



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Snow As you are aware we had to cancel the March meeting due to the snow and exceptionally cold weather. We emailed members and phoned those not on email and put a message on our website. We also got a message broadcast on Radio Nottingham and Mansfield 103.2. I hope that all these initiatives meant that you all learnt of the cancellation. Thanks to the members of the committee for their work in getting the message out. Hopefully this won't be an issue as we move into April!

Renewal of Membership Because of the cancellation of the March meeting we will now be taking renewal of membership at the May meeting in addition to April. Should you not be able to come to either of those meetings you can send in your renewal by post to our Membership Secretary. Just a reminder that before renewing your membership you will need to complete the new Data Protection form that will be available at the meetings and is also available to download from our website. Committee members will be there to advise and assist with this new form which is very straightforward.

At the April and May meetings, in order to allow plenty of time for renewals and avoid you having to queue for too long we will alter the order of the meeting slightly. After the usual formalities we will have our speaker after which all the notices will be announced. We will then break for coffee with the opportunity to renew your membership – we will not re-convene for any further notices but invite you to have your coffee and renew your membership in a relaxed way and of course have conversations with your friends old and new.

AGM As usual our AGM will be held as part of our June meeting; **we are looking for nominations for the committee.** Though existing committee members, other than Jenny Wright our Business Secretary, have indicated that they are willing to

stand again, I encourage you to put your name forward. The term of office of the other three officers – Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer – will end in 2019. Without four officers the U3A would not be able to continue so **it is essential** that we have successors coming forward. Though since we started the U3A some new people have joined the committee there are several who have been there from the start and their term of office will also be completed in 2019. New blood is always welcome and if in the first instance you would welcome the opportunity to come as an observer/or shadow an existing member at some committee meetings to get an idea of what is involved, you are welcome to do so. I am sure that out of our membership of almost 250 there are members with talent and enthusiasm who could make a major contribution to the committee and the U3A.

Mike King Chairman

OUR APRIL MEETING

Thursday 5th April in St Alban's Church

Please sign in.

1.45pm Welcome by Mike our Chairman

Followed by our guest speaker

Andy Smart

speaking on

'What Ruddy Cucumber?'

Andy shares anecdotes from his life as a journalist, stories that he has covered over the years, together with nostalgia taken from the pages of the Nottingham Post Bygones magazine (with items of Mansfield interest).

After the speaker has finished and any questions answered,

Please remain in your seats because

this will be followed by the Announcements and Notices

after which

Tea/coffee will be served

You can renew your membership

look at the display boards

Chat to other members.

Our apologies that space this month does not allow for individual group displays.

**LEARN LAUGH AND LIVE
WITH THE U3A**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We will be taking **membership renewals** for the membership year - April 2018 to March 2019 at the **April and May 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**

LOOKING AHEAD

Advance Notice of the AGM

We wish to give you advance notice that the Forest Town & District U3A AGM for 2018 will take place on **Thursday, 7th June, St. Alban's Church at 1.45 p.m.**

Nominations for the 2018-9 committee, and any motions must be received by Thursday 3rd May 2018 and need a proposer and seconder.

There is one motion that we need to draw to your attention. Third Age Trust has asked all U3As to make a change to the Object Clause in their Constitution; (that's the bit that says what we're all about under charitable purposes), to make this change it will need to be approved by a majority of our members at the AGM. At present it states that our charitable purposes are:

'To advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time employment who are in their Third Age'.

The new single object clause that has been agreed with the Charity Commission will encompass all activity undertaken by every U3A, it reads,

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development'.

It will not necessarily mean any alteration to our current practices, but does mean that activities such as luncheon clubs, holidays, day trips and other activities not of a specific 'educational' nature can be included. If we don't agree to the change of Object Clause these and other related U3A activities will not be covered by the insurance as only activities that fall within the charitable objective will be insured.

Jenny Wright

Our Main Meetings

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

- May 3rd** Les Boyington - Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro
June 7th **AGM**
Philip Caine - Barrow to Bagdad and Back
July 5th Steve Allen - Folk/History Show with Music
Aug 2nd Toni Hall - Aloe Vera - its history and medicinal properties
Sep 6th Mike Storr - Masters of Mirth
Oct 4th Chris Weir - Kill or Cure-Bygone Medicine
Nov 1st Peter Hammond - Albert Ball: Nottingham's WW1 Ace Pilot
Dec 6th Christmas Meeting

HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2018

See the Holiday Notice Board for more information at the main meetings

or contact Denise on 07791941502

or email deewhits@aol.com

While most of this years planned outings are now full there are **just 5 places left** on:

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.**

August 20th - 23rd EDINBURGH TATTOO 4 days £385

**ONLY
14
places
left !**



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.

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

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 Scrabble & Rummikub
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Family History	Book Club	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers
4 th		Art Appreciation		Painting & Drawing Dining Out	Bridge for all Abilities

Art Appreciation



4th Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena
Contact Jill Gascoyne
Email jillgas.1@gmail.com

A new and shiny group of 10 members met on Tuesday, 27th February to share their interest in art - looking at, not producing. There was a lot of talk, of ideas, viewings, contributions. With the guidance of Ann, groups' co-ordinator, a whole year of meetings and events was mapped out. There has to be a plan!

Mansfield Museum to view the Buxton collection, was scheduled for 27th March at 10am, hopefully with the help of museum staff. We may then discuss the paintings over coffee.

Meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, 10am in the lounge at the Arena, next meeting 24th April.

If you are interested in knowing more, please talk to Mary Harris, Irene Bacon and Jill Gascoyne at the next U3A meeting on the 5th April.

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper
Meet 2nd Thursday of the month
Contact 01623 652430
Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

Our planned trip to Carsington Water was called off due to Amber weather warnings, instead eight brave souls had a good walk round Vicar Water.

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

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

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 am putting out a plea to All those who had signed up and have attended our group, but who no longer come, to let me know if you wish to stay on the register. Would it be possible for you to drop me an email or phone to update me? If I do not hear by 9th April, I will assume you no longer wish to be in the group.



We battled through the so - called spring weather puddles sleet, wind and rain notwithstanding to continue our knitting for the neonatal unit, twiddle muffs for dementia patients, bobbin lace-making, patchwork quilting squares (hopefully for a cot quilt) mittens to the "fill a shoe box" Christmas appeal, and matinee jackets.

All this was accompanied by the dulcet tones of the Steve Wright in the afternoon programme, until it was abruptly turned off, just when the Golden Oldies were being played!

The "nattering" this month included the chaos at a local surgery in getting prescriptions dispensed; how to cope with soon - to - be retired husbands, and Ben Bradley's continuing presence in Parliament, mentioning Mansfield at every conceivable opportunity good for him, we say.

We will be meeting at Taylor's Tea Rooms 9th April, 12.30, for our belated Christmas lunch (now renamed Easter Lunch!) Anyone not here today who wish's to come MUST let me know, so I can book the appropriate number of seats.

Next meeting May 14th, 2.00pm

Jane

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

When you have a wide range of topics to discuss, you can rely on informative and thoughtful exchanges within the group. Topics ranged from 'How do you avoid food waste?' to 'Is Russia really our enemy?'

Popular issues concerning social networking being regarded as 'bad for the health' led to predictable concerns.

The recent death of Professor Hawking brought interesting and enlightening discussion. Everyone was admiring of his intellectual prowess overcoming disability, and his sense of humour. And in his words "We should remember to look up at the stars and not down at our feet".

The opportunity to share and hear everyone's opinions, thoughts, and views as well as enjoy reflection and learning is always rewarding and valuable.

Thanks go to Desley for her kind hospitality.

Phil

Dining Out



Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marylyn Redfern

4th Thursday

Contact jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com

mjrfern@gmail.com

Our very first outing took us to The Lion at Farnsfield where 14 of us enjoyed a wonderful meal in the restaurant.

Excellent company, interesting conversation and good food in these lovely relaxing surroundings made for a very pleasant evening.

Our next outing will be to Rose Cottage at Rufford on Thursday 26th April. If you would like to join us please let us have your name and a £5 deposit at the next general meeting. The menu can be accessed at <http://www.rosecottageatrufford.co.uk/food/>

Jane & Marilyn

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.

2nd Tuesday 10-12noon - Stuart Avenue Centre

Contact Angleina 01623 622871

Molly 01623 635051



We had a successful "plant swap" this month, with eleven of us present. Angelina spent some time re-organising our schedule of meetings (with future visits to group members' gardens) and choosing a speaker and topic for October. We decided to open up this session to a few other members of Forest Town U3A by means of tickets.

Next month's trip was also discussed, and this is to Barnsdale Gardens on Monday 9th April, not as previously mentioned. There will be a Stuart Avenue meeting on the 10th April, as usual.

All this was followed by tea and biscuits and a gardening quiz, that produced much laughter and head scratching ("xylem"?? A good Scrabble word, methinks!); and sabotage by one or two people who called out the answers (tee hee)! Another quiz, please, Angelina!

Kay

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk

Following on from last months talk on memories of Mansfield, our theme was old postcards. First we looked at a selection of Mansfield, then broadened it to surrounding areas such as Rainworth, Pleasley, Sherwood Forest (Major Oak) Clumber Park, Rufford, Newark etc.



Postmarks helped to date the cards, some were as early as 1905. The cost of the stamps to send a post card was interesting compared with today's prices. The pictures gave a real insight into how places were, for example looking across the lake to Clumber House when it was a complete building, and Rufford Abbey before it fell into disrepair.

Post cards of the Mansfield Rock Houses are always intriguing and one message on the back sent in 1910 says 'the rooms of houses on this card is hewn out of the rock as you will see where some are pulled down, they are very old but really wonderful.'

Imagine what Mrs Humphries at Horsforth Leeds thought when she received a postcard sent from Newark posted on the 8th April 1907 - 'Dear Minnie, Granny will be buried on Wednesday at 1.30 try and come.' What we forget however, is that there was no phone or emails in those days to let people know sad news!



Studying post cards

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Contact deewhits@aol.com

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 618099

Email keithbcroft@gmail.com

Unfortunately due to the bad weather the meeting had to be cancelled. Maybe some of you listened to some of your favourite 60s songs at home to while away the winter blues.

National Trust



We will be meeting at some point after the speaker on 5th April (Main Meeting) in a corner of the Church to come to some agreement on first trip out.

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .

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

Contact 01623 658171

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme

2nd Monday Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave 10-12

Contact 01623 617194

Email krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk

The Poetry and Play Reading Group met on 12th March at Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue and spent an excellent two hours. We are a very lively group but would welcome some more members, especially gentlemen. As well as looking at poetry and play reading we hope to listen to readings played on CDs which can give a new perspective to our sessions.

Kath

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

Steve Evans led our first walk in March starting from the Cross Keys pub in Epperstone. Free-range hens came up close to watch us don our walking gear. Setting off in warm sunshine, we marvelled at the contrast to the previous week's Siberian blast.

The walk took us through rolling Nottinghamshire countryside, with fine views from the hills. We stopped to watch three hares playing in the sun a short distance away, but there was no display of boxing sadly.

The sun disappeared and the temperature dropped in time for our lunch stop, so we sheltered in the porch of the tiny church of delightful Halloughton to eat our sandwiches. Thankfully it re-appeared as we returned through Halloughton Dumble. Despite some very deep mud in places, we all made it back with dry feet.



Our luck with the weather continued on our second outing in March when Georganne led us in sunshine through the conservation village of Wentworth in South Yorkshire. Disappointingly, few flowers were out along the "daffodil walk" to the church.

Our route brought us to the Elsecar Heritage Centre where we took in the village's industrial history. A ridge walk with fine views took us past the Needle's Eye folly on Wentworth Fitzwilliam estate and then the Hooper Stand, erected to commemorate the defeat of the 1745 Jacobite uprising.



Descending from the ridge, we had lunch next to one of the estate lakes. After observing a herd of deer, we approached the magnificent façade of the stately home of Wentworth Woodhouse, a spectacular end to our walk.

Our next rambles: 4th April: Hathersage, Stanage Edge, Higger Tor (8 miles). 18th April: Ilam Hall, Dovedale, Hall Dale, Castern Hall. (7½ miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing, departing at 08:40 am. New members always welcome.

Andy

[Editors comment to discover more about the history of Wentworth Woodhouse 'Black Diamonds' by Cathering Bailey' is well worth a read.]

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

2nd Friday & 3rd Monday Forest Town Arena 2pm

Contact 01623 627905

Short Walks



Contact Marilyn Redfern <mjrfen@gmail.com>

Will all interested members for this group please come to an initial meeting to discuss the itinerary of walks. More leaders are required to facilitate some of the walks. Please bring with you details of potential walks.

I will be at Forest Town Arena in the main lounge on Wednesday 11th April at 2pm.

Marilyn

Strollers/

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Contact 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com



The end of a wet week saw just four members all kitted up in wet weather gear for a walk around Burnt Stump Country Park. By travelling just a few miles from Mansfield we saw a huge change in the weather, with the clouds lifting and breaking, letting the blue sky and sun come out. Not a drop of rain all morning while we were out on the walk. The sun definitely shines on the righteous or Denise has a direct hot line to the weather gods requesting good weather.

As we waited in the car park before setting off a van pulled in. As the door opened all we could hear was a loud selection of dogs barking. The gentleman unloaded nine collie dogs, who all set off round the woodland in a tearing hurry, obviously knowing which path to follow. We didn't really see them again except in the distance all morning. They certainly enjoyed their walk as much as we did.

We walked following the paths around the outside edge of the park, all be it paddling through some muddy parts and planning a skiing or sledging route down the rather steep hills. Denise fed the birds with seed on various logs and we saw a selection of robins, thrushes and blackbirds together with ducks, drakes and moorhens on the pond. We ended our walk with a welcome coffee and a wander around the Brookfields garden centre in Mapperley.

Ann

Table Tennis

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern

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

Contact 01623 646547

Email mjrfern@gmail.com

Table Tennis

Puffing and panting, we all try our best
To keep fit and healthy (we're put to the test)
A good mix of skills doesn't hinder the play
Cos' it's fun that we're after, to lighten the day

We may bend the rules (some more than others)
If Dave whacks a spin you'd best run for cover.
The balls fly round walls, floor and the ceiling
We dash to collect (depends how we're feeling)

Then tea and a biscuit, a laugh and a chat
To recover our breath - then pick up the bat
In singles or doubles, choose how you will
Just have a go, whatever your skill
So why are you waiting, come, join the team
We'll pick you up if you run out of steam

Marilyn

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

**Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm
Mansfield Superbowl 2000.**

Contact 01623 620012

Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

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

Snow and ice caused us to cancel the April meeting at the last minute. It makes you think about how our ancestors coped with snow and ice in the past?

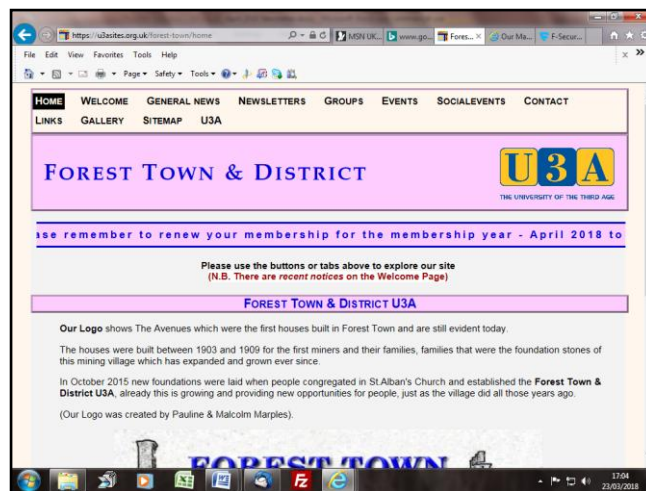
Or what about our own memories of frost patterns on the windows, frozen pipes, making slides and sledging!

Pauline

FROM COMPUTER BOB

Have you looked at our web site?

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



It is regularly updated with information and photographs

If you don't have a computer, why not go to your local library and use theirs?

The librarians are there to help you

OUR MAY SPEAKER

Les Boyington - Climbing Kilimanjaro

Les Boyington shares with us the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. A challenge that required detailed planning and training – as well as the actual climb.

Les includes plenty of photos plus some fun stories about getting the full team safely to the top-and then back down again

HOLIDAY REMINDER

Edinburgh Tattoo

The price is £385 per person for the 4 day trip
(more details on page 2)

Day 1 We stop at Rheged (Lake District attraction), located near Penrith, there is a very good selection of cafés offering fresh food with a distinct Cumbrian flavour using the best local ingredients including Lamb and Beef from Reghed Farms. There are also lots of shops offering a varied collection of gifts and crafts.

Day 2 Edinburgh plus Tattoo, A chance to discover Edinburgh, use the hop on hop off bus to visit the Castle, Arthurs Seat, the Royal Mile and Princes Street. There is also very easy access by service bus to visit the Royal Yacht Britannia, or drop off there to spend the day in Leith.

If anyone cares to join up for lunch/late afternoon we will be visiting the Dome.

Day 3 A full day in Glasgow Visit the Cathedral, Kelvington Art Gallery, Riverside Museum, Queens Cross Church and Buchanan Street for those that love to shop!!!!

Day 4 A visit to Gretna Green.



You might see the couple at Gretna Green.

COFFEE MORNING

JOIN US FOR A
COFFEE AND CHAT

ON
MONDAY APRIL 9TH 10.30AM
IN
FOREST TOWN ARENA

**TICKETS £1 AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN
MEETING OR PAY ON THE DAY**

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Forest Town Community Council meetings are held in the Arena on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm. These are open to Forest Town residents and various issues are discussed.

At the March meeting Forest Town Community Council meeting PcsO Sarah Walters said **Motor Crime was on the increase** and encouraged everyone to lock their car doors, and not to leave anything on show, not even an empty carrier bag - you may know it is empty but thieves do not!

Forest Town Village Market

This is held in Kingsway Hall on the 3rd Saturday of each month 10am - 2pm. There are usually many interesting craft stalls, cake stalls etc.

ADVANCE NOTICE THE GREAT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

Mansfield Library
Sunday 13th May 11am - 3pm
Admission Free

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR THE MAY ISSUE
21st April**

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee /Contacts

Committee Position	Name	Phone number	Email
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