



## 'MIKES MUSINGS'

### Welcome & Membership

A warm welcome to our Newsletter. Some of you will be receiving this for the first time as I know that we have had a sizeable number of new members join us over the last few months; I hope you enjoy all the latest news. I am also pleased that many of our existing members have re-signed for the coming year and at present our membership stands at 189. In addition to our usual activities at the June meeting it will also be our AGM as previously notified to you, this is a formality we must undertake but we will keep it brief.

### Speakers

It was interesting to hear from our speaker Dave Scott at the May meeting about the National Police Aid Convoy – Mansfield should be proud that this worthwhile charity that was started and continues to be based in Mansfield.

### Helpers

We are very fortunate to have members who on a rota basis serve us tea and coffee and act as 'meeters & greeters', but we could always do with more and also help to put tables and chairs away at the end of the meeting. If you can help with any of these tasks please have a word with any members of the committee.

### New Committee

Other than the existing members of the committee who agreed to stand again there has only been one nomination for the committee – Jane Atkins, as Assistant Group Co-ordinator. In view of this there will be no need for an election at the AGM as there were fewer nominations than vacancies. Jane is a very welcome addition to the committee and has already met with Ann Stafford our Group Co-ordinator and attended as an observer at our May committee meeting.

## Thanks

Pauline Marples has decided to step down from the committee though I am very pleased to say that she will continue to edit our Newsletter which I believe is one of the best. It takes a good deal of Pauline's time to put the Newsletter together but to relieve her of some of the work we have out sourced the printing. In addition to being Newsletter Editor, Pauline's input at the committee meetings has been really appreciated, she has a great deal of local knowledge that has in particular been of value. My sincere thanks to Pauline for her time on the committee and my appreciation that she is to continue with the Newsletter.

*Mike King - Chairman*

## OUR JUNE MEETING

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

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

**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.'**

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

**ENJOY THE MEETING**

## Book Exchange - A New Venture

At the June meeting, I hope to start a Book Exchange.

If you have any books you would like to share with other members please bring them along.

Hopefully you will find something that you would like to read.

Try a new author, recommend one to others.  
Just give it a try.

*sue\_harkin@hotmail.com*

## LOOKING BACK

After the inspiring talk by Dave Scott at our May Meeting, I came home and looked at my old copies of



the Forest Town Crier. This was a community newspaper Malcolm and I produced for a number of years till we ran out of energy!



(Something does not seem right here because 11 years on here we are active members of the U3A - renewable energy!).

An article in Issue 6, September 2000 is called 'Bound For Belgrade' and was all about those early days of the Police Aid Convoys. Dave Scott is mentioned a number of times in the article which was written by PC Wes Pierpoint.

How good it was to now have Dave telling us how this amazing charity work has progressed and expanded. Where the items, ie., clothes, bedding, disability aides, wedding dresses, etc come from and where they are taken to.

A great emphasis was put on the need for volunteers, to help with refreshments on sorting and loading days. Help with loading containers, travelling with the convoys and much more.

To discover more we were encouraged to visit the Charity Shop at the Old Pit Head Baths off Crown Farm Way, Forest Town - have any of you been yet?

### INFORMATION FROM GROUP LEADERS

Following an extended refreshment break which had given people more time to chat, some of the Group Leaders expanded on what they do.

**Andy (Rambling Group)** told us their walks were around 8 or 9 miles, they were well planned, moderate and safe. They make sure loos are available at the start and refreshments at the end. The walks take in some spectacular scenery and to get to the venues members have a car share scheme. (see page 6 for contact details).

Ann then spoke about the purpose of the **Book Club**. Members all read a selected book, then meet and discuss the content, and what they thought about the book, if they considered it was well written or not. By doing this you can be introduced to an author you would never have thought of reading before. (see page 4 for contact details).

Lynne spoke about future **Bird Watching** trips planned to Black Toft Sands, Bempton Cliffs and Rutland Water. At each of these places there are often specific birds the group hope to see. Travelling to venues is by using a car share scheme. (see page 4 for contact details).

*My apologies if I have missed anyone out*

*Pauline*

## Notice Board & Suggestion Book

If you have recently attended our monthly meeting you will have noticed that we have acquired a Notice Board. This will display information about our U3A as well as including items that other local U3A's have asked us to advise you about. We hope you will find this a useful addition to our meetings.

On the same table as the Notice Board we have placed a Suggestion Book. This is available for any member to provide the committee with any ideas you may have for improving our U3A, ideas for new Interest Groups, suggestions for Speakers, in effect anything to enhance the experience of being a member of Forest Town & District U3A. It would be helpful if you include your name in order that if necessary we can respond to you but if you wish to remain anonymous that's fine.

Our Group Co-ordinator Ann Stafford is also looking to acquire a notice board that will be used solely for providing information about all our Interest Groups.

### FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS in St Alban's Church

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).*

## 6<sup>th</sup> JULY MEETING - Mike Newbold My Extra Life(as a TV extra)

Mike has been a television extra for 12 years and encountered some interesting and strange people. In July he will tell us about the rules and regulations, the pitfalls, the jargon, pay and his experiences".

## OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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

Full day of free time in Whitby, a lovely day out.

**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.

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

**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 Keukenhof & Amsterdam**

**8th April 5 days from £420** *BOOK EARLY!*

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.

Please call Denise on 07791941502

or email [deewhites@aol.com](mailto: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.**

**Make Cheques payable to SKILLS**

We arrived at 11am at the Albert Dock, some people decided to do their own thing all day, others explored the docks, riverside, seeing the Ferry Crossing the Mersey and the Three Graces, Royal Liver, Cunard and Port of Liverpool buildings. We also saw a statue of Billy Fury and statues of the Fab 4.

Denise had arranged for lunch for those members who wanted to go to the Adelphi in the famous lounge, where the fateful passengers of the Titanic had waited. Some walked to the Adelphi and Denise arranged transport from the dock and back for those who could not walk the distance.

Back at the Albert Dock at 2pm most of us boarded the coach for the Beatles Tour, Tour Guide Paul joined us we had a very interesting tour with the guide pointing out all the interesting places where the Beatles had lived and the history of how the group had formed. He also gave us some of the



history of Liverpool about the slave trade.

We stopped for photos at Penny Lane, John Lennon's Home, the house where Paul McCartney had lived and Strawberry Fields. We had a glimpse of Mathew Street and the Cavern Club as we travelled through the busy Liverpool centre. We listened to music from the Beatles and Lonnie Donnegan as he was the inspiration for the Beatles.

We arrived back at Albert Dock at 3.45pm in time for a coffee before we set off home at 4.30pm Can you believe after the weather forecast that we had no rain from 11am till 3.30pm how lucky was that. We all had a very enjoyable day.

A small raffle on the way back raised £53 for the social fund. Thanks to Shirley and Jane for helping with this, and a very big thank you to Denise for organizing the day out I am sure I speak on behalf of all the passengers. Photos on the Web Site to reflect on the day.

*Marlene & Bob*

### OUR U3A OUTING TO LIVERPOOL

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

We (Denise and Marlene) arrived at Forest Town Arena at 7am on a grey drizzly Monday morning. On seeing the coach we expected it to turn into the car park but had reservations as to if he would make the turns. He tried but Denise went and told him to park near the bus stop.

I ticked off all the names as our members boarded the coach, three members were not there by 7.30am the leaving time, two arrived at 7.35am thinking the leaving time was 8 a.m. we waited till 7.45am then decided the last lady was not coming.

Gary the coach driver took the scenic route through Derbyshire as he had noticed all the hold ups on the motorway route, fantastic views over the Cat and Fiddle despite a drizzly morning, someone provided a Beatles CD and a Sweetie Quiz on the way.



# 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

### Bird Watching

**Group Leader: Lynne Cooper**

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

**Contact 01623 652430**

**Email [lynnecooper@notts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnecooper@notts@hotmail.co.uk)**

This month (May) we visited Blacktoft Sands which is a R.S.P.B. Reserve near Goole. For once we had a near perfect day weather wise and spotted a good selection of birds.

We started off by being greeted by loads of noisy Tree Sparrows which is a species who's numbers have declined dramatically. We then set about visiting the hides in turn and checking the reed beds for Warblers on the way.

In all we saw 8 different species we had not seen previously the highlights being Avocets, Garganey, Bearded Tit and Grasshopper Warbler. The main event of the day though was a female Montagu's Harrier which is the rarest Harrier in Britain. Last year there were only 5 breeding pairs in total so this bird alone made the trip worthwhile.

The Montagu's Harrier was also a landmark bird for us as it is the 100th species we've seen as a U3A birdwatch group.

We should be able to add quite a few more to the list next month as we are visiting Bempton Cliffs in East Yorkshire. If you are interested please let Lynne know as soon as possible.

*Keith*

### Book Club

**Group Leader: Ann Stanford**

**Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month**

**2.05pm - 3.05pm at Forest Town Library.**

**Contact 01623 641864**

**Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)**



### 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.**

**Contact 01623 470282**

**Email [steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)**

Bridge is a very popular sociable card game. It is also very good exercise for your brain and will help improve your problem solving skills.

*Steve*

### 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**

**Email [bukw90@gmail.com](mailto:bukw90@gmail.com)**

### Craft

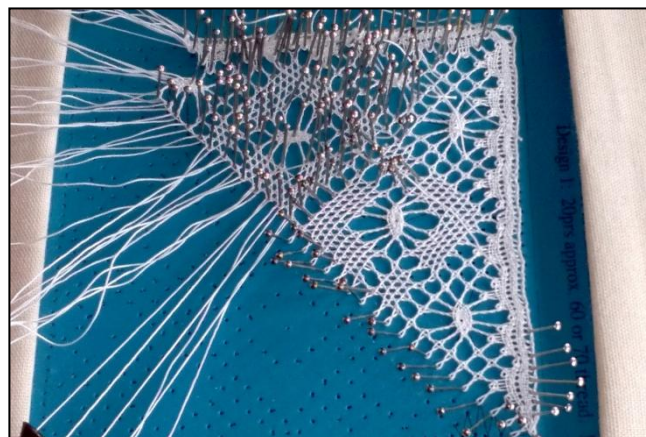
**Group Leader: Jane Freeman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena**

**Contact 01623 624003**

**Email [jam.freeman@btinternet.com](mailto:jam.freeman@btinternet.com)**

Despite a smaller number attending than usual, we managed to fill the room with a considerable buzz, with the projects shown in the photos, plus ongoing crochet work.



Topics under discussion included the unnecessary arrogance of middle aged male hospital consultants, who do not listen to or make eye contact with their patients; confusion and contradictory advice given



with prescriptions from locum GPs; the continued chaos in the NHS (more experienced female managers needed there, we think!); the new £1 coins (already causing problems by falling apart, and being forged.)

And, as ever, the Great Tea Debate. This time, the 'tea-making facilities' were being used for another function! **So, No Tea Again.** Ladies cannot work and talk without the Traditional British pick-me-up of an afternoon.

We are also starting a short term project for the Yarn Bombing of poppies for the November Armistice remembrance celebrations in Mansfield. These are either knitted or crocheted poppies to be used for display in Mansfield (like the flag-motif knitting for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations last year). Anyone out there can take part, there is no need to belong to our group, so please, get clicking, knitting or crocheting we need 35,000! The patterns are on the Mansfield District Council website, as are all details of where to take the finished poppies.

Kay

### Current Affairs

**Group Leader: Desley O'Leary**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10am -12noon**

**Contact 01623 421642**

### Gardening

**Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10-12noon - Forest Town Arena**

**Contact Angelina 01623 622871**

**Molly 01623 635051**

At our last meeting we had a plant and seed swap and this went well, with eight of us exchanging home-nurtured plants (tomato plants were in abundance!). Beryl brought along a glorious lotus, and as this was coveted by us all, a raffle was arranged and won by a delighted Pauline! The funds

acquired (£8) have been put towards future activities, etc.

There was plenty of time for a friendly chat, and we discussed Gardening Things (how to grow wisteria; the best way to deal with our local sandy soil), and Not Gardening Things (looking after grandchildren - and unusual pets!).



*Group Member in the Arena Conservatory*

Next month (Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June) we are going on a trip to gardens in Derbyshire, using a local minibs-hire organisation. NB: there will be no separate meeting at the Arena in June.

One of our members, Susan, has a large number of bluebell bulbs needing a good home. Anyone interested can phone her on 0785 5157130.

Kay

### Local History

**Group Leader: Pauline Marples .**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre**

**Contact 01623 431783**

**Email [pauline.mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline.mp-marples.co.uk)**

This month we looked at Sale catalogues relating to the Rufford Abbey Estate 1938, Clipstone Estate 1945, and a development on the Sherwood Hall Estate 1930

The Rufford one was the most intriguing as it 'extended to over 15,500 acres and included Rufford Abbey, Rufford Park, Farms, Small Holdings, Residences, Business Premises, Cottages and Building Sites in and about the villages of Ollerton, Eakring, Bilsthorpe, Boughton, Wellow, Opmpton, Egmanon and Walesby.'

The names of many of the occupants of properties were also listed. Despite all the information we were still left with queries, so using modern technology Eileen texted a friend to find the name of a derelict hall at Ollerton, while Julie used her phone to discover some of the earliest occupants of Rufford Abbey.

Pauline

### Lunch Club

**Group Leader: Denise Whitsed**

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

**Contact [deewhits@aol.com](mailto:deewhits@aol.com)**

Our next lunch will be on

June 21<sup>st</sup> Launays at Edwinstowe

*Denise*

### Music - 60's Appreciation

**Group Leader: Keith Bancroft**

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

**Contact 01623 618099**

**Email [keithbcroft@gmail.com](mailto:keithbcroft@gmail.com)**

We still keep attracting new members to the group so we were pleased to see another good attendance at the May meeting.

The selection of songs performed by Rave On this month were selected by the members as we listed and numbered all the songs we do, and they picked out a number at random. It seemed to work pretty well and we may try it again sometime.

Please bring along your favourite 60's record or c.d and we'll play them.

The quiz this month was set by Sandra Evans which was very well received and got the grey matter working. The June quiz is being set by drummer John. See you all at the June meeting.

*Keith*

### Painting and Drawing

**Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .**

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

**Contact 01623 658171**



### Petanque



**Group Leader: Steve Evans**

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

**11am - 3pm Carr Bank**

**Contact 01623 470282**

**or 07806697754**

**Email [steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)**



Petanque is easy to learn and fun to play. You also get some light exercise.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was our first meeting at Carr Bank Petanque. Boules were provided for those who did not have any and Phil gave tuition. We then played a game and we went into the pavilion for a well earned cuppa.

Carr Bank Petanque have agreed to open up for U3A members on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month the **next meeting will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 11am.**

There is car parking available at (Carr Bank) Mansfield Manor Hotel, Windmill Lane, Mansfield, NG18 2AL. Equipment and tuition will be provided.

*Steve*

### Play Reading

**Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme**

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

**Meet Sherwood Room Forest Town Arena,**

**Contact 01623 617194**

**Email - [krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk)**



### 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.**

**Contact Andrew Riby 01623 656958**

**mobile 07833 543705**

**Email [ribya@imcgroup.co.uk](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)**

Rita led our group of 14 on an 8 mile walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> May from Revolution House in Old Whittington, Chesterfield where 3 local noblemen plotted the overthrow of James II in 1688.

Heading towards West Handley, our stiff climb up to Stubbing Wood was rewarded by a magnificent display of bluebells before we passed through vivid yellow fields of oilseed rape.



Passing Ashlane Farm in West Handley, a chocolate box thatched cottage, we enjoyed panoramic views as we headed for Middle Hanley. Here Rita regaled



us with the tale of the murder of Eliza Hudson by her husband in 1873 and his subsequent execution in Derby prison. Heading back via Brearley Wetland Nature Reserve we were entertained by a grey wagtail's fishing exploits.

On a wet Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> May) nine hardy souls set off from Thorpe Salvin for a steady walk to a particularly picturesque section of the Chesterfield canal where we stopped for coffee & a brief history of the canal. Notable was the role the canal played in the transportation of limestone blocks from Anston Quarry to be used in the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament following a fire in 1830's.

We then followed the trail through to Anston Stones Wood via Lindrick Dale, where we were rewarded with a beautiful display of wild flowers which brightened an otherwise damp day. Our walk was rounded off with well earned hot drinks and cake at Darfoulds Garden Centre.

**Our next rambles:** 7<sup>th</sup> June: Darley Dale, Jughole Wood, Winster, Snitterton Hall, Bonsall (8½ miles); 21<sup>st</sup> June Flash and the Dane Valley (8¾ miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing and departing at 08:40 am. New members always welcome.

Andy & Jane

### Scrabble & Rummikub

**Group Leader: Celia Tassle**

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

**Contact 01623 627905**

### Strollers/ Short Walks

**Group Leader: (Temporary) Marleen Mee**

**Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10am**

**Contact 01623 409072**

**Email [Marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com](mailto:Marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com)**

The group has no set mileage and walk around 1 - 1½ hours depending on who comes on the walks.

### Table Tennis

**Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern**

**Meet - At leaders home - to be arranged**

**Contact 01623 646547**

**Email [mjrfern@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfern@gmail.com)**

### Ten Pin Bowling

**Group Leader: Gordon Chapman**

**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm**

**Mansfield Superbowl 2000.**

**Contact 01623 620012**

**Email [mary@chapman7586.fslife.co.uk](mailto:mary@chapman7586.fslife.co.uk)**

## Trace Your Family History

**Group Leader: Malcolm Marples**

**Meet 2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday - Flint Avenue Centre**

**Contact 01623 431783**

**Email [malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk)**

At our May meeting we looked at a wide variety of certificates including a death certificate issued after a coroners inquest, and a Quaker marriage certificate. Some of the more unusual records that our ancestors names might (or hopefully not) be found in were the Calendar of prisoners in Derby Goal and a list of the sentences prisoners received after their trials in Nottingham. ie., *William Warren age 36. Burglariously (sic) breaking the house of William Hawgood on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. and stealing coat, a pair of breeches, and a handkerchief - committed January 5<sup>th</sup> 1827. - Sentence of death recorded.*

Pauline

\* \* \* \* \*

## **FROM COMPUTER BOB**

**How to create a new folder (all versions of Windows)**



Sometimes we may need a new folder to store our files or photographs, for example, I have a folder on my desktop named Temporary photos, where I download photos from my camera or phone before sorting them into different folders.

To create a new folder on the desktop right click on a blank part of the desktop, in the menu that appears left click on 'New' and then in the sub menu that appears left click 'Folder', a 'New Folder' icon will appear on your desktop, delete that name and type in a name for your folder, Windows 8 users may have to press the Windows key (the one with the Windows flag on it) and the D key at the same time to open their desktop – usually written as Windows key + D.

We can create folders within folders, let us create a folder for photos of 'Uncle Fred' within the 'Pictures' folder. Press the Windows key and E key together to open File Explorer.

The File Explorer window contains the default folders that the Windows system creates for you to store your files.

Double left click on Pictures in the list of folders to open the Pictures folder and then using the method above create a folder for 'Uncle Fred' or maybe 'Aunty Minnie', you can of course give it any name you like.

The next step is to transfer photos or files from one folder to another, I will cover this in an extension to this tutorial on the Computer group page on our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/page/56067>

Bob.

### HELP WANTED - Royal Flying Corp

U3A Member Trevor Black would like information about any local people who were in the Royal Flying Corp in WW1 either as a pilot or ground crew. Trevor can be contacted at [trevblack77@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trevblack77@hotmail.co.uk)

### RHINE IN FLAMES HOLIDAY

**With Sherwood U3A, 3-10 MAY 2017**

Combine a stay on a cruise ship as it gently sails down part of the River Rhine with time to relax, opportunities to explore typical German riverside towns together with the company of U3A friends and you have a very special holiday experience.

Mornings began with the ship floating through mountainous gorges, passing sheer slopes embroidered with vineyards and trimmed with numerous hilltop castles before mooring in the afternoon- ideal, as this allowed plenty of time for passengers to explore ashore.

Everyone had a free choice as to how to spend the afternoons. Perhaps in Rudesheim it was to see the quirky museum of automated musical instruments but in Koblenz it was to take a cable car trip. Maybe walk up to the hillside to catch the superb views of the horseshoe bend of the Rhine in Boppard or tour the fascinating Reichsburg Castle that overlooked the town of Cochem. At other times, it was just good to mooch-whether along the cobbled streets listening to the 'oompah' band in Andernach or window shop in Cologne after visiting its famous gothic cathedral. And in the evenings? Join a wine tasting event in Winningen, take an easy stroll along the riverside promenades or just relax, chat, play table top games and dance on aboard ship in the lounge.

What was the 'stand out highlight' of the holiday? For me it was the Rhine in Flames celebration. We joined a procession of at least 70 gaily-lit vessels as they cruised downstream passing five spots between Linz and Bonn where wonderful firework displays and laser beams lit the night sky. Bonn's pyrotechnic finale was spectacular-cascades of rockets, massive roman candles and fireworks that reminded you of fountains, peacock tail feathers, flowering alliums spiked with stunning aerial star shells each one delivering a huge canopy of stars over the Rhine. It was no wonder there were cries of 'ooh', 'ah', 'wow', 'look at that' from the promenade deck.

The holiday was a fascinating exploration of the Rhine river that took in multiple experiences filled with charm and character. Extra special thanks must be given to Pat Magness (Sherwood U3A) who organized the enjoyable and relaxing trip.

*Susan Wright - Forest Town & District U3A*

### MEMBERSHIP

**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.**

If you are unable to attend the main meeting to enrol please post to

**Forest Town & District U3A  
12 Kingsthorpe 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 be a member contact  
Kath Wolstenholme, Membership Secretary.

*01623 617194*

*[ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com](mailto:ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com)*

### Forest Town U3A Executive Committee /Contacts

Committee Position	Name	Phone number	Email
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King	01623 470929	<a href="mailto:mikethos42@yahoo.com">mikethos42@yahoo.com</a>
V/Chair & Speaker Sec	Susan Wright	01623 635120	<a href="mailto:susanhw28@hotmail.com">susanhw28@hotmail.com</a>
Business Secretary	Jennifer Wright	01623 631371	<a href="mailto:j.wright445@btinternet.com">j.wright445@btinternet.com</a>
Treasurer	Lynne Cooper	01623 652430	<a href="mailto:lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk">lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Stanford	01623 641864	<a href="mailto:annstanford1@sky.com">annstanford1@sky.com</a>
Membership Sec	Kath Wolstenholme	01623 617194	<a href="mailto:ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com">ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com</a>
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