



'MIKES MUSINGS'

New Experiences I recently attended the ballet Swan Lake at Nottingham Concert Hall. It was (almost) a first for me (I had attended a ballet many years ago,); and it was an amazing experience with the prima ballerina outstanding. I believe that this is what the U3A is about as well, trying new experiences or re-visiting old ones with the various Interest Groups we have established. I for instance had never tried Petanque and I had not played Bridge since my teens and early twenties. We are always looking for new ideas for groups so if you have an interest you want to be involved in let Denise Doud our Group Co-ordinator know or any member of the committee.

Membership Renewal We had a good response to members renewing their membership at our March monthly meeting and I hope that the remaining membership will be able to renew their membership at our April meeting. I appreciate that there may be circumstances where you have not been able to attend either meeting, if so please contact our Membership Secretary Kath Wolstenholme who will be able to resolve this for you.

Regional Representative Council and the Association of East Midlands U3A's Those of you who have been a member for some time will recall that I advised you about the structure of the U3A and that the two bodies above were a link to Head Office. However, it has been decided that this is a layer that is not now required and the two bodies have been dissolved. We are members of the Nottinghamshire Network of U3A's and this will be the main conduit now for two-way communication together with the Regional Representative who remains in post.

Tea & Coffee at Monthly Meetings It is terrific that we are having really good attendance at our monthly meetings and long may this continue. However, it does mean that the queue for tea/coffee is quite long and

inevitably it takes time to serve you all. We are looking at various alternatives to speed up the process and ask you to bear with us in the meantime. If you would like to help with the serving of the tea/coffee, please let one of the helpers know or contact a member of the committee.

Committee Roles Continuing my information for you regarding the committee roles, Lynne Cooper is our Treasurer. Lynne took on this responsible role at the formation of the U3A and has had a steep learning curve as she had little or no experience of being a Treasurer. With help from a friend she set up the necessary Excel spreadsheets and continues to maintain these with all the transactions that are part of running the U3A. This time of the year is particularly busy with the membership renewals but so far, she has always managed to balance the books! Each year end the books are independently examined by someone outside of the U3A and then presented to members at the AGM which we hold in June each year.

AGM Our AGM will be held on the 1st June and notices of this meeting will be emailed out in the next few days, paper copies will be available for those not on the Internet. This is an opportunity for YOU to put your name forward to join the committee and help with the organisation of your U3A. Though the majority of the existing committee have agreed to put forward their names again this DOES NOT mean we wouldn't welcome nominations. If there are more than one person for any post, we will hold an election.

Mike King - Chairman

RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

Last month 113 people came in eager to renew their membership, this was very pleasing, and put smiles on the face of our committee.



For those who have not yet renewed there will be the opportunity to do so this month **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.

WHEN PAYING BY CHEQUE

Membership Renewal make cheques payable to
Forest Town & District U3A

Outings make cheques payable to
SKILLS

OUR APRIL MEETING in St Alban's Church

- Please sign in.
- Another opportunity to renew your membership at the tables on the right.
- 1.45pm Welcome and introduction of Steve & Carol Robson who refer to themselves as 'Fool's Gold'

They are an Acoustic duo who play music in the folk tradition – but not traditionally!

What makes a Fools Gold 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!

- Tea/coffee break.
- Another opportunity to renew your membership.
- Book on trips.
- Visit the Group's tables.
- Chairman's and other notices.

ENJOY THE MEETING

FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS in St Alban's Church

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

FAIR TRADE - LAST MONTHS TALK



There were some very colourful and interesting photographs in the talk given by our March speakers Sylvia and Ian Salmon. The talk was about how lives in many countries are changed by Fair Trade. With simple shopping choices (buying Fair Trade products) this helps to give people the means to help themselves. For those of you like myself who had trouble hearing our speaker because of the microphone she was using and it seems some of the churches speakers were turned off which we had not control over. Do take a look at the web site <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade> for more information.

Sylvia and Ian brought along a sales table and Sylvia has emailed to say '*We were very pleased with the interest shown. Several people asked us where they could get stock locally. If they have difficulties I'm happy for them to contact me. We were very pleased with our sales which were £129.45.*'

OLD MAGAZINES

At the February meeting people had the opportunity to take old magazines and give a donation to Blue Bell Wood Hospice, pleasing this raised £13.50 - thank you everyone.
Pauline

NEXT MONTH AT OUR MAY MEETING

David Scott will tell us about
the work of the



NATIONAL POLICE AID CONVOYS

I think this will be a very interesting talk and I will just leave it to Dave to tell us about the work that has been going on since 1993.

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Liverpool 15th May FULL with waiting list

Whitby 26th June @ only £19 - Only 15 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 Sept. £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 4 places left

2018 NEW TRIP!!!! not to be missed

Keukenhof Tulip Fields staying @ golden tulip west-end hotel helmonde 4 star hotel!, continental breakfast 3 course evening meal 5 days 4 nights now confirmed @ £420 single supp £120 deposits required, book early!

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.

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

The first thing we would recommend when visiting the National Arboretum at Alrewas, not far from Lichfield, is to wear comfortable flat shoes as you can do a little or as much walking as you want to do. We have been a few times and never managed to get round everything as there are so many different memorials to see, and new ones keep being added.



Commemorating the thousands of Volunteers who gave service in the height of the Cold War

This is a wonderful place to visit, there are memorials, walks and gardens to every type of group or event, including military regiments and associations. The Chindit, Dunkirk, Bevin Boys, Boy Scouts, Volunteers, are just some. They come in all shapes and sizes, and there is a wide variety of art work on or in them.

The craftsmanship of the wood carvings in the chapel is superb and the 11am service well worth attending. The War Widows Rose garden has, as you can imagine, special meaning - take time to read about it.

A trip on the land train journeys through the avenues giving you a narrated tour and is well worth the ride and will help you to see more of the arboretum.

The Armed Forces Memorial stands proudly looking down on the rest of the Arboretum. It has thousands of names inscribed on it to the UK Armed Services Personnel who have died in the service of their country since the end of WW2. It is very moving especially when you see people looking for a name they know.

For lovers of nature there are so many wonderful plants and trees or a walk by the river. There is something for everyone at the National Arboretum.



*Memorial
to Women's Royal
Naval Service*

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	Gardening	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling Board Games	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

Our Bird Watching group grew by two extra members this month so that was great. Unfortunately for them though, we saw the least number of species ever - only 15. However, the good news is that the weather was excellent, by our standards, so we had a most pleasant walk through Sherwood Forest to Budby Common.

We went there in search of Wood Larks and although there were some people actually doing research on that species we were not blessed with a sighting, probably because it was just a little too windy in that exposed area. On our walk back through the forest though we saw a number of the usual birds common at this time of year.

The most exciting thing was that one of our members actually saw the colour of the birds for the first time as she had purchased some new super-duper binoculars (prior to this everything had looked like black blobs of varying sizes!!)

Lynne

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

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

NO MEETING ON FRIDAY 14th APRIL



Board Games



Group Leader: *Pat Parry*

Meet - 2nd Thursday 2-4pm Prince Charles Pub.

The Board Game group had its first get-together on the second Thursday of this month. We played Cluedo and Pictionary, which caused much head scratching but lots of laughter.

Next month we are planning on playing Ludo and either Pictionary again, or Dingbats. New members are welcome to bring along a game of their choice but, until we have more members, we are avoiding two-player games such as Draughts and Othello.

Pat Parry

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

There was a very lively buzz to the group today, maybe in response to the lovely spring weather that has finally appeared!

We have gained several more members this month, as well as welcoming back those who have been absent through ill-health or convalescence. The more the merrier there are plenty more seats to be filled, skills to be shared and expertise to be passed on.

The crafts worked on today included hand sewn patchwork needle cases, knitted fingerless mitts, a miniature travel dog kennel (an interesting idea!) a very fluffy stuffed hedgehog and a jacket for a newborn grandson.

This work was assisted by very varied topics of conversation (all worthy of inclusion in the Current Affairs group, so Watch Out, as we have "pre-prepared" some subjects for next month!) ranging from George Osbourne's alleged ability to claim expenses for printing business cards for his public speaking on Parliamentary expenses; the second attempted poisoning of one of Vladimir Putin's opposition; the new £1 coins and the ensuing problems with any pay-points; HMRC's efforts to extract even More taxes from us; the entertaining reminisces from the education system, and once more, the ongoing saga of [A Decent Cup of Tea](#).
Next meeting **Monday 10th April at 2.00pm.**

Jane

Note from the Editor - Watch out Jane the current Affairs group might taking up knitting etc while they have in depth discussions?

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12noon

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.

2nd Tuesday 10-12noon - Forest town Arena



The re-formed Gardening Group held its first meeting on Tues 14th March at the Arena. At this lively get-together we planned out the year ahead, with various ideas being put forward.

It was decided to have three outings during the course of the year, the first one in May to Felley Priory when the bluebells are in flower. There will be a speaker in September, followed by autumn and Christmas activities in the following months.

At our next meeting, on April 11th, we'll be making poppies out of clay, after the fashion of the famous poppies displayed at the Tower of London - well, our Forest Town versions, anyway! At other times there will be plant/seed swaps and general gardening chat.

To sum up, the Gardening Group will be meeting at the Arena on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 10am until 12noon (NB: there is a small charge for room hire and tea/coffee), apart from when outings have been planned.

Kay

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances our March meeting had to be cancelled at short notice, but everyone was notified by email or telephone.

Next meeting 20th APRIL.

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Our next lunch will be at The Junction, Sutton in Ashfield on the **19th April.**

Denise

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Although I was feeling under the weather with a chesty cough and a bad case of conjunctivitis "Rave On" still managed to get through a 45 minute session. As they say the show must go on. We still had a very good attendance which was surprising in view of the weather which decided to pour down with rain.

The next meeting is on Friday 7th April and Valerie Newborough has offered to compile the quiz questions. Is anyone interested in doing the quiz for

the May meeting? Also if any of our members have any ideas for something a bit different for future meetings please shout up or are you happy for things to continue as they are ?

Keith

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .

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

All abilities are catered for in our group, some are total beginners, others have a little more experience. We SHARE our experiences between us and this makes for a lovely group. If you would like to join us please come along but in the first instance don't bring art materials as we can advise on what to get and where from.

Christine

Petanque

Group Leader: Steve Evans

4th Wednesday of the month

11am - 3pm Titchfield Park

Play Reading

Group Leader: Deborah Whitton

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.**

On 1st March our 8½ mile walk from Alsop en le Dale was led by Steve. Entering Nabs Dale, the path wound steeply down with the rock face of The Nabs towering above us. Dove Dale afforded wider views and easier walking. We passed several caves and the dramatic limestone pinnacles of Tissington Spires before arriving at Lover's Leap, a slippery limestone mound with a precipitous drop to the river below. We turned into Lindale with the dramatic Thorpe Cloud looming to our right, but not before three brave members of our group ventured onto the Stepping Stones crossing the River Dove.



Continuing over farmland to the delightful village of Tissington, we returned to our cars via the Tissington Trail finishing with a refreshing cuppa in a local café.

Our walk on 15th March of 7½ miles set off from The Plough Inn near Hathersage in glorious sunshine. A stiff climb up to the 17th century Hazelford Hall was followed by an even steeper climb to Highlow Hall, whose land was granted to the Eyre family by William the Conqueror. Enjoying views over the pretty valley of Abney Clough we reached the hamlet of Abney and finally Shatton Edge, the highest point of our walk. Lunch here under cloudless skies was idyllic with panoramic views over the Hope Valley. The return path via Offerton Hall (reputedly Little John's birthplace) was largely downhill and retained those magnificent views. A welcome drink in warm sunshine sitting outside The Plough rounded off our walk.



Our next rambles: 5th April: Denton, Alton and Churnet Valley (8½ miles); 19th April: Crich, Alderwasley & Cromford Canal (8.3 miles). 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

Strollers/ Short Walks

Group Leader: Denise Doud
Meet 3rd Friday 10am

On the 17th March fourteen walkers met at the Teversal visitors centre at 10:30 we walked along the trail to Pleasley. We then split the group and seven people walked round the ponds with Denise.

I led the rest of the group taking the steps down towards Teversal Village passing St Katherines Church. The village looked amazing with all the daffodils in full bloom, also interesting in the village to see the old red telephone box used as a 'Swop Library' and housing a Defibrillator. We then turned right over a stile going downhill passing Coppy Wood, over another stile and a bridge crossing the river Meden. We reached the trail that goes towards Buttery Lane and turned right towards the Visitor Centre, we added an extra loop passing the ponds and arrived back at the Visitor Centre at 11 45am and joined the others for refreshments.

Going through the village we saw the initials H/C on several buildings. These were the initials of Henrietta Carnarvon who actually discovered the Tomb of Tutankhamum, hence the name of the Carnarvon Arms where in the Ship Room D.H. Lawrence penned Lady Chatterleys Lover. Teversal was the home of the fictional Lady Chatterley.

Next walk **April 21st Sherwood Forest. 10 30 am**
Denise is unavailable on this day and I will be taking the walk my contract details are 01623-409072

Marlene

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.

Trace Your Family History

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

Continuing from our last session, we once again considered memorial headstones both for the content of the epitaph or the artwork. Pauline also spoke about the Brookwood Necropolis Railway which was established when cemeteries in London became full, and funeral trains took the dead to their last resting place.

We then considered the contents and style of wills and what can be discovered from them, doing this by transcribing three wills. We considered what can be learnt from very early wills and inventories ie, discovering the contents of people homes etc in times gone by. Everyone took one home to transcribe. Why not get your magnifying glass out and have a go?

Pauline

An Inventory of the Goods and Chatties of Abraham — Dorrell of Bramcote in the County of Nottingham lately deceased, taken Apr 7 1741	
Purse and Apparel	10 00 00
Two Irons	1 00 00
Things in the House-plate	11 00 00
In the little Parlour	6 10 00
In the Hall	1 5 00
In the little parlour next the Yard	0 10 00
In the Baking House	2 5 00
In the great Parlour and in the same place One Silver Tankard	16 00 00
In the Ceild-Chamber	6 10 00
In the Chamber over the little Parlour	3 5 00
In the Corn-Chamber	3 5 00
In the Cheese Chamber	5 00 00
Lumber in the Garrets	1 00 00
In the Kitchen-Chambers	2 00 00
In the Kitchen and Dairy	7 00 00
In the Sellar	0 10 00

Woodworking (Toys)

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

FROM COMPUTER BOB

Three people came to me recently with a "failed to obtain IP address" problem, the IP address is a unique string of numbers separated by full stops that identifies each computer using the Internet Protocol to communicate over the internet.

The Windows 'network troubleshooter' failed to fix the problem and merely confirmed the error, thank you Microsoft.

Using 'System Restore' I reset the computers to a date before the error occurred, (Windows periodically takes a 'snapshot' of your system settings and creates a restore point).

System restore can also fix other problems, the process is straightforward but too long to explain here, I have put a tutorial on the Computer/IT page on our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town>

Using System Restore won't affect your files but you may lose programmes or updates installed after the restore date chosen, these can be re-installed but it is possible that a recently installed programme or update caused the problem.

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>

U3A DIARY DATE

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

THANK YOU

To Cllr Colleen Harwood and Cllr Alan Bell
for their generous donations of
£200 each for the work of our U3A

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

COMMUNITY NEWS & OUR U3A

HEALTH and WELLBEING FESTIVAL

Mansfield Museum

Saturday 25th March - Saturday 8th April

There are 70 free events included in this festival and we will feature a display on the activities of Forest Town, Mansfield, Sherwood, Rainworth, Dukeries, Sutton and Ashfield U3As.

Hopefully some of you will have already been to see what this Health and Wellbeing Festival is all about, and more of you will go in the next few days.

It is important to support both our U3A and Mansfield Museum, a lot of hard work goes into organising these events. **Thank you to Jenny for co-ordinating the U3A display.**

The Sherwood Hall/Abbey School Project

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Coffee Morning at Forest Town Methodist Church on the 4th March and spent time looking at the Sherwood Hall/Saville House display, it really was a good atmosphere and we gained new information for the project.

Jenny & Pauline

REFRESHMENTS

Please be patient at the refreshment break in our main meeting. While the volunteers do their best to serve everyone as quickly as possible, please do be aware they have limited space and resources to use.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

20th April or earlier if possible

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

