



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome

A Happy New Year to you all and welcome back after a short break to our Newsletter that is full as usual with all things U3A.

I have to confess that in recent days I have been distracted from the U3A as I have been nursemaid, cleaner, chef and general dogsbody (also looking after our 10 month old Cocker Spaniel), as my wife has just undergone a full knee replacement; progressing well though.

I was unable to Chair the January Executive Committee meeting and my thanks to Susan Wright, Vice Chairman, who stepped in for me – and the committee finished the meeting earlier than usual!

There is a Nottinghamshire Network meeting scheduled and I am unlikely to be able to attend this time but hope to go to the North Notts. Neighbourhood Group meeting at the end of the month.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow and now stands at 183; we also had a record attendance at our monthly meeting in January at 118 members and visitors.

An early notice for you, especially our newer members, that **we will commence taking membership renewals for the next U3A year (April 17 to March 18) at our March monthly meeting and then also at our April meeting.** I do hope that each and every one of you will renew your membership and continue to make our U3A a vibrant place to meet.

Committee Roles

I thought I ought to highlight in these Newsletters the responsibilities and work that each committee member undertakes.

Groups Coordinator has been a challenging job for a new U3A and Denise Doud has worked hard since the U3A was set up and spent a great deal of time getting the current groups established. She meets regularly with the group leaders and often attends the group meetings to offer support and advice. She continues to liaise with members to see what additional groups we could look to establish. She has been ably assisted, again from the start of our U3A, by Ann Stanford as her assistant and in addition both of them lead Interest Groups of their own.

Mike King - Chairman

2017 EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

OUR MAIN MEETINGS - in St Alban's Church

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

EATING OUT

See the Lunch Club on page 6

BUS TRIPS

Liverpool (1 day)
Whitby (1 day)
Thursford Spectacular (2 Days)
More being planned

(Remember to bring cash or your cheque book to the meetings to pay a deposit and book your place)

See Page 8 for more information

GROUP ACTIVITIES

See the information on the inside pages, and talk to Group leaders at our meetings.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 15th December 1pm at The South Forest, Edwinstowe. *(Bookings not being taken till later in the year)*

LOOKING BACK FOR THOSE WHO MISSED THESE EVENTS

THE DECEMBER MEETING



Applause for Forest Town Primary School children who sang carols -we could not take photos of the children.



Sutton U3A Players - 'Add your own captions'



'RAVE ON'

who entertained us at the December meeting
and at the Christmas Dinner



*For those of you who enjoy '60's music'
this trio can soon have you singing along
and set your feet tapping.*

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER AT SOUTH FOREST



Dancing to 'Rave On'

A lot of planning and organising went into both
these events, and to all those involved
we say a big

THANK YOU

AN OFFER - THE PLANNING - THE EVENT - THE PRESENTATION

In August I offered to do a Christmas Dinner for our U3A as no one else was offering to do any social things and I had experience of this. I put it to the committee and they agreed. I contacted South Forest and a date was agreed, the 13th December.

I suggested doing a bottle raffle and giving the proceeds to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. At a previous monthly meeting we had a speaker from the Hospice and I was aware our local Rave On Band had been raising money for them. The bottle raffle was agreed.

In August I gave out letters for the dinner and 62 people paid, unfortunately 3 did not go but luckily South Forest only charged us for 59. A seating plan took a while for me to sort out as I aimed to sit friends together.

After an excellent meal we had a cryptic carol quiz and there were two joint winners. We then had the bottle raffle and this raised £113.00. Finally the 'Rave On' group played for us and we enjoyed the music, and of course the dancing

Thanks go to staff at South Forest for the meal and service. Also a big THANK YOU to Jill Kirk for offering to sell raffle tickets for me, and to Jill and Lynne for helping distribute raffle prizes, not forgetting 'Rave On' for their lively entertainment. To everyone who donated bottles for the raffle a very big thank you.

The idea of going to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice to present a cheque for both the money that 'Rave On' and the raffle had raised, was suggested. Keith contacted them and the date of 17th February was agreed. Pauline and Malcolm offered to come and take a photo.

THE HOSPICE - WHERE DO I START? I was totally amazed at the building, the facilities, the staff and the work they do. I had no idea of the scale that is involved in the care of the patients and all the fund raising involved. As the Government only provides 10% towards the funds, many local companies

including IKEA provide services and equipment free. These include fully fitted kitchens, lounges and bedrooms for families staying in the hospice with their children. The staff were amazing everyone had welcoming smiles. On the walls were pictures of happy children enjoying activities, sadly many of them are no longer with us.

It really puts life into perspective when you see the work by the staff and volunteers at the hospice.

I can assure you any donations certainly go to a good cause.
Marlene.



*From Left to right Chris, Keith, presenting the cheque for £340 to Sandra Hind (Blue Bell Wood) John, Marlene.
(The amount included £227 from 'Rave On' & £113 from the Raffle)*

THE JANUARY MEETING

Our first speaker in 2017 was
Wildlife Photographer - Barbara Meyer

Barbara had conducted a wildlife survey with trail cameras in Sherwood Forest NNR (National Nature Reserve) for more than a year. Her talk was based on a video film compiled of trail camera footage taken as part of the survey, and it provided fascinating details of the wildlife species she has been able to record in Sherwood Forest. Many of the photos were night shots making the animals a little difficult to see but the brightness of the eyes of deer and badgers were soon evident. For those of us who often walk in the Forest it is normally the squirrels and birds we see so to be made aware so many other species was very rewarding.

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Will start at 1.45pm
in St Alban's Church

Our speaker is Andrew Firth on
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.

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

Woodworking (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 we made a return visit to Sutton Reservoir but it was a different time of year to our last visit. As usual the weather was murky and drizzly but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm. And we were well rewarded. In total we saw 31 different types of birds. Most of us in the group are 'no experts' so we were thrilled to see again some of the more unusual types of ducks and waders such as Gadwall, Pochard, Teal and Snipe as well The Little Grebe and The Great Crested Grebe. We spied a couple of the latter displaying courtship behaviour and another one already on a nest so we are hoping they are not jumping the gun, deceived by the relative mildness of the weather for this time of year. We also took a look at the

Heronry and did see a total of 3 Grey Herons. The highlight of the day was spotting



a Pied Wagtail - one you all no doubt know as reasonably common, but this was the first time we have spotted one since we started this group just over a year ago.

Next meeting location to be agreed nearer the time, depending on the weather.

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 Denise Doud 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

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

We began the New Year by welcoming a new lady to the group, who expressed an interest in learning to crochet, as did another stalwart of the group; help was immediately forthcoming from one of our experts, who set to work with great skill and good humour. Progress made in a short space of time 'a large blanket has been commissioned to be brought to the next meeting!'



Several new projects had been undertaken over the Christmas break crocheted soft toys, matinee jackets, hot water bottle covers (Christmas 2017 is Not that far off!) as well as continuing with "the regular" items such as small blankets, twiddle muffs, and first size hats, mittens and booties.



There was a low level 'buzz' of chat topics, as we were concentrating on counting stitches; such as "was the Dog and Duck pub still open" (lots of contradictory stories read on Streetlife website on this) the prospect of fracking under The Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, and the quality and taste of tap water in different parts of the local area (Crucial to the making of a decent pot of tea!)

It was suggested we try out some new projects next month, such as hand sewn patchwork needle cases and pins cushions, so get sorting out all those bright scraps of fabric for next month, ladies!

A few of our ladies were unable to attend this month, due to ill health, so we wish them all well, and hope to see them all next month on February 13th.

Jane

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12noon

Contact 01623 421642

Gardening

Group Leader Marian Story is no longer able to lead this group, will members please get together with Group Co-ordinator Denise Doud at the monthly meeting to discuss the future of the group. We

thank Marian for leading the group since our U3A started

Contact Denise Doud 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk

It was a slightly smaller group than usual this month as several people had made their apologies, including Pauline.

In her absence Malcolm led the group and had brought along a selection of local photographs for us to look at, the idea being that members may know either where they were or remember other details that might be useful.



I'm not sure how much help we were in solving mysteries but the photos certainly generated a lot of interest and discussion and more questions were being asked than answers given. How did Pump Hollow Lane, Violet Hill, Old and New Mill Lanes get their names? Is the boundary stone still there and if so where is it? Are you **sure** they're building that prefab? From the look of it, (there are chunks missing!), it looks more like its being demolished. Which hostelry is the Swan, are you sure it's there and not the building further down Church Street? The last question was answered by Malcolm who said he thought the sign, a swan, outside the building was a dead giveaway.

Brenda brought along her own book of old Mansfield photos. Previous discussions had centred on the Oriental Café, but no one seemed to know where it was located. In one picture Brenda had spotted a very small sign on Westgate above what was then and still is now, Marks & Spencer's and yes it does say Oriental Café, well spotted Brenda!

After a coffee/tea break we finished off the afternoon browsing through a selection of photo books on various towns brought in by Malcolm.

Jenny Wright

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Contact deewhits@aol.com



Forest Towns 1st Luncheon Club Meeting. Today 18th January, 25 of us went to The Bella Vista at Ollerton, the meal was very good and excellent service. I am sure everyone who went will agree with me a good atmosphere and we are all looking forward to the next one. A Big Thank you from all of us to Denise for organizing the lunch. **Our next lunch is at Red Brick House on 22nd February**

Marlene

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 618099

Email keithbancroft@gmail.com

I didn't really expect much of a turn out being the first meeting of the year although I did have enquiries from several newcomers at the U3A meeting the day before. Well on the day we had a record attendance and everyone had a good time and the future looks bright.

The next session is on Friday 3rd February when "Rave On" will be there plus the usual activities. I say it every time but be there early for a good seat.

Keith

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: **Christine Cawthorne**

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

Contact 01623 658171

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 Denise Doud 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

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

The 7th December, was the group's Christmas Lunch day - 14 members and partners left Cromford Meadows on a short 4½ m ramble through Cromford then by the easiest route up to the High Peak Trail. The mist and murk on the day prevented any decent sightseeing, so we quickly moved on down Sheep Pasture Incline to the Cromford Canal at High Peak Junction. Here volunteers were trying to contain an oil spillage from polluting the canal and nearby river. We returned via the canal for an enjoyable meal in the Market Place Restaurant.



Sheep Pasture Incline

14th December – Steve Evans led 6 from Burton Joyce over riverside paths and field tracks along the Trent to Stoke Lock, Gedling, then Lambley. A day of good views and for looking out for birdlife. Further on we passed through the grounds of All Hallows Church, Gedling, with its 14thC steeple. We ended the day with drinks/cuppas at The Wheatsheaf, Burton Joyce.

For the **4th January** ramble, Georganne led 10 from Alport to Bakewell riverside where we had a drink stop before continuing to the Old Station and Monsal Trail, then on to Haddon Hall. Returning via Haddon Fields, we crossed the River Lathkill then followed the river back to the cars and a drink/cuppa in Rowsley. Just the job to get us over any Christmas inactivity!

Recently, **18th January**, 8 of us climbed from Whatstandwell Bridge over Wirksworth Moor to Bolehill then stopped for lunch at Black Rocks Visitor

Centre. Another misty/murky day, so we decided not to ascend Black Rocks and to continue down the High Peak Trail, turning off half-way for Meerbrook Farm and Watergate Farm. We ended the day taking cuppas in the Family Tree, Whatstandwell Bridge.

Four more really enjoyable days out – thank you to all of the leaders!

Our next rambles: 1st Feb, Coombs Dale, Foolow, Eyam (8½ m); 15th Feb, Ilam, Stanshope, Castern Hall (snowdrops - 8½ m); 1st March; Nabs Dale, Dovedale, Tissington (8½ 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

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



On the 20th January 2017 it was a misty start then the sun came out, and 12 people enjoyed a stroll round Rufford Country Park. Ducks, geese and swans were basking in the sunshine, and there were squirrels playing in the trees. Several people did a slightly longer walk round the sculpture park and afterwards we joined the others for elevenses, and though it was January we were able to sit outside in the sunshine afterwards we completed the circuit of the lake.

Marlene Mee

Next Walk Friday 17th February, start time 10.30 a.m.
Brierley Park, Huthwaite, Visitor Centre off Sutton Road NG17 2PL.

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm

Mansfield Superbowl 2000.

Contact 01623 620012

Email mary@chapman7586.fslife.co.uk

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

The topic for our first meeting in 2017 was Street and Trade Directories with a wide variety of examples to look at which proved of great interest. These included an 1881 Kelly's for the West Riding of Yorkshire, A Kelly's 1965 Directory for Rotherham. There were facsimiles of Pigots 1835, Glovers Derby 1843, Bulmers Derby and Chesterfield 1895 and a Linneys circa 1976.



Additionally an introduction to Family History Societies, their purpose and the advantages of joining one, was given. Examples of some publications societies produce were also available for everyone to look at.

Pauline

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell Contact 01623 631236

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

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

Table Tennis, Lawn Bowls have been suggested
Board Games could include Chess or Draughts (other than scrabble and rummikub).

Discuss your ideas with Denise (Group Co-ordinator)
at the next meeting

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Liverpool 15th May

including a tour of Beatles for only £21

Whitby 26th June @ only £19

Thursford 28th/29th November - a 2 day trip to The Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show (afternoon performance), then staying at Caley Hall Hotel, Old Hunstanton, with an evening meal and breakfast and then a lovely day in Norwich cost £165 per person single supplement of £22 rooms available are double twin triple and single subject to availability

Please call Denise on 07791941502 or email deewhits@aol.com asap as deposits are required.

Remember to bring cash or your cheque book to the meetings to pay a deposit and book your place

FROM COMPUTER BOB

iPads seem a popular gift for Christmas, one lady asked me if the message that kept appearing on her screen to update the Operating System was OK to agree to, she was worried that it was a scam, usually the update messages are genuine and OK to download.

You can check if the update is genuine, or download updates manually by touching the 'Settings' button on the home screen, then touch 'General' in the left hand column.

In the top right corner of the Settings screen you will see 'Software Update' touch this and you will see if an update is available and details of the update, touch 'install now', you will then be asked to enter your passcode and agree to the terms and conditions, you may also be asked to verify your ID password, this is the one you created when setting up the ipad.

It is advisable to install the updates as they contain operating system and security updates, the update may take a while to install depending on its size. If your iPad screen 'freezes' at any time and becomes

unresponsive hold down the on/off button on the top of the iPad and the 'Home' button at the bottom of the screen at the same time for 10 – 12 seconds and the ipad will reset itself.

Bob

OUR WEB SITE

www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town

LOST PROPERTY

Small, (size 10) black, skinny rib ladys cardigan, with large white buttons, found after the Christmas event at South Forest.

Found at the January Monthly meeting: A pair of lady's spectacles, black frame with patterned brown arms.

If either of these items belong to you please contact Jenny Wright on : 01623 631371, or email, j.wright445@btinternet.com to arrange their return.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

We are aware there are sometimes difficulties with pictures on the screen in St Alban's Church, especially if the sun shines through the back window. Some members have suggested we turn all the chairs round to face the back and have the screen there. However having done a risk assessment this is not practicable due to the number of chairs and the weight of them.

There are no storage facilities available to us in the church so we cannot have a bigger screen, we need to be able to have one that fits in a persons car.

We do keep assessing the situation, but we are very fortunate to have the use of the church as appropriate venues in Forest Town are not easy to find.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

20th February or earlier if possible

Please send group reports, and other information to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee

Committee Position	Name	Phone number	Email
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King	01623 470929	mikethos42@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	Lynne Cooper	01623 652430	lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Doud	01623 619856	dmdoud52@gmail.com
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