

NEWSLETTER Issue 30 May 2018

'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome to this latest edition of our Newsletter which is as usual full of interesting information and reports from the groups. I hope you have all been enjoying this beautiful Spring weather; I was fortunate in having a few days away with my wife while the weather was at its warmest.

Membership It was great to have so many of you renewing your membership at our April meeting, organised chaos perhaps best describes it! Thank you for your patience while we dealt with your renewals it took longer than usual because we were also asking you to complete the new Data Protection forms, this is of course only a 'one off'. I know that there are still a sizable number of members who have yet to renew their membership and of course as previously advised you can do that at the May meeting.

AGM [June 7th] I went into some detail in my April report and at the April meeting about the need for members to put their names forward for the Committee. **We haven't been over whelmed with nominations!!** Please do consider seriously nominating yourself, there are talented people within our membership who could do an exceptional job on the committee and help to organise our U3A. Our **Business Secretary** is not standing again, and it might be helpful to outline briefly the Secretary's role in order that you can consider putting yourself forward for this role.

The Secretary as with the other committee members attends the committee meetings which are once a month and last between two and three hours. The Secretary is responsible for dealing with any correspondence either postal or email; usually not too many items. In conjunction with the Chairman sets out the Agenda for the meetings, takes the minutes and circulates them to committee members. The Secretary is also responsible for circulating to our members the details of the AGM but as we have now

held these previously the majority of the information is now on file and just needs updating annually. In the past we have had a Minuting Secretary and that is a possibility and that would take that role off the Secretary. Please take the opportunity to speak to Jenny about the role and she can provide further details and guidance; she has also said she is very willing to support someone into the role.

Just to reiterate the other three officers [Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer] will be stepping down next year after serving their three-year term, without the four officers there can be no U3A.

Mike King Chairman

OUR MAY MEETING

Thursday 3rd May in St Alban's Church

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

Les Boyington - Climbing Kilimanjaro

Les shares with us the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. A challenge that required detailed planning and training – as well as the actual climb. The talk includes plenty of photos plus some fun stories about getting the full team safely to the top-and then back down again

Please do remain in your seats
Until after the speaker has finished
and any questions answered.

Tea/coffee will then be served

You can renew your membership,
look at the display boards & book stall.
Chat to other members.

Other announcements will then follow

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

for the year April 2018 to March 2019

£18.00 for full membership,
£14.50 for associate membership if you are a
member of another U3A

**Please make your cheque payable to Forest Town
& District U3A**

OUR U3A WEB SITE

is full of information and photographs
do take a look.

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

Thanks to Bob who puts a lot of hard
work in keeping this up to date.

REMEMBERING KEITH

Keith Bancroft who had been a keen and active member from the very start of Forest Town and District U3A sadly passed away peacefully at home in the early hours of Thursday 29th March.

Keith was a member of the Bridge Group, and the Bird Watching Group, but his most high profile was with 'RAVE ON' - see photo below - Keith is on the left.

He was the founder member, singer and guitar player with the Rock & Roll Trio he formed as part of the 60s Music Appreciation Group.

Over the past couple of years the group has proved to be very popular and at times we had as many as 40 members attending our sessions in the Sherwood room at Forest Town Arena.

Keith had a huge knowledge of music, but his absolute favourite was late 50s and early 60s Rock & Roll. In other words Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran, Elvis of course and others from that era.

Before Keith became ill we did several charity gigs where we all gave our services free and took along a collection box for the Bluebell Wood Childrens Hospice. This was also Keith's initiative after being inspired and moved by the speaker who visited our U3A some months earlier.

As you can imagine this has been a difficult time for myself John (The Drummer) and Chris (The Bass Player), we have been approached by members and encouraged to carry on with the meetings if at all possible. I have spoken to Linda Keith's wife about the continuation of the group and she has told me she is quite happy for us to carry on in whatever format we choose.

One meeting has already taken place see page 5 . I hope that if we have continued success with the group this would be a confirmation of Keith's great idea and hopefully in a small way a tribute to him, Meanwhile our thoughts are with Linda and family.

John Kirk



REMEMBERING MARIAN



Another of our very first group leaders was Marian Batt, who soon had an enthusiastic group meeting in her home learning the skill of making 'photo books' and other similar items.

She is seen in the photograph (on the left) discussing 'photo books' with members at a U3A meeting

When Marian was suddenly taken ill the group had to stop. However what she taught was not wasted as only this last week I have learnt of photo books some of her group members are making or have made, so her legacy lives on.

Marian and Richard her husband moved away from Forest Town to be nearer their family and sadly we have just learnt Marian died on the 10th April. Our thoughts go out to Richard and family.

Pauline

THINKING ABOUT YOU

We are also 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

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.

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	Short Walks	Art Appreciation		Painting & Drawing Dining Out	Bridge for all Abilities

Art Appreciation



**4th Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena
Contact Jill Gascoyne**

Our meeting at the museum was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the A.S. Buxton water colour paintings of Mansfield in the 19th century. It was not easy, and sometimes not possible to recognise the location of the picture, e.g. Midworth Street, when it was Gilstrap house on a grassy lane.

Museum staff provided us with descriptive catalogues of the collection, which numbered 167 items. We each tried to pick one picture we would take home. My favourite was the Market Place in 1823, and the runner up was the Mansfield-Pinxton horse drawn railway.

If you like looking at pictures, come and join us on the 4th Tuesday 10am in Forest Town Arena.

Jill

Bridge - For All Abilities

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 -

Please contact Bob re meeting

A recent question I was asked is how to create a group list on the ipad to send one email message to several recipients, I have put a guide on how to do this on our website computer page:

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

Bob

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

This month the Craft group (seven altogether) had a convivial meal at Reg Taylor's, Southwell; good food and good company. Before the meal a leisurely wander round the Garden Centre was taken, admiring the plants, inside and out.

kay

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am -12 noon

For our Current Affairs meeting this month we had a cosy, convivial get-together (reduced numbers because of an unavoidable change of date) - a quorum of five! Meaty (and I use the word advisedly!) subjects were grappled with, tangents gone off on and special grievances aired.

The topic of roadside memorials (are they a distraction to drivers and should they be restricted to, say, one month's duration?) was tackled, along with floral tributes in general, ie. flowers v donations

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

There was no bird watch meeting in April



Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

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



at funerals; bulbs and perennials in graveyards rather than fresh flowers that fade.

In view of the dire state of the world, we agreed that trivialisation of the news by certain newspapers (eg. the death of the Queen's corgi as a headline recently) was outrageous. The question, "could Mark Zuckerberg be described as a "robber baron"?" led to issues such as bullying and peer pressure amongst the younger generation using Facebook; also the stranglehold of such internet giants on society, in that older people in particular find increasing pressure to belong to Facebook (4 out of 5 of us in the group this morning do not belong), in order to secure bookings at a restaurant, etc. Cambridge Analytica of course was mentioned, with questions about Zuckerberg's responsibility in this regard.

Take-aways, with their plastic (and general) waste, came in for criticism, along with the unattractiveness of people eating in the street. We agreed that modernity has brought about selfishness and we touched upon pavement parking, and home-time from school where children take up the entire pavement, expecting older folk to step into the road.

Vegetarians v carnivores made for another discussion, with curiosity from the latter regarding the former (2 veggies in the group)! Finally, the Home Office was deemed unfit for purpose, with reference to the "Windrush Generation" and the appalling way they have been treated.

Many thanks to Desley and John for refreshments, excellent as always.

Kay

Dining Out



Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern
4th Thursday

Our next outing will be to Naaz Indian restaurant at Mansfield Woodhouse on Thursday 24th May

The menu includes some English dishes as alternatives.

If you fancy coming along please let us have your name and a £5 deposit at the general meeting please.

Jane & Marilyn

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Molly Bramley.
2nd Tuesday 10-12noon - Stuart Avenue Centre

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

This month we enjoyed an informal but fascinating talk by U3A member Ann Childs. Ann is also a member of the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group [FTNCG] who last year were awarded a lottery grant to delve into the history of Spa Ponds or as known to some locals 'Garibaldi Ponds'.

The [FTNCG] group had looked into historical records and maps, surveyed and logged the trees, taken many photographs and used lidar imaging. Ann had been responsible for the oral history side of things and she and a small team had interviewed people in the age group 60 to 90+. For many Garibaldi Ponds had been a play area in their younger days when they took a picnic of jam sandwiches and a bottle of water.

It roused many memories for Alan one of our group members and he is now on Ann's list if more oral history recording is done.

There were many interesting photographs for us to look at and it was also interesting to learn of the conservation work all the volunteers are doing. They have regular work sessions and anyone is welcome to join them.



Volunteers
walking down to
Spa Ponds

Spa Ponds which can be reached off Clipstone Drive is also a lovely place for a walk - going down is easy, coming back is a little steep.

Discover more on

<https://www.facebook.com/FTNCG/>
www.foresttown.net/index.php/nature

Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: *Denise Whitsed*

3rd Wednesday

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: *Kath Wolstenholme*

2nd Monday Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave 10-12

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: *John Kirk*

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Twenty Seven members met at the Arena on Friday 6th April, a sad occasion as we remembered Keith and his dedication to the 60's music group, we played one of his favourite Shadows tracks as we also remembered his forming of the 'Rave On' 60's Group with Chris and John and his work for charity with 'Rave On'.

The way forward and future of the group was discussed, with various ideas coming from Chris and John.



Valerie Newborough [in photograph] gave us an intriguing and mind searching musical quiz about her favourite singer Engelbert Humperdinck and told us a few little known facts about the singer, which, I for one didn't know.

John Kirk gave us a potted history of one of his favourite groups, The Hollies, along with some of their hits and suggested that other members do a similar write up of their favourite group or artist for future meetings.

John Kirk has agreed to be the contact point for the group.

Bob Hunt

National Trust



A visit to Mr Straws house is taking place on the 26th April too late for a report to go in this issue of the newsletter. It is hoped to arrange a visit to the [Southwell] Workhouse in May.

Ann

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: *Christine Cawthorne*

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

Rambling

Group Leader: *Andrew Riby*

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

A dire weather forecast didn't put off the 9 brave souls who set out from the Upper Burbage car park near Hathersage for Carol & Mary's walk on the 4th April. We soon got a taste of the squally showers which would dog us all day as we walked along Stanage Edge with its views over the Hope Valley. The path coming off the Edge was a torrent of water.



Passing North Lees Hall, an Elizabethan tower house which was the inspiration for Thornfield Hall in Charlotte Bronte's novel 'Jane Eyre', we continued ever downward into Hathersage. There we sheltered in the church's porch and lych gate for lunch. It was all uphill after that, culminating in climbing the rocky outcrop of Higger Tor where we got yet another soaking taking in the view. A thoroughly enjoyable walk despite the conditions.

Our second walk on 18th April from Ilam Hall lead by Steve will be remembered for the gorgeous Staffordshire countryside bathed in glorious sunshine.

Our route took us through Dove Dale where some chose to cross the river via the stepping stones. Waiting on the opposite bank with camera at the ready, I confess to being a little disappointed they all crossed over without incident.



Entering Hall Dale, we lost the crowds of tourists. A steady climb to the village of Stanhope and then on to Castern Hall afforded wonderful views over the Manifold Valley with plenty of small lambs to watch. Refreshment in the garden of the National Trust café at Ilam rounded off the walk.

Our next rambles: 2nd May: Calver, Bramley Wood, Hassop, Pilsley, River Derwent (7¼ miles). 16th May: Wortley and Wharcliffe Crags. (8½ 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*

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

Short Walks



Contact Marilyn Redfern

Today, April 23rd five intrepid travellers, (well five U3A members) went off to Laxton for the first walk for this group. The walk turned out to be 4.6 miles and not 3½ miles as promised but what's an extra mile between friends! This was a lovely flat walk (OK, slight incline at the start to get the heart pumping) and it's always nice to try somewhere new.

Laxton, just a couple of miles through Ollerton, is a beautiful village and I have to confess to a bit of property envy. The views were stunning and we passed by the old site of Bailey castle, although only earthworks to evidence this, imagination was needed to picture how the castle would have looked.

The walk ended at St Michaels 12th century church, the bonus being that the church was open so we took the opportunity to explore inside. We all enjoyed the day, which ended with light lunch at the Dovecote Inn.

Next walk: Monday 28th May from Vicar Water car park at 10.30am.

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Table Tennis

Group Leader: *Marilyn Redfern*

Meet - 1st Tuesday Meden & Oak Hill Leisure Centre

10:30 - 12:30

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: *Gordon Chapman*

Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm

Mansfield Superbowl 2000.



Allan, Gordon, Geoff, Marilyn, Sheila, Terry, John.

The indoor bowling group meet every 2nd Thursday of each month at the bowling venue on the traffic light junction of Stockwell Gate and Rosemary Street, at 2pm. Car parking is free in the bowling alley car park adjacent to the building.

We usually have 7 or 8 members attending at each meeting, and on Thursday 12th. April, 7 members were present, and we used two lanes, there being 3 members in one lane, and 4 members in the other lane.

We don't have a league, but there is competition between us, and we each sometimes have a good week, and other weeks are not so good. We do have plenty of laughs though.

Shelia, Marilyn and John were in one team, and Gordon, Terry, Allan and Geoff were in the second team. In the first team, Shelia won the first game with a score of 98, whilst John won the second game with a score of 120. In the second team, Gordon won both games with a first score of 113, and a second score of 126.

On the Thursday 8th March meet, Allan won one game with an impressive score of 161, which we think might be a record for our group!!

We start at 2pm. and we usually finish about 3.45pm. and if any more members would like to join us, just turn up at the bowling alley on Thursday 10th. May, 2pm. The price is £6.50 for two games which includes tea/coffee at half time.

Terry Burrows

Trace Your Family History

Group Leader: Malcolm Marples

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre



At our last meeting there was plenty of discussion, looking at documents, old postcards some were 'Gypsy' related. We also looked at DNA information on the computer

Websites were discussed and Pauline showed a very long email she had had from someone in the USA searching her RICE family



Betty showing Pauline her family history file with some interesting facts about her Leicestershire family.

Pauline

CLASSIC CARS

Could those members who have shown an interest in starting this group (or anyone else) please contact Jane or Ann either by phone, e mail or at the next General Meeting please.



FUTURE MAIN MEETINGS

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

- 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

OUR JUNE SPEAKER

Philip Caine - Barrow to Bagdad and Back

Philip Caine traces his out-of-the-ordinary career from his days as a chef and manager in the hotel industry through his work with oil companies in Algeria and Nigeria - followed by seven years in Bagdad employed by the American Military. His account blends interest, humour and entertainment. The locations and his adventures whilst in the Middle East inspire the adventure books he writes. It promises to be a fascinating presentation.

THANK YOU

**To everyone who volunteers at
our main meeting,
who help run our
Groups and activities
and make our U3A a place to
LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE**

OUR APRIL MEETING



It was certainly a 'Full House' at our April meeting when Andy Smart gave a very interesting illustrated talk about his life, not just as a journalist but that he went to the Southwell Minster Grammar School.

One of the fellow pupils he recalled was Shane Fenton/Alvin Stardust and he recalled he was one of the nicest people he had met.

Another person who attended that school was Harold Cottam who later joined the Merchant Navy. It was Harold who was the youngest wireless operator serving on RMS Carpathia who picked up a distress message from the Titanic, he alerted the captain and because of this they were able to help save 705 lives. [Google Harold Cottams name to discover more about him, and the blue plaque unveiled in his name at the Ship Inn, Lowdham].

Andy told us how he started work at the Free Press newspaper when it was in Sutton-in-Ashfield. Some of his work was at the Mansfield Magistrates court and he recalled one man who made over 50 appearances and had plenty of excuses.

Another recollection was when Jayne Mansfield came to the press ball at the Palais de Dance in Mansfield and she didn't charge a fee. She stayed at the Swan Hotel and in her bed was a stone hot water bottle!

Andy was involved with producing the 'Bygones' newspaper which ran for 20 years and these contained many themes such as:

'Royal Visits' 'Old Cinemas' 'The winter of 1947', the 'Old Black Boy Hotel' in Nottingham where once the Australian Cricket Team stayed, 'World War One', 'Watson Fothergill' the architect and much more.

Space does not allow for the many interesting things Andy told us, it is enough to say 'it was a great talk'.

Pauline

HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2018



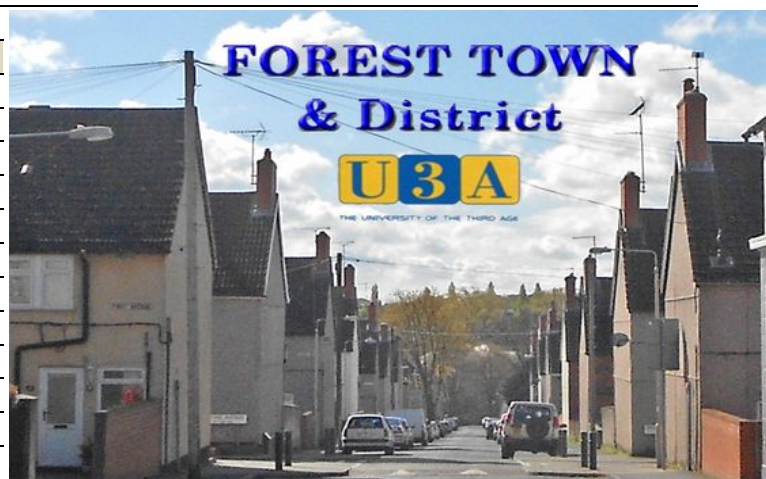
**A holiday arranged staying at
Nidd Hall, North Yorkshire
Monday 26th November to Friday 30th November
Cost £390.**

The cost includes a visit to Castle Howard (Twelve days of Christmas Theme), on the outward journey. Ampleforth Abbey and free time in Helmsley on return journey

**For more details about this and other holidays and outings see the Holiday Notice Board for more information at the main meeting.
or contact Denise on 07791941502
or email deewhits@aol.com
Cheques payable to SKILLS**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR THE JUNE ISSUE 21st April
Send reports etc to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk
or by post to
15 Elmhurst Road, Forest Town, NG19 0EU**

<i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee</i>	
Committee Position	Name
<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 Memb Sec.</i>	<i>Bob Hunt</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Hazel Hett</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Denise Whitsed</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Pauline Marples</i>



The Avenues today