



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome to the December issue of our Newsletter, I hope you will enjoy the varied content.

Christmas seems to get earlier each year with the shops geared up at the end of October and adverts on the TV including the (charming) John Lewis one which I understand costs several million pounds.

As you know we are following the trend because we are having our,

- **Christmas celebration meeting on the 1st December.** I am sure this will be a very enjoyable event with a variety of entertainment. As a reminder:
- We will have children from Forest Town Primary School singing some carols.
- Sutton in Ashfield U3A Drama Group performing some amusing sketches.
- 'Rave On' bringing the afternoon to a close with a selection of their 60's songs.

I hope you will all come along and join in the celebration.

Continuing the Christmas theme there will be the;

- Christmas Lunch at the South Forest Complex on the 13th December; I believe there are still some places available - please contact Marlene Mee [see committee list page 8] if you would like to go.
- Also we are holding a 'bottle raffle' at the lunch; please bring any bottles to the meeting on the 1st December.

We are approaching that time of year when we are likely to have some severe weather. If weather conditions are such that the Executive Committee judges that we are unable to hold our monthly meeting we will do our best to contact members via

email, telephone and through radio Mansfield 103.2 and Nottingham Radio.

I wish all our members a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in December and in the New Year

Mike King - Chairman



REMINDER

There will be no Newsletter in January, normal service will resume in February.



JANUARY 2017 MEETING

St Alban's Church 1.45pm

Our first speaker in 2017 will be
Wildlife Photographer - Barbara Meyer

Barbara conducted a wildlife survey with trail cameras in Sherwood Forest NNR (National Nature Reserve) for more than a year. Her talk will be based on a video film compiled of trail camera footage taken as part of the survey, and it will provide details about why she is looking at British wildlife, what wildlife species she has been able to record in England's most famous forest and what might influence wildlife distribution in natural habitat areas like Sherwood Forest."

More Main Meetings in 2017

Thursday 2 nd Feb	The White Peak Way
Thursday 2 nd Mar	Changing Lives Through Fair Trade
Thursday 6 th Apr	Narrative songs re/mining/ship building & working characters
Thursday 4 th May	Police Aid Convoy
Thursday 1 st June	Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
Thursday 6 th July	My extra life (as a TV extra)
Thursday 3 rd Aug	Canine Partners
Thursday 7 th Sep	Legal Information
Thursday 5 th Oct	Vision Aid Overseas
Thursday 2 nd Nov	The History of Hodsock Priory
Thursday 7 th Dec	Christmas Activities



Looking back to our November Meeting

Our Speaker this month was once again our very own, Pauline Marples, ably assisted by husband Malcolm, who gave a talk on The Mansfield Area and Clipstone Camp in WW1.

As usual, the talk was very interesting as well as being appropriate for this time of year and was supported by a slide show and static display for members to look at afterwards. Pauline initially told us about the Royal Visit to Forest Town on June 25th 1914 by King George V and Queen Mary, which took place amidst much celebration, and how they visited with a local mining family, Elijah and Sarah Mottishaw, who must have been relieved that the cleaning was all up to date. Within a few short months all celebrations were forgotten as the Country prepared to go to war.

Recruitment campaigns were supported by local dignitaries, colliery directors and managers, anyone who didn't rush to join up risked having their families as well as themselves shunned. It wasn't just men who were being recruited; there was compulsory purchasing of horses for use by the Army, followed by Canadian Remounts to make up the short fall. As hundreds of local men left the area to fight, news that a large military training camp was to be built near Forest Town caused much speculation.

The first soldiers arrived at Clipstone Camp in May 1915, causing much concern locally at the prospect of a large influx of troops to the area and what it would mean, roads were not built to withstand heavy traffic, sanitation and its accompanying problems, water pollution and the spread of disease were also a worry.

The soldiers, who had recently been housed in comfortable barracks, were none too happy either to find that the camp wasn't finished, with no electricity or other facilities, plus many of them were to be billeted in tents, not only at Clipstone Camp but in the surrounding area also. However with the help of local tradesmen the Camp gradually took on the appearance of a small town, with rows of hutted accommodation, messes, a hospital, shops and places of worship, plus YMCA facilities where soldiers could write letters and postcards home and generally relax. An open day was held in July 1915, giving locals and those from the surrounding area the chance to satisfy their curiosity and come they did, in droves!

The soldiers were not confined to camp and soon became absorbed into town life, local tradesmen cashed in by providing taxi services and shops sold everything from items of uniform to postcards and stationary. Church and chapel people provided not only spiritual comfort, but refreshments at reasonable prices and families opened their homes to

soldiers. The brewery also benefited from the extra trade, as did the railway.

Entertainment was a two way thing, and soldiers participated in many fund raising concerts, on and off camp, and also in local sporting events. Some strange competitions arose around this time, including sand bag filling and grenade throwing, Health and Safety Officials, look the other way please!

Soldiers were often asked to sign autograph books and some also drew pictures in them. The usual 'boy meets girl' scenarios took place and marriages between soldiers and local girls started to appear in Parish Registers, these were soon followed by baptisms, but not necessarily in that order. Girls often 'visited' camp, although this was not allowed, and there are reports in the local papers of those who catered a little too liberally for the troops being brought up before the Magistrates as a result. Sadly there were also some deaths and some of the men from Clipstone Camp have Commonwealth Graves situated in St. Alban's Church grounds.

Clipstone Camp continued after the war officially ended, serving as a Demob Centre. During its time many men passed through from different regiments and at its height Clipstone Camp could have between 20 and 30,000 troops stationed there. Echoes of its past are still visible, if you know where to look, and dog walkers off Newlands Drive may be aware that the up and down hill terrain there is due to the training trenches used by soldiers at the camp.

Jenny Wright



WANTED

More volunteers
(men or women) on the
Tea Rota PLEASE
Phone Pauline Shaw
653660

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	Computer & IT Skills-2 Book Club	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers
4 th		Play Reading	Petanque	Painting & Drawing	Bridge for Beginners
<u>Woodworking</u> (Toys) No specific day					

Bird Watching

Group Leader: **Lynne Cooper**

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

Contact 01623 652430

Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

This month (November) we had a return visit to a local private location, when we were welcomed by Sue McKenzie onto her land called Sunningdale Farm at Woodhouse. Although it was quite a dull start to the day it did brighten up and the sunshine revealed quite a lot of finches in the hedgerows - Chaffinches, Goldfinches and Bullfinches. A special sighting was a flock of Linnets which Sue said she had not seen before so she was thrilled. We also had a very clear view of a young Buzzard in flight and then for a long time perched and we also had a good view of a Kestrel basking in the sunshine atop a red-berried tree. We also had very striking views of brightly coloured Yellow Hammers and a Reed Bunting. Getting our boots clogged up with mud was considered well worth it!

The group decided that we will leave decisions re meeting next month till we know what to expect weather-wise. If anyone is thinking of joining us please get in touch with me that week for our decision

Lynne

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: **Steve Evans**

Meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month

10 am - 12 noon at the Flint Avenue Centre.

Contact 01623 470282

Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com



Book Club

Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**

Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month

2.05pm - 3.05pm at Forest Town Library.

Contact 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

For November we have been reading A.D. Miller's Snowdrops, a chilling psychological story deep with corruption and moral degradation. Snowdrops are a welcome sign of Spring for us, but in Russia, snowdrops are the bodies of the homeless, the murdered, the drunks or people that have just given up, that surface as the snow melts! The central character, Nick seduced by an enigmatic, dangerous Russian woman, has a secret which he hoped would be buried deep in the snowdrifts of a Russian winter. A promising read for the darker evenings!

Next Meeting Tuesday 6th December

Ann

Computer and IT Skills



Group Leader: **Bob Hunt**

Meet Prince Charles Public House, Forest Town

Group 1 - 1st Tuesday 2 - 4pm.

Group 2 - 3rd Thursday 10am -12noon

4/5 people per session

Email bukw90@gmail.com



Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

Contact 01623 624003

Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

One of our group had brought her card-making kits along, and offered a Mini - Master class on Christmas cards for anyone who had begun to panic about "not being prepared" for the last posting dates. Some ladies took up the challenge, and there were soon several tables frantically busy and competitive as to who would come up with the most inventive designs, and by the end of the afternoon, many were proudly on display. Other ladies continued the knitting (and nattering) for the hospital neonatal unit, with new ideas being suggested for the New Year for larger sized garments for sale on the stall to bring in much needed funds.

We also finalised the arrangements for the December meeting which will be A Christmas Lunch, at Taylor's tea room, Normanton mince pies will be on the menu! **Next meeting Monday January 9th 2017, 2.00pm, Forest Town Arena.** Any suggestions for new craft activities welcome some members of the group have offered to demonstrate/teach hand patch working to those interested. *Jayne*

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12noon

Contact 01623 421642

Gardening

Group Leader: Marian Story

Monthly, various dates

Contact 01623 631544

Mobile 07960 029015 only use on day of a Group meeting/visit

Email Storey.mbe@gmail.com

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk

In November we continued the theme of looking at maps and documents, this time the subject was the early development of Forest Town. First we looked at the various maps, then copies of directories which gave the names of some of the first people in Forest

Town. It was then time for tea/coffee and a mince pie and socialising while looking at council minutes etc.



The first census to be taken of Forest Town was in 1911 and everyone found looking at printouts of these of great interest. It fascinated everyone just where people had moved from, even a few from overseas. The occupations and the size of families was also of great interest. it was a good afternoon.

NOTE There will be no meeting in December

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Contact deewhits@aol.com

The group now has 11 members and the first lunch will be 18th January at Bella Vita, Ollerton. Members are to meet at the Arena car park 11.45 am to organise transport for any non drivers.

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 618099

Email keithbcroft@gmail.com

A record attendance for the November session. If it keeps increasing we may need a bigger room.

We had our 60's quiz to set the ball rolling which this month was set by Keith. If anyone wants to compile a set of questions for a future meeting please feel free to do so. This was followed by a free members raffle with 4 C.D's, L.P. Record, a box of Cadbury's biscuits and a fruit bowl made from a Freddie and the Dreamers L.P. record as the prizes.

Next month we are having our "Christmas Fuddle" which is on Friday 2nd December and we have booked the room for an extra hour so it will run from 2pm until 5pm.

We made a list of suggested things we needed to make the event a success and as usual everyone was willing to contribute and come up with even more suggestions. Make a note of the date in your diary. Look forward to seeing you all again.

Keith

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .

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

Contact 01623 658171

The numbers attending this group are growing and people are enjoying what they are doing. There is a good social atmosphere



Eileen and Janet

Petanque

Group Leader: Steve Evans

4th Wednesday of the month

11am -3pm Titchfield Park

Contact 01623 470282

Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstoneholme

4th Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm Meet Sherwood Room

Forest Town Arena,

Contact 01623 617194

krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk



The group has met since June 2016 and has fourteen members.

We are a very lively group who enjoy reading plays. No scripts to learn no lines. However, everyone enters into spirit and we even dress as per the characters. Some members make the sound affects too. There is a lot of fun and laughter.

Kath

Rambling

Group Leader: Alan Radford

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays of each month.

Contact Alan Radford 01623 427934;

[walk days only]: mobile 07851 422466)

Email alan.radford@which.net

On 2nd November, a bright but chilly morning, the group set off from Woodhouse Eaves without our usual leader (unwell), feeling confident in their combined map reading skills! The National Forest Way led us through Swithland Wood with lovely autumn colours to Bradgate Country Park, at one time the home of Lady Jane Grey who was famously proclaimed Queen of England for just nine days before being executed. Witnessing the herds of red and fallow deer in such a beautiful setting in the autumn sunshine was a real delight.



Newtown Linford War Memorial

We then climbed to the War Memorial and the tankard-shaped Old John Tower for quite spectacular views of the Leicestershire countryside, before taking a very pleasant amble back to the village and well-earned refreshment in the local hostelry.

On 16th November Georganne led eight walkers on a showery day through Ockbrook with its fine old buildings, as well as the Moravian Settlement, a product of the 18th century, with its delightful terrace of red brick Georgian buildings. Afterwards we moved on by Hopwell Hall and on to the Hermits Cave in Hermitage Wood, reputed to have been made by a Derby baker who left his home in response to a religious vision in 1130 AD. At that time Dale Abbey was a wild and marshy place and the hermit

carved out a home and chapel in a sandstone cliff. The Cat and Fiddle Windmill could also be seen to the north.

After lunch on the village green in Dale, we saw glimpses of Locko Hall as we passed through Locko Park on our return to Bartlewood Lodge for a relaxing drink/cuppa. Throughout the day Georganne had supplied much interesting historical information about the places and buildings we had seen, which was thoroughly appreciated by everyone.

Next rambles: Weds 7th Dec, the group's Christmas Lunch, preceded by a Cromford Canal/High Peak Trail walk (4½ m); Weds 14th Dec, (*note the date*), Burton Joyce, R.Trent, Gedling (8½ m, flat); Weds 4th Jan, Alport, Bakewell, Haddon Hall (8½ m); meeting at Arena car park to arrange lift sharing and departing at 08:40 am.

Best Wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year!
Alan and Jane

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

**3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena
Contact 01623 627905**

Short Walks

Group Leader: Marlene Mee

**2nd Tuesday 10.30am.
Meet Various Locations
Contact - 01623-409072
E.mail marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com**

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

**Meet 3rd Friday 10am
Contact 01623 619856
Email dmdoud52@gmail.com**

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

**Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm
Mansfield Superbowl 2000.
Contact 01623 620012
Email mary@chapman7586.fslife.co.uk**

Twelve members attended the Superbowl to have two games of bowling. We split up into three groups of four people with a lane for each group. When everyone had chosen a ball to their satisfaction the games got underway.

After the first game the group had a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. We then played again and most members at the end of the second game had increased their scores indicating that we were getting better, so roll on next month. It appeared that the members enjoyed the games - see the photograph.

Gordon



Trace Your Family History

Group Leader: Malcolm Marples

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday- Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk

On the day of the meeting the weather was atrocious but seven brave souls turned out and we had a good meeting. As the armistice commemorations are held in November it was decided to consider how we research military ancestors and everyone was invited to bring information along. This resulted in a good display of badges, buttons and medals brought by Jenny and Ann which prompted a lot of discussion.

Malcolm did a power point presentation on various records and information he had on his great uncle Harold Westnage who was killed in WW1. Pauline also had WW1 military information on her Grandfather and an uncle who was killed in Italy in WW2. Additionally there was a large selection of books relating to military research and information from the Commonwealth War Graves for everyone to browse through.

Pauline

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell Contact 01623 631236

*If anyone would like to join this group please
contact Joseph*

OUTINGS & EVENTS

A Visit to Veolia

On Monday, 7th November, 14 members of FT&D U3A went along for a tour of the Veolia plant. On arrival we were met by Lesley who had originally given us the talk at St. Alban's and were shown into a large room where refreshments were available.

To start with Lesley ran through some housekeeping points we had to observe while on site, we were told we had to wear hard hats and fluorescent jackets, then we had to answer five questions, multiple

choice, (back to school folks and no cheating!) to indicate we'd understood before finally signing the form, which was returned to Lesley.

Lesley then talked to us about the work done by Veolia, going into a bit more depth than she had done at the monthly meeting, she stressed that the company is not a 'recycling plant' but a Materials Recovery Facility, (MRF for short) which acts as a stepping stone between the householder and the companies who buy recycled materials to make into new products. A large mural on the wall explained the main steps needed to sort recyclable waste into a product acceptable to the various manufacturers. New words were learned, what's a trommel? You'll find out later.

This was followed by a hands on exercise to find out how much we'd remembered from her original talk. As most of us had been present at the monthly talk Lesley dispensed with the quiz and instead divided us into two groups, each group were given a bag of rubbish (clean, I hasten to add) and several bins and bags to sort it into, this created much discussion among group members and once we were satisfied our efforts were inspected by Lesley. Luckily neither group let the side down, although we weren't a hundred percent right either. On average 12 mistakes are made in this exercise, both groups acquitted themselves with only 2 or 3 and they were all more obscure items.

After this we were shown a short video on the main workings of the plant and then it was time to don our PPE for the tour, plus headphones and a small unit so that Lesley could talk us through what we were seeing. It was explained that these would help us to follow what she was saying as it is noisy in the building. We were also warned it would be dusty mainly due to the amount of paper handled, but that this would not cause us any harm.

We again split into two groups for the tour and all had to pose for the camera before proceeding. We followed Lesley to a large metal staircase, about three storeys high, running up the outside of the building. This is definitely not for those who suffer from fear of heights, or vertigo as you can see down through the stairs! Once at the top we were shown through a door and followed Lesley along a metal walkway and then up another flight of steps where we had a bird's eye view of the machinery and other various goings on below us.

First pointed out to us was the tipping hall with a huge 360% grab that scoops up enormous quantities of mixed rubbish and dumped them in a tub which then empties onto a conveyor belt to be taken to the pre-sort shed, here any obvious non-recyclable material is removed by hand, it then continues on to

the trommels, (there's that word again) which look like giant washing machine drums and act in a similar way, allowing any fine bits and pieces to fall through.

From there it goes through a 'fines screen' where more small stuff is removed before passing under a magnet which removes ferrous metal, Aluminium cans are removed after this in an eddy current separator, which works on Faraday's principles and 'floats' the aluminium in the air where it can be picked out, again by hand. Plastics are then sorted until finally all that's left is paper. All the separated items are baled and then taken to the loading bay ready to be picked up and taken away to be made into new things.

From our position on the walkway we could see the rubbish moving along conveyors between various machines and watched the finished bales being stacked ready for collection. Veolia work an 18 hour day, starting at 6 a.m. and not closing down until midnight to enable them to deal with all the material brought in before it all starts again the next day.

Many thanks to Lesley for a very interesting morning and also to Marlene for organising the visit; I'll never look at my recycling bin in quite the same way again and if you get the opportunity to visit the facility I can highly recommend it.

Jenny Wright

DAY TRIPS in the Spring

We are hoping to arrange trips to **Liverpool** and **Castle Howard**. Speak to **Denise and Marlene** at the main meeting or contact Denise on deewhites@aol.com for further information

U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Tuesday 13th December Price £16

1pm South Forest Complex,

Robin Hood Cross Roads, Edwinstowe.

There are still a few places available and it is now open to members and their partners.

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 of wine, toiletries etc will be welcome and can be brought to the December meeting

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

GROUP MEETINGS

Group leaders put a lot of work into arranging each meeting, if you cannot attend your regular Group meeting or have decided it is no longer the group for you please do let the group leader know.

RAVE ON

This is our very own band that developed out of the 60s music group. They will be entertaining us at the Christmas meeting and the Christmas dinner at South Forest. One member even wears 60's shoes!



**WE ARE AWARE AS WE SEND SEASONS
GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU
THAT NOT EVERYONE FINDS CHRISTMAS
AN EASY TIME**

**ILLNESS OR THE LOSS OF A FAMILY MEMBER
OR FRIEND, CAN MAKE IT HARD TO BE JOYFUL**

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU ALL



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.



STOP PRESS

Just a reminder as there will be no newsletter in January we have included information about our January speaker on page 1. We can now give you brief information on our meeting on Thursday 2nd February, when Andrew M Firth will tell us about 'The White Peak Way'. Andrew has led this beautiful Derbyshire walk several times with different groups, and as he has always enjoyed photography, this promises to be an interesting talk.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

**DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT OUR WEB
SITE?**

www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town



**PEACE BE WITH YOU
AT CHRISTMAS
AND IN THE NEW YEAR**

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee

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