



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Membership We are approaching that time when we renew our membership of our U3A. I do hope that you have all enjoyed the last year as a member and I hope that you will renew your membership for the coming year. We continue to look at new opportunities for expanding our range of Interest Groups and we have a varied list of speakers booked for our monthly meetings with subjects over the year that should suit all members. Please see the separate notice regarding the arrangement we have put in place – the membership fee remains at £18 as agreed at our AGM last June.

I.C.E Cards - In Case of an Emergency.

In Case of Emergency

Please Contact

Tel:

Relationship:

Tel:

Relationship:

Name:

Last Summer we purchased some of these cards and distributed them to our members. We still have these available and I am aware we have had a number of new members since the summer who might not have received one.

As you can see It is a card that holds contact numbers, and on the reverse details of any allergies and possibly of medication, which can be used as a source of information in the event of an emergency.

We have purchased a cards for each of our members which will be of particular use if you are out and about with the U3A but obviously can be held by you

at all times. We want to make sure that as much as possible our members are kept safe and this is one way we believe that we can support members. If you want to receive one of these cards please speak to Kath Wolstenholme at our February meeting – Kath will be seated near the signing on table.

James Pinder our speaker for February James for many years has collected unwanted spectacles which after having been sorted are sent to Third World countries. James is happy to collect these at the meeting in February so look in the back of your drawer and cupboard and **if you have any unwanted 'specs'** bring them along to the meeting; they will be put to good use.

Mike King Chairman

OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday 1st February in St Alban's Church

- Please sign in.

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

James Pinder
on
'Vision Aid Overseas'

James Pinder will talk about his continuing work with the charity Vision Aid Overseas which creates Eyecare Centres in some of the poorest countries in the World, mainly in Africa.

He will tell us about the work of Vision Aid Overseas and also give a little bit of a picture of the culture in these African countries.

Tea/coffee will be served after the speaker has finished and any questions answered.

Please remain in your seats till then.

See the Display Boards - Book on trips

Chairman's and other notices

ENJOY THE MEETING

Remember the U3A is about
Learning, laughing and living



We are aware that some of our members are not feeling well at the moment, and some are undergoing treatment - to you all we send our good wishes for a speedy recovery

LOOKING BACK TO OUR DECEMBER & JANUARY MEETINGS

7th December 2017

Richard Westcott revealed how he put on makeup and various other paraphernalia to dress up as a pantomime dame.

He reminded us of some of the songs in pantomimes and members of the audience joined in.

This was followed by tea, coffee and mince pies and biscuits.



The Christmas Dinner 15th December 2017

Approximately 80 members sat down to an excellent three course meal at South Forest, Edwinstowe, after which we were entertained by our very own Rave On Group. They were brilliant as usual and with a little encouragement some members got up to dance.



This was followed by the bottle raffle draw, a great many prizes were on offer and it made £152.90 for the projector fund. It was then time for the answers to the Christmas quiz that had kept many of us puzzling over, I don't think anyone got them all right but it was fun. Finally it was time to thank everyone who had helped make the event such a success especially Marlene who had organised it all.

January 1st 2018

I recall one of the first pictures that Dr Julian Onions showed us was of a Galaxy Chocolate Bar but it was soon evident he was not going to talk about squares

of chocolate. It was far more technical and in depth than that. to quote from the Nottingham University web site "Julian works with computer simulations of large fractions of the universe to understand trends in galaxy formation and evolution." Many found it very interesting but for one or two of us, it was a little out of our depth.

DONATIONS AND A BIG THANK YOU

Our December meeting was made all the more special when our chairman Mike King was presented with two cheques given by some Mansfield District Councillors and Richard Howard of Fiddler and Pepper. These were contributions to our projector fund.



Cllr Bill Drewett - Mike King Cllr Martin Wright
With a cheque for £1500.

(The cheque included donations from Cllrs. Mick Barton, Vaughan Hopewell, Dave Smith, Martin Wright and Bill Drewett).



Mike King & Richard Howard (from Fidler & Pepper)
with the cheque for £200

**To them all we say a big
THANK YOU**

HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2018

All bookings can only be taken with a deposit.
To avoid disappointment please remember to bring your diary, cash or cheque book to the meetings to pay a deposit and book your place.

Cheques payable to SKILLS

April 8th - KEUKENHOF & AMSTERDAM

5 days from £420 - single supp. £120 deposit
 Staying at the 4-star Golden Tulip West-Ende Hotel Helmonde, x 4 nights half board. **A few places left**



May 21st - CHAVANAGE HOUSE and cream tea at Bourton on the Water a 16th Century Manor House with Civil War associations. It was where Poldark was filmed **£34. Only a few places left**

June 11th 5 day POTTERS, a holiday resort Hopton on Sea, Norfolk, price approx. £350. **FULL**

July 22nd/23rd - CARLISLE & SETTLE two day **£109**
Only a few places left



August 20th - 23rd - EDINBURGH TATTOO 4 days **£385**
 This exciting Edinburgh trip includes a full Day in Glasgow and a full day in Edinburgh plus the fabulous Tattoo with its swirl of kilts and the wonderful sound of bagpipes. You will not be short of something to see and do in Bonnie Scotland.

September 10th - 3 hour Princess River Cruise with lunch and 60's entertainment. **£36**

See the Holiday Notice Board for more information at the main meetings or contact Denise on 07791941502 or email deewhits@aol.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Our Main Meetings

Held in St Alban's Church - start at 1.45pm

Feb 1st James Pinder - Vision Aid Overseas
Mar 1st Andy Gaunt - Sherwood Forest Archaeology & History/Kings Clipstone
Apr 5th Andy Smart - What Ruddy Cucumber?
May 3rd Les Boyington - Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

INTEREST GROUPS

These are the lifeblood of any U3A!!!

We rely on members to run these interest groups. You don't have to be an "expert" in anything, just an interest and a willingness to give up a bit of time. Help & guidance is available to set up a group with ongoing support from the Groups' Coordinator & Assistant and the benefits are enormous.

At Forest Town & District U3A we are also extremely fortunate to have free use of meeting rooms; many other U3A's do not have this luxury. So please speak to Ann or Jane (or any committee member) to see how you can help.

Reminder: Our group leaders do a fantastic job giving up their time to coordinate and run the interest groups. But please, please help them by letting them know if you are unable to make a meeting.

It is exciting to launch new interest groups in the very near future!

Short Walks will involve moderate walks about 4-5 miles, commencing in March with Marilyn Redfern taking the lead; she will however need an assistant.

Evening Dining Out is also starting in March led by Jane Atkins with Marilyn assisting. We hope to have more details for the February meeting.

Classic Car & Motor Sport Events - no, you won't be driving a rally car but if you love classic cars, rallying or F1 **this is the group for you!** Attending rally car events, classic car shows or maybe off to see Lewis Hamilton in Formula 1 action. Starting soon.

National Trust Group : whilst there has been a great deal of interest in this potential group, no one has come forward to facilitate it. It doesn't have to be an onerous task and if a couple of members do it together, it is so much easier.

Art

Are you interested in Art? Would you like to get together with others to discuss artists, their exhibitions and maybe visit an art gallery or two? Please let us know if you are interested.

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st		Table tennis	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 nd	Craft Poetry & Play Reading	Gardening	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling	Bridge for all Abilities
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Family History	Book Club	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers
4 th				Painting & Drawing	Bridge for all Abilities

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

Contact 01623 652430

Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk



Our bird watching expedition in January was to Attenborough Nature Reserve just south of Nottingham. It is an area of lakes from disused gravel pits at the side of the river Trent.

It was a wonderful day in which we saw plenty of water birds including gadwall, gooseanders, pintails, shovelers, goldeneye, red crested pochard, and Egyptian geese. A special treat was an immobile kingfisher which sat for hours. We did think it might have been plastic! [it wasn't] Twelve of us had a brilliant full day out walking in excess of 4 miles.

Lesley Lyall

Editors comment, one member, me, chickened out of doing the full walk but then had the joy of seeing the Kingfisher fly past and settle in a tree.



Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month

2.05pm - 3.05pm at Forest Town Library.

Contact 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

Our first meeting since November was well attended and we enjoyed a quiz based on all the books read during 2017. This proved very challenging given our poor memories but nevertheless was great fun. Sue Harkin prevailed with her extensive recollections of characters and authors and won a box of chocolates! Our favourite book of last year was The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith (J.K.Rowling) The book for January is The Muse, by Jessie Burton who also wrote The Miniaturist which was televised over Christmas.



Bridge - For All Abilities

Group Leader: Steve Evans

Meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month

10 am - 12 noon at the Flint Avenue Centre.

Contact 01623 470282

Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

Members are at various stages of playing Bridge, and by helping each other they learn and make progress. New members are welcome.

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: Bob Hunt -Email bukw90@gmail.com

Please contact Bob re meeting

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

Contact 01623 624003

Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

I rather think the inclement weather deterred many of the ladies turning up today; however, there were 6 stalwarts braving the elements (plus a lady who popped in, asking about a sewing group she had

heard about. Sadly, we couldn't persuade her to join us!)

There were 5 or 6 different handicrafts on the go today. Pillow lace horseshoes, and a dramatic red confection, due to be transformed into a frill for a winter wedding cake. Many yards are still to be produced. Watch this space for the completed item. A knitted matinee jacket, a baby cardigan, and the first of several pairs of mens' fingerless mitts destined for Christmas gifts (one can never begin too early!)

Warm scarves for the homeless. Velvet boards for holding small beads and gold threads for delicate beadwork projects. Hand sewn patchwork squares many suggestions have been made for their eventual purpose potholders and place mats were two ideas.

As ever, the conversation covered a diverse range of topics, including :- Donald Trump - how much longer can he last?? Equal pay for women in the BBC, this should be a given; Ella's cafe [in Forest Town] transformation, which seems to have ground to a halt. Ben Bradley's impressive performance and elevation in the government - the ongoing debate on how to rejuvenate Mansfield centre (the consensus is, more independent "proper" shops, e.g. cheesemonger, fishmonger, butcher, baker/confectioner;) and finally, the suggestion that we meet up for an Easter Lunch in March or April, as we had to cancel the Christmas meal, due to The Weather.

Hope to see All "The Ladies" in February (Monday 12th February 2.00pm) bring some sunshine.

Jane

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

The meeting began with 9 of the group, all raring to start the New Year, with at least 10 varied topics up for debate. These ranged from:-

Tattoos yes or no? The general consensus was against, with a few convincing arguments for freedom of expression, and respecting cultural/traditional reasons.

The **cabinet reshuffle** and Justine Greening having declined the job of DWP would she have accepted any position offered, or was she using it as an excuse to become a Backbencher? Time will tell.

The **Parole Board's** decision to release John Warboys early and without informing all of his victims. Unanimous decision that it was a grave error to do so, and that the Parole Boards should give their reasons.

Should people over 70 be made to retake their **driving test**? Again, the room was divided on it an eye test should be obligatory, and perhaps a graded theory test, to be followed up by a driving test if there were any doubts on the responses given.

Ben Bradley's new campaign of "put Mansfield on the Map", is admirable, but will it work? He is working hard to make Mansfield more prominent in the news, but is he fighting an uphill battle with the locals, the mindset, and the overwhelming influence of all the supermarkets sucking the life out of the town centre? The feeling was that More efforts for 'joined up thinking' from All involved with the regeneration would be a start.

The BBC **unlawful pay gap** between male and female staff. Carrie Gracie's stand to bring it to prominence has stirred up a storm, but will it result in pay parity? We mostly agreed all should be paid equally for doing the same job but it could be hard to decide if each job was the same.

Have we a **crisis in the NHS** or is it a figment of our imagination? The general agreement was yes, but in many different ways that have snowballed into the bigger mess. Mismanagement, too many managers, insufficient joined up thinking, over buying on supplies, computers not linking UK - wide, too many people going to A&E because they were either not registered with a local GP (possibly because of their status in the country) or it was too difficult to get an appointment as quickly as needed, and lack of education in what was or wasn't deemed to need a GP slot.



Should we be worried about the increasing use of **robots** and artificial intelligent computers? A lot of debate on this issue, as it spread out into Space! Many space craft are still 'out there' after 40 or more years, recording/sending data back to earth. We have become so accustomed to artificial computer/robot - based aids in the home and workplace that it would be hard for modern man to do without them. The consensus was that if it were to become an issue, we would all be long gone by then!

"My nuclear button is bigger than your nuclear button!", is this the last straw? Male egos required deflating was the main agreement on this one; such serious issues require more mature people at the helm.

Has Ben Bradley's promotion to **Vice chairman for Youth** been to much to soon, and if so, will he be able to cope with that as well as "being there" to promote Mansfield, as he outlined in this week's Chad? Give him a chance and wait and see were the main thoughts on this one.

It was a very lively meeting, ably chaired by our hostess Desley, who as usual, provided lavish sustenance with her delicious chocolate and cherry gateau, fruit cake, Bara Brith, teas and coffees. The February meeting will be on Wednesday 14th at 10.00am.

Jane

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.
2nd Tuesday 10-12noon - Stuart Avenue Centre
Contact Angleina 01623 622871
Molly 01623 635051

A cold, damp day in early January found our Group at the Stuart Avenue Community Centre, chatting about seeds, bulbs, cuttings and future outings. Very cheering! The new venue is warm and cosy and has facilities for tea/coffee-making (and free room hire). Although the room is not large, there is plenty of space for our 'plant swap' sessions, etc.

Second-hand gardening books were offered to members (free to a good home!), and were gratefully received. Angelina gave us cuttings from an unusual house plant (name forgotten!), said to deter flies. Well, we all thought this was worth a try and mine was quickly potted up at home in some Perlite and home-made leaf mould. Fingers crossed...

General chat and discussion of gardening problems followed. Our next meeting, at the same venue and on the 13th February, is entitled 'Cuttings.'

Kay

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples.
3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre
Contact 01623 431783
Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk

At our January meeting reading skills were tested as we looked at two large beautifully hand-written parchment documents. One was a Mortgage lease dated August 5th 1743. The other a Conveyance dated 10th January 1876 for 'Nine Messuages or Dwelling Houses and Land in St Ann's Well Road in the Town of Nottingham.' This one had wax seals and the signatures of Arthur Wells, M I Preston and Thomas Oldham at the bottom. Jan using her mobile phone and discovered that St Ann's Well Road still exists today.

After reading these we were all ready for tea and biscuits and a general chat. It was then time for looking at a variety of books and pamphlets, such as Nottingham's Hospitals, Old Warsop in Pictures, From Mills to Mines, Seats in all Parts, Mansfield Heritage Trail, Mansfield As it Was, and Mansfield Local Chronicle 1957 - 60. New members welcome to join us.

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Contact deewhits@aol.com

21st Feb - Red Brick House

21st March - Elm Tree, Heath

This group is full due to the numbers restaurants can cope with. Would anyone like to start another group?

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 618099

Email keithbcroft@gmail.com

Our January meeting was a little different as there was no live music, due to two of our musicians having other commitments. Keith had sent a Quiz and that kept us all guessing and gave us a good laugh. It was an enjoyable meeting.

Brenda

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne.

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

Contact 01623 658171

Petanque

Group Leader: Steve Evans

Contact 01623 470282 or 07806697754

Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

No meetings until further notice.

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme

2nd Monday 10--12 - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave

Contact 01623 617194

Email krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk

Six members attended the first meeting in January, there was great enthusiasm (and lots of laughter) to continue this group.

Next meeting 12th February.

Rambling

Group Leader: Andrew Riby

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Contact Andrew Riby 01623 656958

mobile 07833 543705

Email ribya@imcgroup.co.uk

December 6th was the occasion of the Rambling Group's Christmas lunch, so a much shorter walk than usual preceded the meal. Seventeen of us started from the National Stone Centre near Wirksworth, many wearing festive attire. On a dull, chilly day, it was impossible to imagine the rocks in



these disused limestone quarries once formed part of a tropical island with shallow lagoons, barrier reefs and white sand beaches! A very steep ascent out of Bolehill up onto Cromford Moor warmed us up nicely, before we made our way to the High Peak Trail by which we returned to our cars. Appetites sharpened, we really enjoyed our meal in Cromford and of course the good company.

Our final walk of 2017 started out from the Teversal Trail visitor centre exploring disused railway lines and pretty villages in welcome winter sunshine. First stop was the historic Teversal Village whose manor house is widely considered to be the basis of the fictional Wragby Hall in D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. Taking the Skegby Trail to the outskirts of Upper Pleasley, we then picked up the Rowthorne Trail and headed to Hardwick Hall via the 'smallest village in England,' Ault Hucknall, with its church and three houses. After picnicking in the grounds of the hall, we headed back via the Teversal Trail having thoroughly enjoyed this local walk.



Our first walk for 2018 went ahead in the teeth of Storm Eleanor. Setting off from Whaley Thorns we walked to Elmtun via Poulter Hill Country Park. Elmtun we learned was the home of Jedidiah Buxton, a self-taught but illiterate mathematical genius in the 18th century. We had a speedy cold and blustery lunch in the village of Whaley, safe from the sheets of corrugated tin that were peeling off a barn roof by the storm as we entered the village. Diverting back to our cars along quiet country lanes, we avoided some extremely muddy paths in Scarcliffe Park. Rita and Steve's walk certainly blew the cobwebs off us!



The group's second walk in January set off from the Belper River Gardens on a beautiful winter's day in a biting cold wind. Our attention was immediately drawn to a peregrine falcon nesting high up on a disused mill. Following the River Derwent downstream as far as Milford, we climbed steeply up Sunny Hill just as the sun disappeared! The ridge walk towards Blackbrook provided magnificent views over Belper and as far as Crich Stand. Our return to Belper was marked by a heavy wintery shower but despite this, the intense cold and muddy paths, we thoroughly enjoyed Carol's walk.

Our next rambles: 7th February: Hardwick Hall, Heath, Palterton, Glapwell & Ault Hucknall (9.2 miles). 20th February: Southwell, Halam, Edingley & Maythorne. (8.7 miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing, departing at 08:40 am. New members always welcome.

Andy

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena

Contact 01623 627905

Strollers/ Short Walks

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Contact 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

Friday 19th January, our first meet of another new year. Today 15 of us had a lovely although rather chilly walk around the water at Kingsmill Reservoir.

We met at 10.30 and set off on our stroll. The path was relatively clear with some small icy patches which didn't hamper us at all. On our way round we came across a large chunk of tree which had been broken off during the recent wind storm and as we walked some of the trees were creaking and groaning making me wonder which would be next.

After a 1½ mile walk we stopped for a lovely hot drink and a nibble in the Café.

Although it really was nippy, it was great to be out blowing away the cobwebs and we met lots of like minded folk.

Our next meeting is at The Carrs, Church Warsop on Friday the 16th February at 10.30 am.

Jen Lowe

Table Tennis

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern

Meet - 1st Tuesday 10:30 - 12:30 Meden & Oak Hill

Leisure Centre

Contact 01623 646547

Email mjrferrn@gmail.com

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm
Mansfield Superbowl 2000.
Contact 01623 620012
Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

Would you like to join our group or even just come and give it a try? We already have 12 members who attend when they can. The cost is £5.50 for two games of bowls plus £1 for the hire of shoes. With the bowling we can get tea/coffee free. It is a fun game and we are a fun group so why not give it a try?

Trace Your Family History

Group Leader: Malcolm Marples

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre
Contact 01623 431783
Email malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk

Eight members met at our January meeting and shared information from the past few weeks. Mike had made contact with his sister who has promised to send on a variety of documents she has. David showed a written family history review he had done and then how he was producing a family tree with photos attached. He also told us of his progress in obtaining RAF records.

At least three members have produced or are in the process of making photo type books of family history to give relatives and Julie demonstrated a web site to do this.

Another member had been bought as a gift a subscription to a DNA site and was giving this some thought.

Now we have realised we still have a wifi connection at Flint Avenue we are finding this helpful to looking at web sites. At the meetings we discuss and share, progress (or lack of it) with our research. How we can compile our information, and the various sources

that can be used. We have refreshments and fun and there are often a variety of family history magazines etc to look at. New members are welcome. *Pauline*

COFFEE MORNING REPORT

Our second Coffee Morning attracted around 45 members who enjoyed a Q & A session with Richard Howard of Fidler and Pepper Solicitors. A varied range of subjects was explored with a few amusing anecdotes by way of further explanation.

Our tombola raised £48 and with ticket sales we made £95.02 towards U3A funds.

Jane

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We will be taking membership renewals for the membership year - April 2018 to March 2019 - at the March 2018 and April 2018 main meetings.

If you are unable to attend either of these meetings membership renewal can be made by post.

To renew by post, please send your name, membership number and remittance, £18.00 for full membership, £14.50 for associate membership if you are a member of another U3A to:

U3A Membership Secretary
122 Worcester Avenue
Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 8RA

Please make your cheque or P.O. payable to Forest Town & District U3A

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TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH EVENTS IN OUR U3A

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR THE MARCH ISSUE
17TH FEBRUARY**

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee /Contacts

Committee Position	Name	Phone number	Email
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