



NEWSLETTER Issue 22 August 2017

'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome & Membership A warm welcome to this edition of our Newsletter which as usual has been produced by Pauline (assisted by Malcolm) Marples. A special welcome to the new members who joined us at our July meeting.

Our membership now stands at 205. We will have a maximum that we can cater for governed by the numbers we can accommodate at the church taking into account fire regulations. We haven't reached that point yet so we will be pleased to welcome more new members.

PA System - help needed As you are perhaps aware we use the churches PA system at our monthly meetings and we have two people who have volunteered to operate it for us. We really need at least one other person who can step in and help provide cover. No great technical skill is needed so if you feel you can help please either let me know at mikethos42@yahoo.com or just go and talk to either Chris or Malcolm at the monthly meeting to see what is involved. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Display Boards We now have three display boards: one for our own general notices and information from local U3A's at the back of the church where you sign in, one providing information about days out and holidays that is usually on the right of the church and a third giving information about the Interest Groups that we have at present which is usually on the left of the church. I hope that these are making it easier for you to access information in addition to our excellent Newsletter and website.

Holidays and days out Before Denise Whitsed began organising our own Forest Town & District holidays and trips we had joined with Sherwood U3A who organised holidays, and had invited other local U3A's including ours to join with them as a U3A Partnership for Holidays.

Liz Wilson from Sherwood U3A (also a member of Forest Town & District U3A) has from time to time announced at our meetings trips that they have organised. We are still involved with the U3A Partnership for Holidays and Denise works closely with them when she is organising our own Forest Town U3A holidays and trips to ensure that any trip/holidays that are organised don't overlap.

Just to clarify, Denise is organising trips for our U3A, (see page 3) while Liz is leader of the trips organised by Sherwood U3A on behalf of themselves and other local U3A's

Mike King Chairman

OUR AUGUST MEETING

Thursday 3rd August in St Alban's Church

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

1.45pm Welcome by Mike our Chairman
Followed by our guest speaker

Malcolm Wells MBE
who will tell us about- Canine partners

Canine Partners is dedicated to helping transform the lives of people with disabilities through one of our amazing assistance dogs.

Our dogs give their partners greater independence and better quality of life.

- 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



Our Holidays and Outings display board

LOOKING BACK TO OUR JULY MEETING



Mike Newbold A TV Extra



An Enthralled Audience

There have been many good comments about Mike Newbold's talk, 'one of the best yet', 'we could have listened to him for ages,' 'we hope he comes again.' He had a wonderful way of putting over his work of the past thirteen years as a TV Extra, now known he tells us, as Supporting Artists!

Mike had taken early retirement in 2005 from his normal occupation (sorry I did not note down what that was). His daughter was a costume designer for the 'Last of the Summer Wine', and he was a proud dad, which one way or another led him to becoming a TV extra on this programme. He recalled playing alongside Howard who you may recall was the timid husband of Pearl with a girl friend called Marina. In one scene Howard was attempting to hide from Pearl behind a line of washing when this chap with a newspaper under his arm strolled down the street and said "Good Morning Howard" alerting Pearl to the fact the Howard was there. The chap was a TV extra called Mike Newbold.

He has also appeared in the lunch time programme on BBC1 called 'Doctors', so you may have seen him on there.

Mike told us he does the work because he enjoys it, and this was really evident, it was not done for the pay or the work because both these are very limited. he referred to TV extras as being'

- Walking scenery
- Breathing props
- Stand ups
- People who double up for the main cast as drivers/riders/ etc.

Extras are always miming, for example in a restaurant he said the stars would be at the front, the extras would be sat at tables in the background to make it look full.

The final entry in my notes (before you all decided this is the road to stardom) is that Mike told us nobody gets discovered working as an extra.

Pauline

GROUP INFORMATION

This month it was the turn of Desley O'Leary to tell us about the group she leads, Current Affairs.

The group meet in her home and she has space for ten people, at the moment there are eight ladies and one gentleman (Mike our chairman), so one more person would be made welcome.

The topics they discuss range from very serious to amusing and it is nice to talk and share points of view. They also have a break for refreshments.

If anyone would like to start another group Desley would be happy to mentor them on how to do this.

SUMMER BREAK

Please be aware that some groups are not meeting in August so do check with the Group Leaders before setting off to a meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

At our Thursday September 7th meeting, the speaker will be Richard Howard of Fidler & Pepper solicitors. He will give us a brief overview of Wills, Powers of Attorney Care Fees and other things you might like to know more about'.

FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS in St Alban's Church

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

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OUR U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER
Friday 15th December 1pm at The South Forest,
Edwinstowe. 3 courses £16.50
Bookings from the July Meeting onwards.

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

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

Llangollan Canal Wed 6th Sept. **FULL**

Thursford 28th/29th November - 2 day trip to The Thursford Christmas Show staying overnight at Caley Hall Hotel, Old Hunstanton, **FULL**
FULL PAYMENT NEEDED at the September Meeting
Cheques payable to SKILLS

8th April 2018 Keukenhof & Amsterdam
5 days from £420 - single supp. £120 deposit

Staying at the 4-star Golden Tulip West-Ende Hotel Helmonde, which 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.

Sunday — We depart at approximately 6:00am 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.

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

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



Discover more photos and information about 'Keukenhof the Garden of Europe' on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keukenhof>

PROPOSED HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS IN 2018

I am looking into organising a holiday at POTTERS a holiday resort in Norfolk - twenty members have already shown an interest in this.

Day outings are also being considered to the Harrogate Flower Show and Chatsworth at Christmas.

To discover more please call Denise on 07791941502
or email deewhits@aol.com

SUGGESTION BOOK

Thank you to our members for your input.

Sue, who runs the Exchange Book Stall, doesn't want to charge for books, but would be happy to take donations.

As our monthly meeting is already very busy, we don't feel that it would be possible to hold a raffle to raise funds.

We do have some other ideas for fund raising for a projector and other equipment though, these are in the pipeline, so please watch this space.

A DAY OUT TO WHITBY 26th JUNE.

Once again a number of people have said what a great day this was, here is just some of the feed back

Whitby today, we had a good trip, I went on a lifeboat and came back with an RNLI donation bucket, I know, most people bring back rock, not me, best of it is I'd collected £2.01 in donations by the time I got back to the bus and turned several people away who wanted to donate! Not sure its legal to accept donations if you're not an official collector. Even the bus driver raised his eyebrows when I got back on the bus, I did reassure him that it was all above board and I hadn't nicked it. I had got the RNLI bucket to replace the one that was recently stolen from the Sailing Club at Kings Mill Reservoir.

Denise does a great job, she's so enthusiastic but doesn't put pressure on. She'd organised a breakfast stop at a farm shop on the way up, it didn't open usually till 9.30 but had agreed to open early for us with bacon or sausage cobs, tea cakes and a hot drink ready when we got there. We had a 'just for fun' quiz on the way up and a raffle on the way back, you could either be dropped off in Whitby or Sandsend if you preferred, but you had to make your own way back to Whitby to get the bus home and she'd also organised a meal at a local restaurant for anyone who wanted to participate, she just seems to cover all bases. *Jenny*

It was a very pleasant sunny day calling en route at The Whole Hogg Farm shop for bacon and sausage cobs. We had a quiz on the coach won by Liz and friends a score of 18¼ out of 20 questions.

The coach dropped some people off at Whitby and others went onto Sandsend where local shops were explored then they caught the bus back to Whitby and others walked the 2 miles along the beach some in the sea and for once it was warm.

Denise had arranged for an optional late lunch at The Fishermans 2nd Wife, with choices of Haddock, Sea Bass, Plaice, Salmon, Mussels to name but a few of dishes on the menu and how big was the fish!!! And what a view.



Leaving Whitby at 4:15pm we had a raffle on the way back raising £50.70p for group funds. A very successful day thanks to Denise.

FOREST TOWN & DIST U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER 2017 15th DECEMBER FRIDAY, 1 PM £16.50

South Forest Complex, Robin Hood Crossroads,
Clipstone Road, Edwinstowe, Notts. NG22 9JF.

Choice of 3 starters,
Choice of turkey, beef. Fish, & veg option,
Choice of 3 deserts. Menu to be confirmed

FOOD TO BE ORDERED ON THE DAY
unless you require.

Either fruit salad or cheese and biscuits.

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment, (20 people have already shown interest)

also if you would like to sit near someone, then I can allocate place names to tables.

We are having a bottle raffle
donations gratefully accepted.

If you are interested would you please return the slip below with the money or a cheque made payable to Forest Town & Dist U3A.

Any questions please contact Marlene Mee 01623-409072.e.mail marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com

Sorry I can't take any booking without payment

Forest town & Dist Xmas Dinner 2017.U3A
number.....

Name.....sit
near.....

Payment enclosed cashcheque.....
Cheese/Biscuits/Fruit Salad please tick if required.

Contact number.....

Lost and Lonely Ladies Cardigan seeks Owner!

I was left behind at the June monthly meeting,
I'm white and quite fancy,
even if I do say so myself.

I will be hanging out again at the August
meeting, please come and get me.

A trip to 'The Charity Shop' has been
mentioned which means I may never see the
little black number in the wardrobe ever again,
and oh, we looked so good together...!

If you can't make it, please contact Jenny
Wright, who will endeavour to reunite us.

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st		Computer & IT Skills-1 Table tennis	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 nd	Craft	Gardening	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

Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

This month not only did we enjoy a variety of new birds but sunshine all of the day. We first went to the East Leake Ceemax Quarry where some colourful 'Bee Eaters' (birds) who are rare visitors to the UK have taken up residence and have started to breed. They were a delight to see and it was a good start to our day.

Next we travelled on to Rutland Water, our aim this time was to see the Ospreys and we were not disappointed. We joined other people in the Osprey Hide where we could look across the lake to where these birds were nesting.

We also went to some of the other hides where we could see a variety of birds including a number of 'Little Egrets,' and, to Keith's great delight, a 'Great White Egret.' It really was an excellent day.



Our next meeting is on 10th August when we will go to Frampton Marsh near Boston.

Pauline

Book Club

Group Leader: *Ann Stanford*

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



Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

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

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

No meeting in August

Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

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

We welcomed 4 new ladies this month, which is fantastic the more the merrier.

Even Better news 'fanfare' we now have Tea !!!!
A 'special' teapot has finally been purchased for us hooray hooray so orders were put in before the real work began, just to prove that the majority of us prefer it. Thanks to all concerned (I said a Special Mention would be made in the newsletter).

The ribbon weaving mini -project was taken up by a few of us, and suggestions made for uses for the finished items, such as cards, gift tags, small pictures, etc.

Other crafting activities this month were; owl mittens, embroidered tablecloth, (which may take many years to complete, according to the embroiderer!), counted stitch work, stitching with ribbons, child's knitted top, and the ongoing Poppies project, in readiness for the Remembrance Day in November. We hope to have some photographs of these in the Chad, if the lady concerned gets in touch before the August meeting so watch this space.

Topics under discussion this month included; the moral dilemma facing the parents of the critically ill boy who is on life support machines, the dubious intentions of President Putin, the domestic disasters that have occurred in kitchens, the imminent closure of Forest Town post office, and all the ensuing problems that may bring.

I trust everyone got home before the heavens opened with the sudden (very welcomed for gardeners and farmers) downpour.

Jane

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

After a wet and drizzly start to the day we were treated to a dry spell in time for our visit to Ann's lovely spacious garden. After tea and cake we wandered across the large expanse of grass and admired the fruit trees, the vegetable plot and the beehives (giving a plentiful supply of honey, we were told). A beautiful, aromatic lavender border near the house claimed special interest.

Ann then showed us round two nearby gardens, both sizeable and interesting - chickens and beehives in one, and pretty archways, colourful planting and a huge fruit cage in another. All quite enchanting. The owner of the latter kindly offered members some potted plants, and these were gratefully received.

Many thanks to Ann for acting as host to ten of us, and for the generous gifts of fruit and veg. We are pleased to say that during the morning £35 was collected for the U3A projector.

There will be no August meeting of the group, but we hope to have a speaker at our usual venue (Arena conservatory) on September 12th.

Kay

Local History

Group Leader: *Pauline Marples .*

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

There was a good turn out for our meeting this month and we set off discussing some of the changes in the Forest Town locality we have become aware of. New houses being built off of Clipstone Road West, a launderette at the BP Garage where it is also proposed the post office will move to were just some of these.

Pauline had brought along a selection of books on country houses including Brodsworth Hall, Wentworth Woodhouse, Thoresby Hall and Clumber Park and we spoke on visits to some of these.

We then discussed a sketch of Sherwood Hall that was on ebay done by an unknown artist, and the price that is being asked for this - we are not bidding for it!

This led us on to looking at and transcribing two documents which gave an insight into Sherwood Hall at various periods in time. An inventory of 1853 revealed information about the house itself and the yard and outbuildings, also that there were many pumps and troughs around. From the Land Tax of 1910 we learnt the building was built of brick and stone and that an additional wing had been added at the drawing room side. A reference to the outside buildings E.C. in bold letters had us puzzled for a while till someone came up with the obvious answer of Earth Closet. NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: *Denise Whitsed*

3rd Wednesday

In July 25 people attended a meal at the Little John. The next meal is 16th August at Ciao Bella, 15 Nottingham Road, Mansfield. (formerly Lambs at the Market) £10. 95 for 2 courses, £12. 95 for 3 if you are interested please contact Denise or book at the next meeting

Marlene

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: *Keith Bancroft*

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

We had another good attendance for the July meeting on a very hot day. Geoff West organised the quiz which was closely contested. There were several good prizes again in the free members raffle. One of

the prizes next month is a book about Tommy Steele's life story.

The next meeting is on 4th August when John is doing the quiz and there will be live music from Rave On. See you there.

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 Carr Bank

Play Reading

Group Leader: *Kath Wolstenholme*

4th Tuesday 1pm - 2.30pm
Meet Sherwood Room Forest Town Arena,

Summer Recess , it will restart in the Autumn

Rambling

Group Leader: *Andrew Riby*

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

Our walk on 5th July started in Rowsley on a fine summer's day. In Clough Wood, the remains of an engine house are the only clue now to the existence of Mill Close mine, once the largest lead mine in the world. Our steady ascent to Stanton Moor took most of the morning so our lunch stop, perched on top of precipitous rocks with views down the Derwent Valley to Matlock and Ribber Castle, was welcome. Before leaving the moor, we visited the Bronze Age Nine Ladies stone circle, traditionally believed to depict ladies turned to stone for dancing on a Sunday. Our descent to Rowsley gave views up the Derwent Valley over Haddon Hall and as far as Bakewell.

Mary and Janis lead our walk on 19th July from Bakewell. We welcomed the overcast conditions which kept down the temperature as we climbed out of Bakewell to Calton Pastures and on to Edensor. Joseph Paxton is buried in the churchyard here, and

we learnt of his design work which included the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851.



The Group at the Cavendish memorial

At the Cavendish memorial, we heard of the colourful life and tragic death in a plane crash of Kathleen Kennedy, sister of President John F Kennedy. Strolling along the bank of the River Derwent, we enjoyed views of Chatsworth House, a heron and the deer roaming the estate before a scenic picnic stop near the old corn mill. Heading back via Calton Lees and Calton Pastures, we reflected on an enjoyable walk over a drink beside the River Wye in Bakewell.

Our next rambles: 2nd August: Linear walk from Edale down Hope Valley to Hope (7.5 miles). 16th August: High Hoyland and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (8 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: (Temporary) *Marlene Mee*

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Twenty two members have now joined this group We have 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 1st Tuesday
10:30 - 12:30

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

This was a really good meeting and we welcomed a new member Sue who has inherited lots of documents and also has her father in his 90s keen for her to start putting the family history together.

Another welcome was given to guest speaker Allan Barham (one of our Forest Town U3A members). Though Allan he is not actively researching his family history he has discovered connections to the Barham Park and Barham Library in London also to Sir George Barham who founded the Express Dairies. Recently Allan and his family were invited to a Vintage Tea party at the Barham Library which was in recognition of the death of Titus Barham in 1937. It was a fascinating talk.

Julie than told us about the exciting day she had had at a recent Family History Fair held at York Racecourse, there was so much to see and discover on an overwhelming number of stalls. She brought many examples to show and share with us. It was a great encouragement for us all to go to any future fairs. **NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

Pauline

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

*Discover more information and photos
on our web site*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - 20th August

FROM COMPUTER BOB

Google Search Tips

Google search has hidden tools that you can access directly from the Google search box. Try typing the words in bold into the Google search box:

Weather (*type in location e.g. Weather Tenerife*) gives you a detailed 7 days forecast. Click on °C or °F to change from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Flights to (*type in your destination*) Instantly launches an interactive flight finder. \$20 in £ or whichever currencies you want to convert gives an instant conversion, plus exchange rates and dropdown menus for other currencies.

70kg in Stone or similar for a weight conversion plus a dropdown menu with many more measurement types.

Hello in Italian or other languages for an instant translation.

Timer for an interactive countdown and stopwatch.

Calc for a web-based scientific calculator.

Metronome for an adjustable music beats counter.

(Any Royal Mail Tracking number) to track a package.

Pacman for an interactive slice of gaming nostalgia. On a keyboard control Pacman with the arrow keys, on a touch screen slide your finger in the direction you want Pacman to go. *Be warned, it is addictive.*

MEMBERSHIP

1st APRIL 2017 - 31st 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.

Make cheques payable to Forest Town & District U3A contact Kath Wolstenholme, Membership Secretary.

01623 617194

ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee

<i>Committee Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Mike King</i>
<i>V/Chair & Speaker Sec</i>	<i>Susan Wright</i>
<i>Business Secretary</i>	<i>Jennifer Wright</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Lynne Cooper</i>
<i>Assist Treasurer</i>	<i>Marilyn Redfern</i>
<i>Groups Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Ann Stanford</i>
<i>Assist. Group Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Jane Atkins</i>
<i>Membership Sec</i>	<i>Kath Wolstenholme</i>
<i>Website Editor/Assist Mem Sec.</i>	<i>Bob Hunt</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Marlene Mee</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Denise Whitsed</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Pauline Marples</i>



The Avenues today