



## 'MIKES MUSINGS'

### Welcome & Newsletter

A warm welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter, as usual this has been produced by Pauline Marples, (with some assistance from Malcolm!). The printing of the Newsletter was becoming increasingly challenging for Pauline as there is an increasing demand for printed copies. As a committee, we have decided to have the Newsletter printed by an outside printer and the April copy was the first time they were used and we were very satisfied with their service with little difference in cost.

### Membership

The membership renewal at our March and April meeting went well but we have noticed that some members have not yet had the opportunity to renew their membership. I do hope that those people will want to continue their membership and continue to enjoy the activities and friendships that the U3A offers; there will be a chance to renew membership at the May meeting. I am pleased to tell you that in addition to our existing members we continue to welcome new members.

### Committee Membership

You will have received notification of the AGM and I mentioned in the April Newsletter that we are looking for additional members for the committee. PLEASE consider putting your name forward, though there are some formal procedures that we need to adhere to we do try to keep the committee meetings as informal and relaxed as possible. New ideas and enthusiasm are always wanted and welcome, do consider if you could support our U3A by joining the committee.

### Committee Roles

Following on from my plea for nominations for the committee and continuing my information about the

various roles this month – Membership Secretary. (Kath Wolstenholme has taken on this role initially she was assistant). I guess the job title is fairly descriptive; Kath is responsible for maintaining all the details of our members and updating the information as necessary. This time of year, when we have the renewal of membership is a particularly busy time but Kath has good systems in place to make the process as smooth as possible. Kath is also responsible for sending out information to all the members who are on email, for instance the Newsletter. Bob Hunt has been acting as assistant to Kath and stood in at short notice when Kath was unable to undertake the role for several months.

*Mike King - Chairman*

## OUR 4<sup>th</sup> MAY MEETING in St Alban's Church

- Please sign in.
- Visit the membership and Group tables.

### 1.45pm Welcome and introduction of our guest speaker Dave Scott

Dave will tell us about the work of the UK National Police Aid Convoys Charity. They are a 25 year old national charity but very local to us, based at Long Stoop Way on the Crown Farm Business Estate.

- Tea/coffee break.
- Another opportunity to discover what Groups are available, chat to the leaders and other members.
- Book on trips/outings.
- Chairman's and other notices.

## ENJOY THE MEETING

### WHEN PAYING BY CHEQUE

**Membership Renewal** make cheques payable to  
**Forest Town & District U3A**

**Outings** make cheques payable to  
**SKILLS**

## FOOLS GOLD - OUR APRIL MEETING

Lighthearted, entertaining, relaxing, enjoyable are just some of the things that can be said about the performance by Steve and Carol Robson (Fools Gold) at our April meeting. It was wonderful to have a live presentation, and many pleasing comments have been heard from people who were there.



We learnt of background history to some of the songs, we were encouraged to clap and sing along with them both as Steve played his guitar and Carol played her flute and D Whistles. The songs included, 'Sweet Mollie Malone' and 'Good Night Irene' and it was evident that most of the members knew them.

To discover more about Fools Gold take a look at [www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk](http://www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk)

## NEXT MONTH AT OUR JUNE MEETING

*in St Alban's Church  
Thursday 1st June 1.45pm*

**Annual General Meeting**  
*followed by*

**Bob Massey telling us about  
'Murder, Mystery and Mayhem.  
Dark deeds and strange events in the  
Nottingham villages.'**

Bob Massey is a retired Theatre Consultant and Lighting Designer who has planned many theatres and performance spaces throughout the world.

For 30 years he was the technical manager of a theatre in Nottingham.

A historian and lecturer as well as a member of the Local History, Cinema, Theatre and Aircraft Research groups and societies, he writes articles regularly on these subjects for magazines and trade publications.

## FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS

### in St Alban's Church

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Murder, Mystery and Mayhem
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	My extra life (as a TV extra)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	Canine Partners
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Legal Information
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vision Aid Overseas
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	The History of Hodsock Priory
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Activities

### OUR U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1pm at The South Forest, Edwinstowe. (*Bookings to be taken later in the year*).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

**1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2018**

**The membership fee for 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.**



For anyone who has forgotten to renew their membership please can you do so at the May meeting, or if you are unable to attend please post to



**Forest Town & District U3A  
12 Kingthorpe Close, Forest Town,  
Mansfield NG19 0PD**

*Make cheques payable to  
Forest Town & District U3A*

If there is some reason you cannot do either of these and want to continue being a member contact Kath Wolstenholme, Membership Secretary.  
[01623 617194 ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com](mailto:ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com)

Being a member of Forest Town & District U3A means



- You can attend our main monthly meetings.
- You can join as many of our activity groups as you would like to.
- You can meet people and hopefully make new friends.
- You can book and pay to go on outings.

**To continue coming to our monthly meetings and attending an activity group your membership must be paid by 4<sup>th</sup> May.**

## OUTINGS AND EVENTS

These are now proving to be very popular and Denise is doing a sterling job arranging these for us. Some of the trips are already full so the message is, if you see a trip you fancy don't take to long thinking about it or it may be full.

### Liverpool 15<sup>th</sup> May **FULL**

### Whitby 26<sup>th</sup> June @ only £19 - *A few places left*

Full day of free time in Whitby, a lovely day out why not hop on and off the city tour bus which only takes an hour and then enjoy the local delicacy fish and chips!

### National Arboretum 24<sup>th</sup> July £36 Deposit £10

#### *A few places left*

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.

This is a wonderful place to visit, there are so many different 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. Memorials come in all shapes and sizes, and there is a wide variety of art work on them all.

### Llangollan Canal Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. **FULL**

Relax in a canal boat trip across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, in North Wales magnificent scenery.

### Thursford 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> November - a 2 day trip to The Thursford Spectacular Christmas Show (afternoon performance), then staying at Caley Hall Hotel, Old Hunstanton, **FULL**

### 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!

#### **SEE ITINARY in NEXT COLUMN**

Please call Denise on 07791941502  
or email [deewhits@aol.com](mailto:deewhits@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**

## Keukenhof & Amsterdam

### Sunday 8th April 2018 - 5 days From £420.00

**Sunday** — We depart at approximately 06:00am from our local pick up point and head to Dover Ferry Terminal for our sea crossing to Calais.

The ferry departs at 12:05 noon – the crossing is 90 minutes.

We will make comfort stops en route at South Mimms Services and there will be another stop in Belgium.

We check in at the Golden Tulip West-Ende Hotel in Helmond at approximately 6:30pm. Our stay at the Hotel for 4 nights includes continental breakfast and three course evening meal.

**Monday** - Leaving the Hotel after Breakfast, we head for a full day excursion to Amsterdam with its exclusive buildings, beautiful bridges and quiet canals.

**Tuesday** — After breakfast, enjoy time at your leisure this morning in Helmond. You could take the local bus or train this afternoon and visit Eindhoven. Eindhoven is a city in the province of North Brabant in the south Netherlands, known as a technology and design hub, it's the birthplace of Philips electronics.

**Wednesday** — Breakfast, then we board the coach for the highlight of our holiday, leaving for Keukenhof — (Entrance Included) known as the "Garden of Europe" - The worlds most photographed Garden, you will have time at your leisure to admire over seven million beautiful bulbs in bloom. This afternoon a possible visit to a Cheese & Clog Factory — Our driver will organise this.

**Thursday** — Departing after breakfast for the return journey home, again we will have a comfort stop in Belgium and visit PJS near Ostend, a Chocolate Factory and wine/beer warehouse. We board the return afternoon ferry and will make comfort stops en route home.

### Your Hotel!

The 4-star Golden Tulip West-Ende Hotel is housed in an elegant 19th century building, in a prime location in the heart of Helmond city centre. It offers a cosy bar and an elegantly decorated restaurant. All bedrooms offer a range of comfortable rooms and suites, equipped with en suite facilities, free Wi-Fi and tea-coffee making facilities.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE TIMES MAY CHANGE DUE TO TRAFFIC ETC.**



## HEALTH & WELL BEING EVENT, MANSFIELD MUSEUM



This was the U3A display which attracted plenty of attention at the Health & Well Being event held in Mansfield Museum from the 25<sup>th</sup> March to April 8<sup>th</sup>.

The display showed activities of Forest Town, Mansfield, Sherwood, Rainworth, Dukeries, Sutton and Ashfield U3As and producing it involved networking with the other groups which was rewarding. Each day throughout the event the display was manned by different U3A members and they were able to talk to visitors and hand out U3A literature.

Our own Executive Committee Member Jenny Wright co-ordinated the event, produced the display and obtained U3A literature from the National Office - well done Jenny and thank you to everyone who helped man the stall. Also Thank you to Mansfield Museum for allowing us to take part and advertise the work of the U3A.

### REFRESHMENTS AT THE MAIN MEETING

I am sure many of you noticed the more speedier service at the last meeting in St Alban's Church, this is because the church has allowed us to purchase an urn additional to the one already in the church. They are also allowing us to store it in the church which is another plus - Thank You St Alban's PCC.

Thank You also to the ladies (apologies if there are any gentleman helpers), who do a great job of making sure we can all have a drink at half time.

Occasionally helping with refreshments, also 'Meeting and Greeting' members and visitors as they come in, or on the 'signing in table' are great ways of getting to know other members. We cannot have too many helpers, so if you would like join the happy band do speak to one of the committee (usually wearing a yellow sash) and discover how take part.

**Learn, laugh and Live with the U3A**

# INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

## GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

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

### Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

There was no group meeting this month due to members being on holiday or having other commitments. As part of their holiday in North Yorkshire

Pauline & Malcolm did enjoy a day at RSPB Bempton Cliffs and were lucky to see Puffins.



The group are hoping to enjoy a

day at RSPB Bempton in the near future

The next meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> May to the RSPB at Blacktoft Sands.

### Board Games

Group Leader: *Pat Parry*

Meet - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2-4pm Prince Charles Pub.

### Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

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

### Book Club

Group Leader: *Ann Stanford*

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

The Book Group met at Forest Town library and collected the book, 'True History of Paradise' by Margaret Cezair-Thompson for this months read. It is set in Jamaica, Easter 1981. The island was in political turmoil and the story follows one Jamaican, Jean Landing, to a new life in the USA but not before many set backs.

The Book Group does have a few spaces and is open to anyone in the Forest Town U3A. Our remit is to read and discuss a wide range of books. The books are perhaps not what you would choose yourself but usually a rattling good read!



*Ann*

### Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

Meet Prince Charles Public House, Forest Town

Group 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 2 - 4pm.

Group 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10am - 12noon  
4/5 people per session

### Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena  
Contact 01623 624003

We had a small but thriving group at Craft this month, with a variety of tasks on hand, ie, sewing, lace-making, knitting, and crocheting, with a 'novice' doing well and producing a Granny square.

True to our "knit and natter" form, we covered a range of topics, including world politics, Brexit, the new pound coin and five pound note, the joy of dogs (relating to a particular BBC programme), holidays, and the changing vogue in children's names.

We discussed the folk duo who entertained us at the last General Meeting and all agreed how much we had enjoyed their performance. Health matters concerning absent (and present!) friends were also discussed, and good wishes offered.

After this thorough airing, we headed off for our Easter break quite satisfied....

Kay

### Current Affairs

**Group Leader: Desley O'Leary**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10am -12noon**

Nine members met at Desleys home that is the venue for the group; we welcomed Linda Bancroft for her first visit.

All members are invited to bring two topics for discussion which are then selected at random, as usual the subjects were wide and varied. A few examples: -

- Could the legislation of cannabis have helped prevent the increased use of 'spice', in particular as reported in Manchester?
- Should we applaud a Bristol man's secret ventures to correct grammar on shop fronts? (Particularly apostrophes). Have I got them right in this report!!
- Are cycle lanes a waste of time and potentially dangerous?
- In light of the attention paid to Theresa May's/Nicola Sturgeon's legs at the recent summit, should all political hopefuls have their legs examined to ensure equality within parliament?

As you can see some serious topics other less so; we talked about ten different subjects during the morning. We don't take a vote and don't always come to a conclusion but the discussion is fairly lively but we do leave as friends! This week we steered clear of 'the Donald' (almost), but he does appear regularly in our discussions.

As usual half way during the two hours we have tea/coffee and some of Desleys delicious cakes which are always well received.

We are limited to ten people in the group but if there is sufficient interest from other U3A members Desley would consider setting up a second group.  
A sincere thanks to Desley for hosting the group.

*Mike King (the only male in the group!)*

### Gardening

**Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10-12noon - Forest Town Arena**



Eleven members of the Gardening Group met up and discussed future plans and the general working of the group, before getting down to some garden-related craftwork, ie, poppies made from modelling clay, star shapes for wind chimes, and painted pebbles.

The writer of this piece entered into the spirit of the thing with more enthusiasm than talent and produced a "ladybird" pebble that was boss-eyed (but endearing?). The session was a lively one and helped us to get to know each other.

The group will meet again next month at the Arena from 10am till 12noon and there will be a seed and plant swap.

Kay

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### Local History

**Group Leader: Pauline Marples .**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre**

There was a good attendance at our meeting of the 20th April despite some members having health problems and others being on holiday. Our main topic of the changes to, and disappearing street furniture was inspired (if that is the correct word) because of the recent theft of a historic penfold letter box at Budby. This box has featured on post cards and in books but sadly is no longer part of Nottinghamshire's local history.



**Buddy Post Box - now gone**

We also discussed the changes to post offices, that were once a feature in towns and villages but are



now being moved to shops such as 'Bargain Booze' (Clipstone), W. H Smiths (Mansfield). Moves such as these mean the character of the post office has now gone. Everyone was concerned with what was going to happen to the main post office building on Church Street in Mansfield, also what had happened to the memorial plaque listing post office workers names.

Styles of telephone boxes were also discussed and how any surviving red ones are known to house defibrillators, flowers, books and even in one area, refreshments.

Malcolm also mentioned mile stones and while these can be discovered along roads in many counties such as South Yorkshire, very few remain in Nottinghamshire.

**Our next meeting will be the 18th May** when the topic will be related to the sale of country estates, such as Sherwood Hall and Clipstone.

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### Lunch Club

**Group Leader: Denise Whitsed**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

Our next lunch will be on

May 17th The Elm Tree at Heath

June 21st Launays at Edwinstowe

*Denise*



**Members at a recent Luncheon Club Meal**

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### Music - 60's Appreciation

**Group Leader: Keith Bancroft**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm**

The April meeting was again well attended. The quiz was compiled by Valerie Newborough who had obviously spent some time basing her quiz with each of the answers starting with a different letter of the alphabet. It was something different and everyone enjoyed it. Sandra Evans has offered to do the May

quiz. If anyone wants to do a quiz you are more than welcome.

It has been suggested that members bring along their favourite 60's song either on vinyl or c.d. so that we can listen and hear why it is special to them. We tried it at a meeting last year and it went down well.

Members were treated to John doing a drum solo when 'Rave On' did a version of Sandy Nelson's 'Let There Be Drums.'

**I hope to see you all again at the May session which is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*Keith*

### Painting and Drawing

**Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2-4pm - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.**



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### Petanque

**NEW  
VENUE**

**Group Leader: Steve Evans**

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month**

**11am - 3pm Carr Bank**



Contact has been made with Phil at Carr Bank Petanque Club. A day and time has been arranged for **Forest Town U3A Petanque Interest Group**. It will still be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month the first meeting will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 11am at Carr Bank Park.

There is car parking available at (Carr Bank) Mansfield Manor Hotel, Windmill Lane, Mansfield, NG18 2AL.

Equipment and tuition will be provided.

We will also be able to use the facilities in the pavilion. Refreshments will also be provided for a donation of £1.

Steve

### Play Reading

**Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm**

**Meet Sherwood Room Forest Town Arena,**



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### Rambling

**Group Leader: Andrew Riby**

**Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday of each month.**

Georgeanne led our 8½ mile walk on 5<sup>th</sup> April from Denstone in Staffordshire. Following the track of the disused Churnet Valley railway line, we enjoyed views of the river, the disused canal running parallel and masses of wood anemones. The spectacular Alton Castle towered above the valley, designed on a German medieval castle.



After a photo opportunity at the castle, exploring the village of Alton, fording a rather tricky stream and spotting our first bluebell of the year, we made our way to the Cistercian Abbey at Croxden where we ate our lunch amid its atmospheric ruins.

Gentle walking through pleasant farmland brought us to the impressive Denstone College, an independent boarding school, whose alumni include the writer and actor Quentin Crisp. We returned to Denstone just in time for last orders in the village pub.

Our outing on 19<sup>th</sup> April had a record number of walkers (14) plus a balance of genders - usually us menfolk are heavily outnumbered!

Setting off from Whatstandwell we overcame a stiff climb up to the memorial tower at Crich Stand, 910 feet above sea level, where we enjoyed the magnificent all round view.



Bluebells brightened our descent through Crich Chase to the Cromford Canal, although we were saddened by flowers beside the Derwent Works in Ambergate marking the site where a Sutton teenager recently fell to his death.

A climb through Shining Cliff Woods lead to scenic parkland of Alderwasley Hall before a well-earned drink, sit down and chat at a café at the end of our walk.

**Our next rambles:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Whittington and The Handleys (8 miles); 17<sup>th</sup> May: Thorpe Salvin, Chesterfield canal and Lindrick Dale. 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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena**



### Strollers/ Short Walks

**Group Leader: (Temporary) Marleen Mee**  
**Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10am**

The group has no set mileage and walk around 1 - 1¼ hours depending on who comes on the walks.

### Table Tennis



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

### Ten Pin Bowling

**Group Leader: Gordon Chapman**  
**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm**  
**Mansfield Superbowl 2000.**

### Trace Your Family History

**Group Leader: Malcolm Marples**  
**Meet 2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday - Flint Avenue Centre**  
**Contact 01623 431783**

There was no meeting this month as it fell on Easter Monday. **The next meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

### Woodworking (Toys)

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

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### **ROAD WORKS**

Road works are something we all have to put up with, and for those of us attending the Local History Group at Flint Avenue on the 20th April both the road and pavement were a nightmare. As you can see from the following verses in *the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser 15/5/1903 p6 c1* nothing has changed.

#### **UP AND DOWN**

They took a little gravel,  
and they took a little tar  
With various ingredients  
imported from afar.  
They hammered it and rolled it,  
and when they went away  
They said they had a pavement  
That would last for many a day.

But they came with picks and smote it  
To lay a water main;  
And then they called the workman  
To put it back again.  
To run a tramway cable  
They took it up once more;  
And then they put it back again  
Just where it was before.

They took it up for conduits  
To run the telephone;  
And then they put it back again  
As hard as any stone  
They took it up for wires  
To feed the electric light,  
And then they put it back again  
Which was no more than right.

Oh, the pavements full of furrows;  
There are patches everywhere.  
You'd like to ride upon it,  
But it's seldom that you dare.  
It's a very handsome pavement;  
A credit to the town;  
They're always diggin of it up  
Or putting of it down.

### **FROM COMPUTER BOB**

**How to attach a photo to an email message on your ipad/iphone.**



To send an email touch the 'Mail' icon, to open a screen to send an email touch the pen and paper icon. (ipad top right), (iphone bottom right).

A 'new message' screen will then be displayed, in the 'To' panel type in the email address of the recipient of your message, if the recipient is already listed as a contact your ipad/iphone will anticipate the name you are typing and display it in a panel below, touch on the name to complete the entry, if the recipient is not already in your contact list you will have to type in the full email address.

Type your message in the main body of the email, touch the area just below your message and hold your finger there until a black strip of commands appears then touch the 'insert photo or video' command, (on the iphone the bar may not appear until you lift your finger), iphone users will need to tap the right facing arrow at the end of the bar to see this command.

This will open a menu showing your stored photos, touch the folder your photo is in and touch the photo you want to attach, touch 'choose' and the photo will appear in the body of your email, touch 'send' to send the email, you may then be asked what size of photo you want to send, the smaller sizes measured in kB (kilobytes) are OK to view on the screen, if the photo is to be printed the larger size measured in MB (megabytes) would be better, (1000 kB = 1 MB) the larger the size the longer it will take to send.

You can check if your email has been sent by touching 'Mailboxes' and touch on the 'sent' box.

*Bob.*

### **OUR U3A WEB SITE**

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

Do keep looking for up to-date information and photographs.

### **COMMUNITY NEWS & OUR U3A**

I am a mature researcher (and lecturer) undertaking a PhD at NTU [Nottingham Trent University]. The focus of my research is how easy or difficult mature women (over the age of 55) find it to shop for attractive well-fitting clothing in the U.K.

Major high street retailers know that the clothing they offer is unsatisfactory in terms of fit and often design and yet seem unable to solve the issue. Because of this NTU have established an active research initiative under the name Fashioning Fit, and academics are trying to put together research to clarify the most important issues and find ways of solving them. This research is funded directly by the University, and is intended to impact on teaching and the research community as a whole. No retailer is in any way directly funding this research, it has an academic focus.

My own specialism is Knitwear Design and I have over 25 years' professional experience in the area, I also hold a Degree and a Masters in the subject.

I am looking for women of any size, shape and background who are interested in clothing and (most importantly) have something to say to be interviewed and take part in focus groups.

The data generated will be used to inform garment prototypes, a written Thesis and research publications. Hopefully, some of the outcomes will be used to help inform young designers of the needs and desires of mature women and help them design better clothing. But, I can't do anything without the most important source of information and experience, the women themselves!

I would be more than happy to talk to anyone interested in helping with this study, or even come alone and discuss the research so far at a meeting if your members would be interested.

I look forward to hearing from you, and it would be fantastic if some of your members would be interested in being involved in this research.

Allison Waite [allison.waite@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:allison.waite@ntu.ac.uk)  
(0115) 9118513

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**18<sup>th</sup> May or earlier if possible**

Please send group reports, and other information to  
[pauline@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline@mp-marples.co.uk)

### **THANK YOU**

to Denise Doud

who from the start of our U3A took on the role of Group Co-ordinator, doing sterling work encouraging new groups and often visiting them to see how things were going. Initially we had eight groups, we now have 21.

Denise has now decided to give up this position and Ann Stanford who helped Denise has taken over.

#### ***Forest Town U3A Executive Committee***

<b><i>Committee Position</i></b>	<b><i>Name</i></b>
<i>Chairman &amp; Treas Asst</i>	<i>Mike King</i>
<i>V/Chair &amp; Speaker Sec</i>	<i>Susan Wright</i>
<i>Business Secretary</i>	<i>Jennifer Wright</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lynne Cooper</i>
<i>Groups Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Ann Stanford</i>
<i>Membership Sec</i>	<i>Kath Wolstenholme</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Pauline Marples</i>
<i>Website Editor</i>	<i>Bob Hunt</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Marlene Mee</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Denise Whitsed</i>

