a look for up to-date information, back issues of our newsletter, group information, a gallery full of photo's - are you on them? Links to other U3A web sites and much more.

### LOVE, LAUGH and LEARN WITH THE U3A

#### GARDENING HELP WANTED

At the side of the new Flint Avenue Centre is a patch of land that Cllr Mick Barton would like help in cultivating

Are there any members who would enjoy doing this if so please contact Mick on  
01623 463001

mobile - 07788712446.

[mbarton@Mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:mbarton@Mansfield.gov.uk)

Cllr Barton has been very helpful to our U3A especially with the use of the Flint Avenue Centre, it would be good if we could help him.



Forest Town U3A Executive Committee			
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