



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome: A very warm welcome to the November edition of the Newsletter to all our members and in particular the 39 members who have joined us over the last six months. I hope members old and new are enjoying the monthly meetings and taking advantage of joining some of our Interest Groups. If you have any questions about the running of our U3A or how you think we could do things better please speak to any of the Committee Members who I know will be pleased to help. If your enquiry is specifically about the Interest Groups speak to Denise Doud our Groups Co-ordinator.

Holocaust visit: As mentioned last month 8 of us joined about 70 U3A members from around the County and visited the Holocaust Centre and Museum; Kay Toy has written about the visit on page three of this Newsletter, and it is possible this will also be published in the next edition of the Third Age Matters magazine.

Nottinghamshire Network of U3A's: I attended the recent meeting of the Network; this is a group of the 29 U3A's covering the whole of Nottinghamshire (with a combined membership of approximately 7,500). The Network is to hold several workshops in 2017 and also has a proposed programme of opening further U3A's in 2017/18. It is also a useful forum for an exchange of views and learning from each other.

North Notts. Neighbourhood Group: It has been a month for attending meetings! I also went to the NNG which as some of you will be aware is made up of several U3A's in the north of the county with the view of supporting each other in all things U3A. Three original members of the group have decided for different reasons to leave the group which now consists of seven U3A's including ourselves. One of the advantages of being in this group is the reciprocal

arrangement we have agreed whereby if there is an Interest Group at another U3A, which we don't have at present, and if they have a vacancy, you are able to join them for that particular group.

Christmas and the New Year: Please read the separate information about our December meeting and also note that there will be **no Newsletter in January**. This is for two reasons; with the holiday period it makes it very tight to put the Newsletter together in time to distribute to you, and secondly it gives Pauline, our Newsletter Editor, a very well deserved break – it will be back in February. Don't forget there is a lot of information on our website.

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

Membership Fees 2017/18: The committee has now had the opportunity to look in detail at our income and expenditure over the last 12 months and produced a budget for 2017/18. I am pleased to say that we are able to keep our Membership Fee at the present level of £18:00, (£14:50 if you pay a full membership fee to another U3A). It is usual practice to advise members of the membership fee for the next year at the AGM but in view of us being newly formed we wanted a period to try and ensure that our forecast was as accurate as possible. I anticipate that we will be able to announce the fee for the following years at our AGM (held in June).

Mike King, Chairman

PHOTOGRAPHS

We like to include photographs in our newsletter and on our web site as we believe this helps to illustrate the warmth, friendliness and activities of our U3A, and its associated groups. However if YOU do not want your photo on the web site, newsletter or subsequent displays please tell the person taking the photo and turn away from the camera.



Look out for people wearing smiley badges at our main meetings, say 'hello' and offer the hand of friendship and make them feel welcome. The badge means they are new to our meeting which can sometimes be confusing at first

Ask if they want to be 'shown the ropes' or would like to sit with you, especially if they are on their own, it will be appreciated by someone who may be feeling a little lost. A smile and a friendly face can make all the difference between them choosing to join our U3A or not, and you may just have met your new best friend.

LOOKING BACK TO OUR OCTOBER BIRTHDAY MEETING

I think everyone who was there will agree this was a great meeting.

First we had a very interesting talk on the awareness and understanding of deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss. One in six people are affected by hearing problems and there is a need to encourage early identification and treatment. There is a lot of fear around hearing loss, people are embarrassed about going for help so people do not go for a hearing check, often for around 10 years. Sometimes they leave it too late and go deaf. Our speaker quoted Helen Keller who said;

“Blindness separates people from things; deafness separates people from people.”

Deafness makes people afraid to go out and they lose confidence. Wearing a hearing aid was sometimes off putting but now that digital hearing aids are available on the NHS and are computerised to each person, other people do not often realise a person is wearing one.

After the talk around 40 people waited to talk to Rhianna, our speaker. Which shows how interesting it was.

Next it was time to cut our birthday cakes, we needed two as we now have so many members.



Some of the committee with guest Karen Highfield Taylor



Close up of one of the cakes

Around the room were displays by various groups Family History, Local History, Play Reading and Crafts. It was amazing to see just how many things the craft group had on display, they are evidently a very active and talented group. Members of the play reading group added colour to the day by dressing up in character parts.

After refreshments (the birthday cakes soon disappeared), Mike our chairman introduced each member of the committee, so that members knew who we were and what we did. A wide variety of notices followed, re groups, outings and holidays.

OUR MAIN MEETING ON THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER St Alban's Church 1.45pm

Pauline & Malcolm Marples will give an illustrated talk about

THE MANSFIELD AREA & CLIPSTONE CAMP IN WW1

Horses, Belgian refugees and the impact one of the largest training camps in the country had on the Mansfield area are features of this talk.

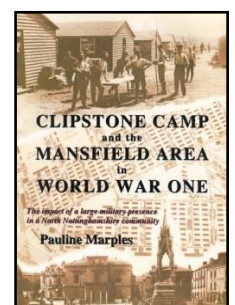
While many local men enlisted and moved away, yet an even greater number of soldiers moved into the area to live and train at Clipstone Camp

The camp and the integration of thousands of soldiers into the area brought additional spending power into the locality and quick thinking entrepreneurs took advantage of this.

The social implications of the camp were many. Local people and organisations became involved in the moral welfare of the soldiers. Alternatively the moral welfare of young girls were a concern and some 'ladies' were banned from the vicinity of the camp.

Beds in the Mansfield hospital were needed for war wounded. Schools and local women became involved in events to raise funds and equipment for those participating in the war. However for communities of Mansfield, the camp played a significant part in the people's war.

Pauline's book will also be available to buy - price £10.



HOLOCAUST VISIT

On Wednesday 5th October, eight members of Forest Town U3A, along with a large contingent from other U3As in the area, visited the National Holocaust Centre near Ollerton. This proved to be a moving, interesting and rewarding experience.

On arrival, we walked through commemorative gardens (both peaceful and thought-provoking) as we approached the main buildings. After a fascinating introductory talk, where we were advised that the role of the museum was that of Learning from the Holocaust, we were given a guided tour of the museum; its haunting photographs, artefacts and reconstructions gave one the feeling of immediacy; and sadness for the enormity of what took place.

We then proceeded to a workshop to discuss "Challenges for Today" (topics studied by other groups were "Faith and the Holocaust" and "Art and the Holocaust"). We looked at the role of the media, specifically the press and how, with its use of language, it can influence perceptions and attitudes, with particular reference to this year's referendum debate about immigration. Thought-provoking!

After an excellent buffet lunch, we were given a talk by a Holocaust survivor, Dr Martin Stern. He spoke about his remarkable life and experiences in a measured and restrained manner, and without apparent bitterness. If ever there was testimony to the power of the human spirit and a life well lived, it was demonstrated to us that afternoon. His intelligence and powers of perception shone through as he spoke to us about the psychology behind the Holocaust, and genocide across the world since the Second World War (the prevalence of which is astounding). May his courage and tenacity be an example to us all.

Our visit ended with a ceremony to remember the children murdered by the Nazis: visitors were invited to place a stone on the commemorative cairn in the gardens and pause for reflection. A haunting and memorable day for us all.

Kay Toy

For those who would like to learn more there is an interesting web site
<http://www.nationalholocaustcentre.net>

Remembering the past - Protecting the future
are moving words on the opening page

FROM 'COMPUTER BOB' 'A Warning'

I recently received an email supposedly from Paypal.com confirming a payment of 47.99 GBR to thegangbang club.com (my teenage Granddaughter tells me this is an adult porn site and what am I doing subscribing to it?) I asked her how she knew about it!

The alarm bell rang when I saw in the header of the email: sevice@paypal.com, which looks genuine but the return email address was: service@int.pp.com which is wrong for Paypal.

The email then says: "If you haven't authorized this payment click on the link below and get full refund". I hovered my cursor over the 'Resolution_Center' link without clicking on it, if I had clicked on the link it would have sent me to website: <http://y6sa4vt9byu89podzone.org/tmn90> (I have left some of it out so that you are not tempted to click on it), this site is nothing to with Paypal, no doubt this site would have asked me to confirm my bank account details to refund the money and instead taken money out.

If you receive this type of email from your bank or any firm that you have an online account with and are unsure about it don't click on the link in the email, login into your account in the normal way and check your account, banks and other firms don't ask you to confirm your details in this way.

I do have a Paypal account and checked my account every day for a week with no sign of the payment, I also changed my password and forwarded the email to Paypal.

It is worrying how this firm knew I had a Paypal account.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We now have 164 members, who come from (to mention just a few places) Forest Town, Clipstone, Warsop, Berry Hill and Mansfield Woodhouse.

From now until next March the joining fee is £12 so why not encourage your friends to join?

It was interesting to read last month what people said about being a member of the U3A - thank you to everyone who sent in contributions.

At the moment there is a lot of concern in the community about '**Loneliness**' and how this can be addressed. We would like to think that by joining the U3A this has helped some people combat loneliness, are we right? If you would like to tell us, contact me or Lynne Cooper (see back page) we will not publish your name or details.

Pauline

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st		Computer & IT Skills-1	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 nd	Craft	Short Walks	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling	Bridge for Beginners
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Trace Your Family History	Book Club	Rambling	Local History Computer & IT Skills-2	Strollers
4 th		Play Reading	Petanque	Painting & Drawing	Bridge for Beginners
<u>Woodworking (Toys) No specific day</u>					

Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

Meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
10 am - 12 noon at the Flint Avenue Centre.



Teal

In October despite the rain we really enjoyed our trip to RSPB, Blacktoft Sands, and most of our time was spent in the Hides. The Highlights were seeing Tree Sparrows and the 4 Marsh Harriers.

The birds we saw were Pink Footed Geese, Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch, Moorhen, Blue Tit, Magpie, Wood Pigeon, Pheasant, Great Tit, Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Teal, Marsh Harrier, Shelduck, Wren, Snipe, Little Egret, Curlew Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Dunlin, Black Tailed Godwit, Shoveler, Grey Heron, Wigeon, Lapwing, Chiffchaff, Redshank, Buzzard. There were 10 new species making a total now of 89 in our 10 outings. We also saw Roe Deer which added to the thrill of the day.



Book Club

Group Leader: *Ann Stanford*

Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month
2.05pm - 3.05pm at Forest Town Library.

PLEASE NOTE There is no meeting of the Book Club in November at Forest Town Library. The next meeting will be Tuesday 6th December, 2.05pm in the library.

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

4/5 people per session

Please contact Bob re the meeting venue

Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

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

The meeting this month was very "full on," with a new lady joining the group, and two guests who came from Sutton-in-Ashfield U3A to demonstrate Bargello work, and Kumihimo braiding, both of which were previously unknown to us all.

A selection of pattern books were on show, as well as many beautiful examples of both Bargello and

Kumihimo work, all extremely intricate and elaborate.

We were given the opportunity to try out both crafts, with some examples of "ones I made earlier" set up for us to continue if we wished. Cue a mad scramble (Sorry, "orderly queue") to have a go. I am sure that at the end of the session, we all came away truly inspired and fired up to embark on two new activities.

Note to all finished Bargello and Kumihimo items will be expected at the next meeting on Monday 14th November! (Only joking!)

Jayne



Craft Group ladies with some of their display at the October birthday Meeting,

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12noon

Seven members attended this months meeting. During the morning we had friendly and lively discussions on such varied topics as, The Syrian war, Does America deserve Donald Trump and the Care Home Crisis. On a lighter note we discussed cyclists in Mansfield Town centre, GP receptionists and the pros and cons of Windows 10. During a well-deserved break we were treated to some of Des's wonderful homemade lemon drizzle cake. The group has one vacancy at present.

Gardening

Group Leader: Marian Story

Monthly, various dates

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

It was pleasing to have three guests at our October meeting. We looked at the history of the old Sherwood Hall by delving into some of the historical evidence already found for this mansion dating back to at least the 1750s.

It was a hands on session and a series of old maps proved to be of great interest to everyone as they discovered how the area developed over the years.



Looking at maps

It was then time to find out who some of the occupants of Sherwood Hall were by looking at the 1851 and 1901 census. Transcribing copies of these to discover the names and occupations was soon being undertaken and everyone had to be encouraged to take a refreshment break.



Who's Who on the census

There was then the opportunity to look at Pauline's files on discoveries that have already been made, buildings, people, memories etc., connected with Sherwood Hall

Some members went away planning to write down some of their own memories of the hall, while Jenny went home and discovered more information on the internet.

Pauline

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

The October meeting was a more relaxed affair to the normal format as I was not available and therefore no "Rave On". However Chris made a solo appearance with his acoustic guitar and sang a few "Beatles" songs with vocal accompaniment from the members. There was also a quiz devised by Chris with questions based on "The Beatles and the Mersey Sound". I gather from the feedback that everyone had an enjoyable afternoon so who knows "Rave On" may have another vocalist.

The November meeting entertainment will be provided by "Rave On" so please be early to get your seat.

SIX-FIVE SPECIAL

60's Music Appreciation Members were invited to a special event which was named "The Six-Five Special" at Keith and Linda's home. The theme for the evening was to create a 60's style coffee bar complete with juke box.

Anyone of a certain age will remember the Six-Five Special" and the reason this name was chosen was that the event started at "Five Past Six".

Keith opened the proceedings with a rendition of the title song. Hot dogs, bacon doorstops, frothy coffee and cream soda were just a few examples of the fayre on offer. This was followed by plenty of dancing to the 45's on the juke box. A great time was had by all and there may even be a similar event in the future - watch this space !



Donations to "Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice" were made by the members with a fantastic total of £70 being raised. Thank you to everyone who donated and made this a night to remember.

Keith

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .

4th Thursday 2-4pm - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.



Petanque

Group Leader: Steve Evans

**4th Wednesday of the month
2pm Titchfield Park**

Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstoneholme

**4th Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm Meet Sherwood Room
Forest Town Arena,**



*Members of the Play Reading Group
at the October Birthday Meeting*

Rambling

Group Leader: Alan Radford

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

On a chilly 5th October we set off from Eddlestow Lot car park over field paths and lanes to Tansley Knoll before continuing to the Lumsdale Valley, an outstandingly beautiful area with an interesting history. The powerful Bentley Brook flows through a small wooded gorge, providing spectacular waterfalls, with the remains of six waterwheels plus two ponds – perhaps the most concentrated evidence of early water power in Britain. Although falling into disuse in the 20th century, the Arkwright Society has intervened to maintain the mills and valley. There is now a pleasant atmosphere where once there was the noise and dirt of numerous industrial processes. We returned via Bentley Brook and the Cuckoo Stone then finished the day with a drink/cuppa in Ashover.

Andy Riby led the next ramble on 19th October from Low Bradfield through an area of exceptional beauty with reservoirs, valleys, forest, moorland and gritstone outcrops. We climbed to High Bradfield

with its interesting church and Watch House alongside (built 1745 for relatives of the newly deceased – only a vigil would deter body-snatchers!). After the ancient fort earthwork of Bailey Hill we moved on to Rocher Head and over moorland before descending to Agden Reservoir, one of four in this valley built to serve ever-growing Sheffield.

After leaving the valley we made a circuit of Dale Dyke Reservoir then shortly after leaving the dam reached the memorial stone for the 1864 dam-burst and Great Flood of Sheffield, taking 250 lives. Continuing back via Annet Bridge, we ended a really good day with cuppas at the local café. Many thanks to Andy for a lovely day.



Our next rambles: Weds 2nd Nov, Woodhouse Eaves and Bradgate Country Park (hopefully with many deer, 8¼ m); Weds 16th Nov, Ockbrook, Dale Abbey and Locko Park (an easy 9 m), meeting at Arena car park to arrange lift sharing and departing at 08:40 am. New members always welcome. *Alan*

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle
3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena

Short Walks

Group Leader: Marlene Mee
2nd Tuesday 10.30am.
Meet Various Locations

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud
Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman
Meet 2nd Tuesday 2pm
Mansfield Superbowl 2000.

Trace Your Family History

Group Leader: Malcolm Marples
Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday- Flint Avenue Centre

At the October meeting members were introduced to the Census, and learnt when and how it was taken. Malcolm demonstrated how using the census he traced some of his own ancestors, also how difficult it can sometimes be to find the correct family. Fun was had when a little play role activity took place with members acting as the enumerator and writing down information from two families that were called on.

Pauline

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell
If anyone would like to join this group please contact Joseph

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

MAIN MEETINGS in St Alban's Church 1.45pm

Thursday 3rd Nov Speaker - Mansfield Area in WW1, Including Clipstone Camp
Thursday 1st Dec Christmas event

2017

Thursday 5th Jan Photographic Wildlife survey of Sherwood Forest
Thursday 2nd Feb The White Peak Way
Thursday 2nd Mar Changing Lives Through Fair Trade

December (Christmas) Meeting

Thursday 1st December 1.45pm
St Alban's Church



Yes Christmas is approaching! though our meeting is early in December (1st). To make the meeting different we will not be having a speaker but will have a variety of entertainment. We expect the programme for the meeting to be as follows: -

- Carols by pupils of Forest Town Primary School
- Amusing sketches by members of Sutton in Ashfield Drama Group
- General Notices
- Coffee/tea break, 'with mince pies'.
- Our very own 'Rave On' 60's group, who I am sure will get us to sing along.

This will be a lot of fun so do please join us for this early Christmas celebration.

OUTINGS & EVENTS

A trip has been booked to visit the **Veolia** plant on Monday 7th November @ 10.30am we are limited to 20 places please email Denise on deewhits@aol.com

We are trying to set up some days out for early spring perhaps to **Liverpool Albert Docks, Bakewell, and Castle Howard.**

If anyone has any ideas of places to visit please let us know as **Denise and Marlene** look forward to meeting you all on our lovely days out. We will be at the next meeting for any questions and payment for afternoon tea.

U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday 13th December Price £16

1pm South Forest Complex,
Robin Hood Cross Roads, Edwinstowe.

Many people have already booked, and there are still a few places available. For more details please see Marlene Mee at the next meeting or contact Marlene on 01623 409072

email marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com

At the event there will be musical entertainment by members of 'Rave On' and it is also planned to have a Bottle Raffle. ie bottles of wine, sauce etc., to raise funds for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice
Donations of Bottles will be welcome and can be brought to the November & December meetings.

STOP PRESS

To fill the few remaining places we have now decided to open this event to partners.

Our Social Secretaries put in a lot of work to organise events, please do try and support them.

If you cannot attend your regular Group meeting please do let the group leader know.

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR WEB SITE?

www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town

OUR U3A and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

'A VISIT TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES'

In last months newsletter we mentioned some members of our U3A Local History Group had been to Clumber Park with children from Abbey School as part of the 'Looking Forwards by Looking Back project, with Abbey Primary School & Forest Town Heritage Group.' To re-cap; the school have obtained a lottery grant to look at the history of the original Sherwood Hall that dates back to circa 1750, and to construct a Heritage Garden.

On the 11th October some of our U3A members, and also Sherwood U3A joined with school children, staff, parents and other community members on a discovery trip to Nottinghamshire Archives. After an introductory talk about the archives, we were shown a variety of old documents. This was followed by a session on maps and learning how our area had developed over the years.

Attempting to read old documents such as inventories, letters was of great interest for everyone. For the children the opportunity to write with a quill pen and ink helped them to realise how many documents were once written.

A tour behind the scenes was extremely interesting. Here we saw the vast document storage areas, cold rooms to kill off any bugs that many be in new acquisitions, and the conservation area. One of the conservators demonstrated how worn documents and items such as old photographs could be renovated, this proved of great interest.

There are still more opportunities to get involved in the project, if you are interested contact Corinna Brown 07974249449 or Natalie Swain at Abbey Primary School 01623 481117 or Pauline Marples, contact details below.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send group reports, and other information to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk by the **20th November - sooner if possible**

<i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee</i>	
<i>Committee Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Chairman & Treas Asst</i>	<i>Mike King</i>
<i>V/Chair & Speaker Sec</i>	<i>Susan Wright</i>
<i>Business Secretary</i>	<i>Jennifer Wright</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lynne Cooper</i>
<i>Groups Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Denise Doud</i>
<i>Asst Groups Co-ord.</i>	<i>Ann Stanford</i>
<i>Membership Sec</i>	<i>Kath Wolstonholme</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Pauline Marples</i>
<i>Website Editor</i>	<i>Bob Hunt</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Marlene Mee</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Denise Whitsed</i>

