



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome & Speaker

A warm welcome to all our members to the March edition of the Newsletter, I hope you are continuing to enjoy your 'U3A experience'. The committee are always keen to hear your views about the monthly meetings and the various interest groups so please speak to any of us and let us know what you think. The speakers this month are rather different in that in addition to speaking about Fair Trade they will also have a small stall displaying Fair Trade items which will be available to purchase.

Membership Renewal

As mentioned last month it is that time of year for renewing your membership of Forest Town & District U3A. We will be taking renewals at the March meeting but if you can't get to that meeting we will also be accepting the renewals in April. **The membership fee agreed for the coming 12 months is £18 or £14.50 if you pay full membership to another U3A, in this case please bring with you the membership card of the U3A where you are a full member.**

I appreciate that in this age of On Line banking and 'plastic', cheque books are being used less and less **however if at all possible please pay your membership fee by cheque rather than cash.** This is more convenient and secure for us to handle; your cooperation will be much appreciated. Based on our experience last year it does get quite busy so please be patient, we will process the renewals as quickly as possible.

Committee Roles

Continuing my information for you regarding the committee roles, Susan Wright is our *Speaker Finder*. Susan has worked hard to identify speakers with a range of topics that members will find of interest. Having made an initial contact Susan agrees a date,

that can be many months ahead, (we already have speakers in place up to April 2018). She follows up the speaker nearer to the date of the meeting to confirm any requirements they have and on the date of the meeting she makes them welcome and provides any assistance they might need. After the meeting she always sends an email or letter of thanks. In addition to this role Susan is also the Vice Chairman of the committee.

Mike King - Chairman

OUR MARCH MEETING in St Alban's Church

- Please sign in.
- Opportunity to renew your membership at the tables on the right.
- 1.45pm Welcome and introduction of our speakers Sylvia & Ian Salmon who will tell us about

Changing Lives Through Fair Trade

- Tea/coffee break and an opportunity to look at /purchase Fair Trade items.
- Another opportunity to renew your membership.
- Book on trips.
- Visit the Groups tables.
- Chairman's notices and wind up

ENJOY THE MEETING

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

to all of you who are not feeling well.

We are aware many of you do have health problems and while we cannot mention individual names, please be aware we do think about you. Hopefully as you see the gardens come alive with spring flowers this will help your recovery.



LAST MONTHS SPEAKER

Our February speaker was Andrew Firth who gave us a very interesting talk on 'The White Peak Way.' This took us on a 90 mile walk from Baslow and the Hope Valley and featured many places of historic interest on the way, not to mention sheep.



We were made aware of markers for Pack Horse Drivers, quarries for mill stones, and the railway tunnel on the Hope Valley Line.

There was the Quite Woman pub, and Hartington Hall where Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed during the Jacobite Rising of 1745. It is now a Youth Hostel.

We learnt of hoards of coins found in Reynard's Kitchen Cave in 2014 and how the stepping stones at Dovedale were made safer for people to walk across.

There was so much in Andrews talk it is impossible to write about it all. Arriving back in Baslow with photos of the Well Dressings made us aware that before long we will once again be able to view some of these in Derbyshire villages.

Pauline

OUR APRIL MEETING - FOOLS GOLD

Fool's Gold is an Acoustic duo comprising Steve & Carol Robson. They play music in the folk tradition – but not traditionally! What makes an FG show different is the fact that they make a point of telling the fascinating stories – the histories, and mysteries, the tragedies and comedies that lie behind the songs. The themes of the songs (some are very well known indeed) are often historical or industrial. Mining, shipbuilding – and shipwreck mingle with famous events and characters. The whole show is supported by captivating images and movies to help bring the songs stories to life.

All the music is 100% live, and joining in isn't compulsory, but somehow, most people do!

WHEN PAYING BY CHEQUE

Membership Renewal make cheques payable to
Forest Town & District U3A

Outings make cheques payable to
SKILLS

FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS

in St Alban's Church

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

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Liverpool 15th May FULL with waiting list
including a tour of Beatles for only £21

Whitby 26th June @ only £19 - Only 21 places left

National Arboretum 24th July £36 Deposit £10
Includes return coach travel, arrival in time for the Daily Act of Remembrance. Two course lunch (main and dessert) . Land Train with pre-recorded commentary.

Llangollan Canal Wed 6th September £30 Deposit £10
Relax in a canal boat trip across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, aboard a brightly decorated traditional canal boat. Enjoy a Welsh tea whilst travelling serenely along the canal at walking pace with a spectacular backdrop of North Wales magnificent scenery. A commentary accompanying the trip gives an insight into local history and the general history of the canals in the UK.

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
ONLY 10 places left

2018

Keukenhof Tulip Gardens possibly 5 days in April.

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

To avoid disappointment please remember to bring your diary, cash or cheque book to the meetings to pay a deposit and book your place.

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		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 (Toys) No specific day</u>					

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

This month we re-visited the Idle Valley Nature Reserve at Retford. It was very cold but at least it kept dry for us. We started off by walking alongside the River Idle where we hoped to catch a glimpse of a kingfisher, but as usually happens it was not to be. We were however fortunate enough so see several large flocks of siskins which we had not seen before. They are pretty little birds of the finch family with the male especially striking in it's yellow plumage.

We passed a rookery where the hosts were making plenty of noise and saw a number of the regular species before making our way back to the cafeteria for lunch and a hot drink. The café also offers good views of a variety of birds on Bellmoor Lake which finished our day off nicely.

We have future outings planned for the summer to Rutland Water, Bampton Cliffs and Blacktoft Sands but Lynne will publish details nearer the time.

Keith

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: Steve Evans

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

Board Games

Group Leader: Pat Parry

Meet - Venue being arranged



Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

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



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**

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

This month began on a very lively note, as we welcomed 3 new ladies, who quickly got into the swing of things; sharing their skills, expertise and banter. (This latter qualification is Essential for the smooth -running of the session!)

One of the group offered to demonstrate a hand -sewn patchwork project, which engendered a lot of interest.

The new ladies brought in a delicate counted threadwork panel ~ a huge challenge, as the threads and canvas holes were extremely small; a large tablecloth for stranded embroidery stitches; and a very complicated folded - card box, which came with no instructions whatsoever (so, rather like an Ikea flatpack!),we all had a say on how it should have looked on completion.

The work was interspersed with discussions on the ongoing "problem" of Donald Trump; the latest chaos in the prison service; overseas aid, for good or bad; colonialism ditto; and our Old Perennial would we be able to get a cup of tea during our interval. Watch this space for next month's take on World Issues.

We send our best wishes to all the ladies who have been unable to attend, due to ill health and convalescence, trusting they will be back with us before too long.

Next meeting Monday 13th March when spring will have arrived.

Jane

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary
2nd Wednesday 10am -12noon

Here is very short report of the two hours of non stop natter (except when cake was offered).

Our first topic was "How dangerous is 'fake news' ?" We discussed 'alternative facts' used as propaganda, promotional, political fudge and downright lies. But how can you tell? Next topic out of the hat concerned older (U3A+) female fashion models, e.g. Daphne Self-esteem aged 87yrs. Should we be concerned about 'rough sleepers'? Figures presented by Leicester City Council and M.D.C. didn't appear to be likely accurate (fake news?), and we all agreed that there are as many possible solutions as there are causes.

We then shared opinions on the statement by John Burcow and Donald Trump speaking in Westminster Hall. Two members of the group had submitted this subject, and a third member questioned whether he should be allowed a state visit to the U.K. The group is certainly in tune with the most widely talked about news.

Plans and planning for brexit was hotly debated. "Selfish culture". The concept was explained to some members of the group; so we do continue to learn. "Should the honours system be scrapped?". We thought honours have been devalued somewhat as they seem to be handed out like a 'balloon on a stick'. But not scrapped.....We may be in with a chance! The session ended with a discussion on the women who manage a family and a full time job. It's a bit like care in the community , everyone needs or follows a different pattern for success.

Jill

Gardening



While two members have offered to share leading this group and a venue is being

arranged for meetings to discuss where, how and what members want to do, the information is not available at the time of going to press.

Contact Denise Doud: Groups Co-ordinator

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .
3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

February's topic was 'Churches Past and Present' in which we looked at a large variety of slides starting with three churches at Clipstone, St Georges at Clipstone Camp, the Methodist Church and All Saints Anglican Church. Today, 'All Saints' is the only one remaining.

We continued into Forest Town looking at the views both inside and out of St Alban's and the Catholic Church, as well as the churches building that are no longer there.



Wesleyan Methodist Church Forest Town

Photos of St Edmunds, Mansfield Woodhouse revealed that spring is a good time to visit as there are many spring flowers out by the path leading into the church.

The opening ceremony of St Lawrences church in the early 1900s was another photograph shown. Members were quick to point out the lack of traffic compared to what is now a very busy road junction.

In St Mary's Ladybrook we learnt how two wall hangings were made by members of the community for their 50th Anniversary

Among the Mansfield Churches we looked at early photos of St Peters, St Mark, St Johns and The Old Meeting House (Unitarian Church) and Bridge Street Chapel.

Two photos of the Chapel at Harlow Wood Hospital were possibly the most unknown to people - both which now only remain part of our history. **Next meeting 16th March.**

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise

3rd Wednesday

The Lunch Club is going very well, 26 people attended the first lunch in Edwinstowe and by the time you read this approximately 30 members will have been for a meal at the Red Brick House on 22nd February.

March 22nd we are going to 'Refined Dining' West Notts College. **19th April** The Junction, Sutton in Ashfield

Denise

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm



Nice to see even more new faces at the February meeting. The Sherwood Room was nearly full to capacity such is the popularity of our sessions, however I wouldn't like to change the venue to a larger place as I think we would lose the atmosphere. The quiz questions were set by Sandra Evans and everyone had a high score so the final outcome was very close. Valerie Newborough organised some song sheets for a few of the songs performed by Rave On and we had a good vocal backing from quite a few of the members especially with the Bobby Darin song "Things". **The next session is on Friday 3^d March.**

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
11am - 3pm Titchfield Park

Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstoneholme

4th Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm

Meet Sherwood Room Forest Town Arena,

Rambling

Group Leader: Andrew Riby

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

The rambling group has a new co-ordinator as, regretfully, Alan Radford had to stand down due to ill health. Alan started the Forest Town rambling group. Thanks to him it is now well established with a growing membership which is actively involved in setting the walk programme and leading walks. Best wishes to Alan for a speedy recovery. Andy Riby has taken over as Group Leader.

On 1st February we set off from Calver led by Jane Atkins. Climbing through Coombs Dale Jane told us about Black Harry, an 18th century highwayman who was apprehended by the Castleton Bow Street Runners. Crossing the fields to Foolow with lovely views of the dales we lunched in Eyam where 160 villagers died in The Great Plague (1665-66). The rector persuaded the villagers to impose a quarantine to prevent the plague spreading further a field, and essential supplies had to be left at Eyam's boundary by its neighbours. In Stoney Middleton we passed St Martin's, a rare octagonal church, before visiting the 'Roman Baths' which are fed by warm springs at a constant 63 degrees. Many thanks to Jane for an enjoyable and informative walk.



"Snowdrop Ramble" on the 15th of March

We set out on our “**Snowdrop Ramble**” on 15th March with a promising weather forecast and the prospect of panoramic views. Starting from Ilam Hall we climbed over Ilam Moor to Stanshope, returning via the Manifold Valley and Castern Hall. The snowdrops were magnificent, but a dense mist persisted all day blocking out almost everything but the immediate path before us. Now dubbed the “50 Shades of Grey” walk, we were mightily relieved to finish the walk at Ilam Hall’s tea room.

Our next rambles: 1st March, Nabs Dale, Dovedale, Tissington (8½ m); 15th March, Hathersage, Abney & Offerton (8½ m). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing and departing at 08.40 am. New members always welcome.

Andy

Scrabble & Rummikub

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

We have a core of around eight committed members and other members are joining. It is a good social atmosphere and while we have a break and a drink we 'put the world to rights'.

Celia

Strollers/ Short Walks

Group Leader: Denise Doud
Meet 3rd Friday 10am

A nice sunny morning 11 of us walked for an hour at Brierley Park, we left the Car Park and walked past the Golf Course towards Brierley Oak we did a slight detour to Hardwick View and as a clear day we could see Hardwick and Pleasley Winding Wheel, we returned walking round Brierley Waters to the visitor centre where we all had a welcome drink.



Brierley Forest Park, Huthwaite was created in 1992 on the former site of Sutton Colliery Site locally

known as Brierley Pit. The Visitor Centre was opened in 1999 and was built on the site of the old Brickworks.

Strollers walk dates. Friday 17th March - Teversal meet at the Visitors Centre. Friday 21st April - Sherwood Forest meet in car park near the Visitors Centre. Walks start at 10 30am. Denise will organize transport if needed.

Marlene Mee

Table Tennis

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern
Meet - At leader home -to be arranged



Ten Pin Bowling

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

Thursday 9th February - We had 6 members playing today and we paid only £4. 50 + £1. 00 for the hire of shoes. It should have cost us £5. 50 + £1. 00 but due to a mistake made by one of the staff the wrong price was charged. When we told him he said O.K. you have had cheaper games than you thought and he did not want us to pay the extra. A few members let us know they could not attend today but would still be coming when they could.

The two games we played were enjoyed by the members who also had tea or coffee at the end of the first game. I should also inform you that the bar is open to anyone who would like a drink.

Gordon.

Trace Your Family History

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

This was a session in which Pauline said 'we should kill off our ancestors', so we considered the many types of death there are and some of the related records. It was not a morbid session, far from it and an activity session looking at copies of five death certificates revealed plenty of information and queries.

After our refreshment break when there was plenty of extra chatter the recording and indexing of memorial stones in church yards was talked about and there

were plenty of examples of headstone to look at. These were of course in photographs as the real sort were a bit too heavy to bring!

FROM COMPUTER BOB

DAN BOSWELL
GIPSY KING
1737 - 1827

I'VE LODGED IN MANY A TOWN
I'VE TRAVELLED MANY A YEAR
BUT DEATH AT LENGTH HAS
BROUGHT ME DOWN
TO MY LAST LODGING HERE

Inscription on a headstone in Selston

Time ran out on us (no we did not expire!) so next month we will continue the theme by talking about probate and wills.

Pauline

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell

If anyone would like to join this group please contact Joseph

TAM (Third Age Matters)

We hope you have all received your TAM magazine. Have you noticed on page 14 'Professor Jim Edwardson founder of the Institute of Ageing and Health at Newcastle University, told TAM that the WRVS 2011 report **Gold Age Pensioners**, "showed that in the previous year older people had made an astonishing net contribution of £40 billion to the UK economy through taxes, continued employment, increased spending power, social care and volunteering that supports all sectors of society".'

On page 15 There is an offer of a **National Art Pass** for U3A members.

Our Birthday celebration cake was featured on page 86, only briefly but with now 1,000 U3As in the UK we were lucky to get a mention.

Then when in the SOURCES magazine our Local History Group was featured it makes us aware that Forest Town & District U3A are getting known nationally, so we have something to sing about.



ipad/iphone Memory & Storage

To find out how much Memory you have on your ipad touch the 'Settings' button, then touch '**General**' in the left hand column, in the right hand column touch '**Storage & icloud usage**'. On an iphone scroll down the list to find '**General**' and '**Storage & icloud usage**'.

STORAGE - will show how much memory you have on your device, how much you have used and how much is available, touch 'Manage Storage' to see what Apps and files are using storage, to release storage space delete any Apps you no longer use.

iCLOUD - will show your total **iCloud** storage space and the amount still available, touch 'Manage Storage' to see what files are using your storage space.

If you use iCloud to store photos and files be aware that deleting them from your ipad/iphone also deletes them from iCloud.

If you have access to a computer/laptop make a permanent backup of your photos/files before deleting them from iCloud or consider using online storage such as: Google Drive or Dropbox, search online for **Cloud storage**, there are many services offering storage space.



Bob.

LONELINESS

We are hearing a lot on the media lately about loneliness and how this can be tackled. There are many reasons why people are lonely, illness and loss of someone near and dear to you are just two things that spring to mind. Additionally unlike years ago when people lived in terraced houses and everyone knew all their neighbours life is very different today. Modern housing estates with high wooden fences encourage isolation rather than friendliness.

Corner shops used to be a great place for socialising, we had a wonderful one on Old Mill Lane, it is not the same in supermarkets because people and shopping trolley's get in the way of a good old gossip.

We believe that encouraging people to join the U3A is a good way for them to make friends, and even discover a new interest in an activity group. All of us in Forest Town & District U3A can help with this by telling people about our meetings. By speaking to people who are sitting on their own and chatting over a cup of tea. THIS IS A WAY WE CAN ALL TRY AND COMBAT LONELINESS.

Pauline

COMMUNITY NEWS & OUR U3A



The photo shows Forest Towns Cenotaph just after it was unveiled in 1921 with names of local men who died in WW1. More were added after WW2. The cenotaph has stood the test of time but is now in need of some TLC, and over the next few months it is to be cleaned and some of the damaged lettering will be renewed. Then in the autumn it is hoped to hold a

special community service in which we would like any descendants of the names on the cenotaph to attend. Can you help discover these relatives - maybe you are one? If so please contact me (Pauline Marples see committee list below), or Neil Davidson (Forest Town British Legion) neil4529@gmail.com

The Sherwood Hall/Abbey School Project

This project is making good progress thanks to our U3A members who are recording their memories and also researching the newspapers in Mansfield Local Studies Library where exciting discoveries are being made. If anyone else would like to help with this please have a word with Pauline Marples or Jenny Wright (see Committee list below)

Spa Ponds Heritage Project

This is part of Forest Town Nature Conservation Group and I am aware some U3A members have gone along to workshop sessions they are holding. As part of this heritage project they are recording peoples memories of Spa Ponds, or as many locals will know it 'Gara Ponds, or Gara Woods'. Look at www.ForestTown.net/HeritageProject [www.Facebook.com/groups/SpaPondsHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpaPondsHeritage)

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee

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

PLEASE NOTE - OUR WEB SITE

The U3A webmasters have changed the style of the website address to make it more secure, it is now:

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

POLICE AID CONVOYS

I am David Scott, your speaker for the 4th May meeting on the subject of the UK National Police Aid Convoys charity, which is based at Long Stoop Way on the Crown Farm Business Estate, and i wonder if you might include the below in your newsletter?

Our website is www.npac.org.uk and there is a Twitter and Facebook link for you to view recent events and photographs.

Although we are a 25 year old national charity, we are very local to you. and my reason for writing is announce that we have just opened up for applications to go with us to Zambia on 17th June 2017 for two weeks to work on some of the projects. It is simply open to anyone...

If your members or families wish to meet up, visit our warehouse at the Old Pit Head Baths in advance of the talk, or express an interest in travelling with me in June, my details are below.

David Scott
0844 8701 999
07795 623 999

U3A DIARY DATE

CHRISTMAS DINNER

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

20th March or earlier if possible

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

