



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome A very warm welcome to this latest copy of our Newsletter. As I write this we are in the middle of beautiful warm sunny weather which I hope you have all had the opportunity to enjoy. I have been inside rather more than usual as my wife very recently had a knee replacement and I am carrying out my 'nursing duties'!

Membership I am pleased that so many of our members renewed their membership over the last couple of months and we have also enrolled a good number of new members. At the latest count our membership stood at a healthy 228. Should you have friends who you believe would enjoy our U3A we are still able to take in more new members.

Groups Our Group Leaders and Group Co-ordinators work hard to make the Interest Groups lively and interesting. Why not consider joining one of what is now a good variety of groups; try something you have never thought of doing before, you might be surprised how much you enjoy a new experience.

AGM Our AGM will be included in our June Main Meeting – yes, I know it isn't very exciting, but something we need to do; we will keep it brief! I am pleased to advise you that we have received two new nominations for the committee, Sue Harkin and Steve Evans.

Projector Project We have now received three quotations for our own projector and screen. Your Committee has decided on the equipment to purchase and an order will be placed very shortly. We are very grateful for the donations received including from our membership.

Holidays and Trips In the main Denise Whitsed our Social Secretary will concentrate on organising day trips next year with us working with Sherwood and Warsop U3A's for the longer holidays. Denise is

already looking at opportunities for next year and would welcome suggestions as to what day trips you would like to go on and that you think others would enjoy.

Mike King Chairman

OUR JUNE MEETING

Thursday 7th June in St Alban's Church

Please sign in.

**1.45pm Welcome by Mike our Chairman
AGM**

**Followed by our guest speaker
Philip Caine - Barrow to Bagdad and Back**

Philip 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 7 years in Baghdad employed by the American Military. His account blends interest, humour and entertainment. The location and his adventures whilst in the Middle East inspire the adventure books he writes.

It promises to be a fascinating presentation.

**Tea/coffee will then be served,
when you can look at the display boards and
chat to other members.**

**This will be followed by the
Announcements and Notices**

The Gardening Group Trip to Barnsdale Gardens 9th April



The gardens range from an allotment to rose gardens, rock garden and a garden designed by children which including a fairy bridge over a steaming stream! Thirty Six individual gardens covering eight acres were created by Gardener's World Geoff Hamilton and give inspiration to all gardeners visiting this unique site.

Ann

LOOKING BACK TO OUR MAY MEETING

Les Boyington gave an interesting and informative talk on his ascent of Kilimanjaro which he told us was a volcano (last erupted 200 years ago) and at 5,900 metres high is the highest free-standing mountain in the world; it is 3% south of the equator.

The idea of Les making the climb came to him when he was 55 and had spoken to a friend who at age 60 did the same climb; Les was 60 when he undertook the challenge along with 8 other people who were mainly freemasons and they called their group 'Masters of the Mountain'.

There was an intense period of training prior to the climb and amongst others Les climbed Sca Fell Pike and Snowdon in addition to climbing a mountain whilst on holiday in Portugal!

There was a 40-mile drive to Kilimanjaro and Les showed a series of slides taken on the journey but the group were not allowed out on their own in the local village.

About 50,000 people try to climb the mountain each year; they observed several being escorted down because they weren't properly prepared. It was sobering to learn that 10 people die each year on the mountain with three times that number dying after the climb.

Climbers are counted on to the mountain and when they return. The group took out extra insurance in case they needed to be taken off by helicopter.

Each of the group carried their personal kit but 30 porters carried the majority with packs of 20Kg but still trailing up the mountain singing and laughing! All packs were weighed prior to the climb. It took 4 hours to the 1st camp and on the second day another 4 hours to the 2nd camp at 3610m.

On the day before the final ascent they camped in the crater of the volcano and then climbed up the final 1,000m up to the ridge and the summit tired, aching and speechless - 'It was worth it'. The group took 6 days to reach the top, which they all succeeded in doing. It took just one and a half days to descend.

Les donated his fee of £60 to the NSPCC and a collection box resulted in a further £144.50.

Mike King

FUN TIME

How's the little lad who swallowed the £1 coin doctor?

No change yet, I'm afraid



LOOKING AHEAD

Our 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

HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2018 -2019

All the holidays and outings for 2018 are full, Denise is now considering ideas for 2019. If you have any suggestions, speak to her at the main meeting or

Contact Denise on 07791941502
or email deewhits@aol.com

MR STRAWS HOUSE WORKSOP NATIONAL TRUST



There has been considerable interest in having a National Trust Group and this is one visit that recently took place. It is hoped to go to the Workhouse, Southwell in June. HOWEVER to get this group off of the ground it desperately needs a leader.

Ann Stanford organised this one but as well as being Group Co-ordinator she is already involved in other groups plus being a committee member. There is a limit to her talent and time, **PLEASE** will someone consider taking on this role of group leader and ensuring the group survives.

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 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
W		Tia Chi - (Weekly)			

Art Appreciation

4th Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena

This month a few of our group visited the Harley Gallery on the Welbeck Estate. We began by admiring the items, from an artistic point of view, for sale in the shop and pointing out favourites, regarding colour, form and functionality. From there we studied the ceramics of Adam Frew, in his exhibition, "Form and Function". Functionality came in the form of large flat dishes, small pots with lids, bowls and vases. Colours and designs were sourced from the Northern Irish coast where he lives, so that the collection was suggestive of the sea, with muted, pastel shades of blues and greys - all quite restful. Favourites were selected, of course!

On the next floor was the "Loud and Clear" exhibition, presented by the National Glass Centre. This we found fascinating, with some of the bigger, more expensive pieces of glasswork producing "oohs" and "ahs" of admiration for their beautiful colours and shapes. There was great variety in this exhibition, and I was particularly struck by Helen Pailing's work, "re-crafting waste". One item, using small metal objects and representing spikiness and chaos, made me smile.

Altogether, our visit was absorbing and engrossing and led to some lively discussions. A visit to the adjacent Portland Gallery remains for another time.

Apologies to any members of the group that we were unable to contact about our trip: we did try!

_____ Kay

Bird Watching

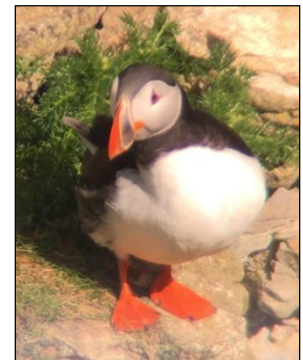
Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

of the spectacular coastline near Bridlington. At this time of year thousands of seabirds use the cliffs for nesting and raising their chicks.

The main species to be seen are Gannets, Razorbills, Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Fulmars and Puffins. Of course it is the Puffins we went mainly wishing to see, and I am glad to report, that amidst the thousands of birds to be viewed we did spot in total 8 Puffins (four times as many as last year) and we had a really clear and long view of several of them.

The photo is one taken by Andy who tried out his new gadget that enables a mobile phone to be secured over the lens of the telescope, the result being an enlarged, clearer image.



Puffins, like many other birds, are on the decline. Research, which goes by the name of the Puffarazzi project, blames this decline on less availability of their main food source - Sandeels. This appears to be the result, in the main to two major factors, climate change and commercial Sandeel fisheries, causing depletion of available stocks. Let us hope that something can be done to address this problem. Puffins are beautiful birds and Bempton is well worth a visit.

_____ Lynne

Book Club



Group Leader: Ann Stanford

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

For our May meeting a small group of the Bird Watchers paid a visit to Bempton Cliffs which form part

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

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

Another month has passed by at the speed of light, Finally bringing with it the glorious spring weather, which has cheered us up considerably.

We welcomed both a returning and a new member both finding their feet (and nimble fingers) as one lady requested that she be taught how to crochet, a skill that was willingly passed on to her.

Memo, Jean we will look forward to viewing The Crochet Cushion Covers that you have been commissioned to make with your new found skills! 😊

We worked our on-going projects of knitted garments for the neo-natal unit at King's Mill, lace bookmarks and a patchwork cot quilt for a baby due in July although somehow that may prove to be a deadline too close for comfort.

The topics under discussion ranged from cars parking outside properties, the forthcoming Royal Wedding, the best wool shops in the local area for prices and good customer service, and, as ever, the excuse of the month for no cups of tea being available.

Next meeting Monday 11th June, 2.00pm (there is a Rumour of Cake being supplied!)

Jane

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

The May meeting began with a small but select group tackling another diverse range of topics, including:

Is it better to see the same GP each time?
the consensus being "yes" for the obvious reasons of continuity of care, and not having to repeat your "back history," and building up a rapport and trust with one person.

Should the owners who leave dogs locked up in parked cars in the heat be prosecuted? Again, there was an overwhelming agreement of "yes".

How can it be right for a young girl from Nottingham with mental health problems having to be sent to Edinburgh for long term treatment? It was agreed that more should be spent on this area of health provision.

Do we really need so many Bank Holidays now most workers have statutory holidays? They were original brought in force when no workers had days off work (with the exception of Christmas and maybe Easter). They can be disruptive of travel timetables, scheduled appointments, meetings, and radio and TV programmes. Opinion was divided on this, a partial agreement of No More would be a compromise; (as apparently, Jeremy Corbyn has advocated two more St George and St David).

Will the proposed merger of Sainsbury and Asda be a good deal for the customer and suppliers? It was agreed it would not be beneficial in the long run, as the suppliers, especially farmers, would be under pressure to lower their prices and possible go out of business.

Should £10,000 be paid to the over 25s to help them onto the housing ladder or start up a business, and should pensioners in work have to pay more taxes to fund this proposal? This was wholeheartedly rejected, as a lot of the younger people interviewed themselves didn't think it would be of much help to them.

The morning was rounded off by delicious refreshments, and a surprise tour of Desley and John's beautiful spring garden.

Jane

Dining Out

Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern

4th Thursday

Our April night out was another success and it was nice to see some new faces. We went to the Rose Cottage at Rufford. For those of you who haven't tried it yet, I can recommend it. The restaurant has an Alice in Wonderland theme so lots of interesting decor to enjoy. The food was good and the staff very accommodating.

Some dates for your diary for coming events;

28th June. Hardwick Inn

26th July. Emillios Greek restaurant in Arnold

30th August Farndon Boathouse near Newark

Deposits can be paid at the next general meeting and a menu for Hardwick will be available to see.

Marilyn

Gardening

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

Our group spent a pleasant morning this month, during a spell of glorious weather (our first bout of summer!). We first met at the Community Centre, Stuart Avenue, for a chat and a catch-up.

From there we visited the garden of one of our group members - and what a treat we had! Marilyn and her husband have created a beautiful plot, terraced and with trees, shrubs and colourful perennials; everywhere one looked there was something of interest to catch the eye: flowers, garden ornaments and features. Particularly striking was a "dilapidated" (intentionally so) wall structure, with a pretty window, at the bottom of the garden, and this lent a romantic feel to the area (one thought of a Victorian folly). The whole effect was delightful and charming.

Refreshments were provided, and we were able to enjoy these al fresco, in a pretty spot. Many thanks to our host and hostess for inviting us to their inspiring garden.

Next month we are meeting at Stuart Avenue Community Centre as usual, to make bug houses. So please bring an old mug, pieces of bamboo cane, pine cones, acorns and any other suitable bits and pieces.

Kay

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples .
3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

This month we did something a little different. Pauline had been looking at a book about Edwinstowe, which was basically an A-Z of interesting facts about the village and this had started her thinking it might be a good idea to produce something similar for Forest Town, never a good thing for everyone else when Pauline gets that Local History glint in her eye and production of books are mentioned!

Anyway, we decided to humour her and started going through the alphabet naming any facts, places, people and other interesting items we knew about Forest Town, these didn't have to be historical; they could also be modern as Pauline pointed out when we failed to think of Asda! For those of you who may be wondering what's so interesting about that, it drastically altered the landscape in that area when it was built.

Some lively debates followed as to whether this or that fell within the Forest Town boundary, where

did it end and Clipstone begin and where exactly were the boundaries of the Parish? Also certain places caused further discussion as they could fall under different letters, did St Alban's come under S or A? Some letters were more difficult to find, as anyone who has played alphabet games will know, I, Q, U, X, Y and Z among them, but we did come up with something for every letter.

After a (late) tea break, we were that engrossed; we looked at some photos of local places and guessed where they were, not always easy when every day views are seen through the eye of a camera. Next month Pauline and I will be giving an update on our research into the occupants of Sherwood Hall.

Jenny

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

The Lunch Club will now meet every two months at West Notts. College (Refined Dining) visiting other venues on the alternate months. The next lunch is at Refined Dining on the 22nd June - £10 for 3 courses.

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: John Kirk

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

John spoke about Keith for a few minutes before introducing Win. short for Winston our new member of the music group. Chris was on holiday this month so Win and myself supplied the music. This month's featured artist was Bobby Darin and Sandra Evans took the chair for the quiz. We had an excellent turnout of 32 members so thank you for that and we hope to see you all again on Friday 1st of June.

John

National Trust (See Page 2)

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .

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

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme

2nd Monday Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave 10-12

A small number of members attended the Group on Monday 15th May and enjoyed looking at poems by Pam Ayres, also a compilation in a book by Felix Dennis. We also having visited the Library where local poet Henry Normal read his poems discussed

this. The play by Agatha Christie, 'A Murder is Announced' was also debated.

Kath

Rambling

Group Leader: Andrew Riby

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

Our first walk in May was billed the bluebell walk. We set out from Calver with high expectations in pouring rain. Climbing steeply to Bramley Wood bluebell plants abounded, but with only the odd one in flower. We overcame our disappointment taking in the views of Froggatt, Curbar and Baslow Edges and distant views of Chatsworth House. The sun came out after our morning break at Hassop's magnificent neoclassical style church. Lunch was taken on the green in Pilsley, admiring its pretty 18th and 19th century cottages. On through rolling countryside with big views we came to Bubnell. Here we finally found a worthy display of bluebells in Townend Wood. We rounded off the walk with a drink in the Derwent Arms, HQ of the Calver Cricket Club.



Approaching Bubnell

On our second walk in May, we set out from Wortley (near Barnsley) the weather was fine but it was breezy. We started walking along the Trans Pennine Trail towards Copley Wood and were amazed by the amount of bluebell plants that were out in full bloom.



We then walked towards Howbrook where we had a short break before heading towards Booth Wood where we saw more bluebell plants. We walked

along the Barnsley Boundary walk towards Wharnccliffe Chase where we stopped for our lunch and enjoyed the excellent views looking over More Hall and Broomhead reservoirs. We then continued our walk along Wharnccliffe Craggs back towards Wortley. We went for refreshments at the Countess Tea Rooms, Wortley.

Our next rambles: 6th June: Castleton, Back Tor, Hollins Cross Mam Tor, Hurd Low & Peveril Castle (7.6 miles). **20th June:** Great Longstone, Rowland, Cavendish Mill, Longstone Edge (8.9 miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing, departing at 8:40 am. New members always welcome.

Andy & Steve

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

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

Short Walks

Contact Marilyn Redfern

Marilyn

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10.30am

On what so far was the hottest days in April eleven strollers left the courtyard car park at Thoresby Hall to stroll to Perlethorpe. The small church was open and we went in, it was good to see the church still had pews. We were to do a circular stroll, unfortunately half way round the road was flooded. Nevertheless an alternative route was found back and we finished an enjoyable morning with refreshments in the coffee shop and a look in the small shops.

On one of the many sunny days in May we have had, fourteen strollers meandered along the paths in Sherwood Forest and finished with refreshments in the cafe.

We next meet at 10.30 am Friday 15 June in the car park at Brierley Park, Huthwaite.

Denise

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.

There were 5 of our members who met to bowl on Thursday 10th May, Shelia, John, Geoff, Gordon, and Terry, and Kathy came as a spectator.

In the first set, Gordon bowled 4 strikes, scoring 136, and Geoff bowled 1 strike, and scored an impressive 130, whilst Shelia bowled 1 strike and scored 92, with Terry scoring 82 and John scoring 76.

In the second game, Geoff scored 146 whilst John scored 120, and also had 2 strikes, Terry scored 116 and had 1 strike, with Gordon scoring 86 and had 1 strike, Shelia scoring 84.

If you would like to try your skills at bowling, then come along to the next meeting at the Mansfield bowling rink on Thursday 14th June. All are welcome.

Terry .

Tai Chi

This group which started on the 8th May is meeting every Tuesday, 2-30 to 3-45pm at Forest Town Methodist Church Hall. The cost, to cover hire of the Hall, is £10 for 10 weeks.

For more information -

Contact Ann Stanford.

Trace Your Family History

Group Leader: *Malcolm Marples*

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre

At this month's meeting there was a lot of discussion on birth, marriage and death certificates that Pauline & Malcolm had purchased via the GRO web site. This was a new experience for them ordering certificates via the internet, and it was from discussions with group member Julie they had tried this method. We all spoke about where the information on the certificates could now lead.

David showed us his father's RAF service records and told of the new discoveries he had made from these. Mike was in his element discovering research on the Family Search Web Site via his lap top, his family tree was suddenly branching out from a little twig to a big tree! Everyone was helping each other and it was a good meeting.

Pauline



Mike & Julie studying information

FROM COMPUTER BOB

Sometimes we want to share photographs or files with family and friends, sending them individually can be time consuming and some ISP's limit the size of files you can send by email.

By using a file hosting site website such as

<https://dropbox.com>

or

<https://wettransfer.com>

you can send a batch of photographs, or files, to one person or a group of people.

A guide on how to use these sites can be found on the Computer group web page:

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

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.

**REMEMBER
TO LEARN, LAUGH, AND LIVE
WITH THE U3A
THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE THIRD AGE**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FOR THE JULY ISSUE 24th JUNE
email contributions to
pauline@mp-marples.co.uk
or send to 15 Elmhurst Rd.
Forest Town. NG19 0EU**

Trip to Chavenage House - Jenny Wright

The first part of the journey down was marred by Highways England working on the same stretches of road we wanted to use, rush hour traffic, and an unscheduled stop in a lay by as we'd been sent the wrong bus and needed to swap over! Needless to say we were all glad when we finally reached Wychbold where we stopped for a much needed comfort break. The remainder of the journey was mercifully hitch free and we were treated to some stunning views once we left the motorway and began to climb up into the Cotswolds.

On our arrival at Chavenage House we were greeted by Caroline Lowsley-Williams, the daughter of the present owner, and were taken into the Great Hall where we were given a potted history of the house, parts of which date back to medieval times. Only two families have owned the house since the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Stephens family from about 1562 until 1891 and from then on the Lowsley-Williams.



Nowadays the house and grounds are maintained solely by family members, apart from a housekeeper, Caroline and her father David act as tour guides, her brother maintains the grounds with the help of a ride on mower nicknamed 'Poldark', while another family member does all the baking and refreshments, the scones for the cream tea were out of this world!

Caroline then took us on a tour of the downstairs rooms, her dry sense of humour, encyclopaedic knowledge of the house and its contents, plus a wealth of amusing stories about her family made her the ideal host. After the cream tea, taken in the ballroom, we were allowed to explore Cromwell's and Ireton's tapestried bedrooms upstairs, plus the Minstrel's Gallery. To enable the family to raise the money needed to maintain the house, it along with the gardens and grounds are available for hire, Caroline said that dealing with Mother of the Bride is a pushover compared to Pony Club mothers!

Plus there is the filming, over the years the house has featured in Poirot, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Wolf Hall, Grace and Favour, Casualty, Cider with Rosie, Dracula, Larkrise to Candleford, Bonekickers, New Worlds, and is currently Trenwith House in the Poldark TV series. It is amazing how many counties the house has been transported to and the family were amused last year when their trees appeared in France during one particular episode of Poldark but had mysteriously returned to their usual spot by the next morning. The main gates are now referred to as the 'Magic Gates', as on Poldark's arrival the gates open to reveal the Cornish coast beyond, (that's some view from the Cotswolds!).

One unexpected windfall enabled them to repair the roof in the late 1960s when her father stumbled on a series of architectural drawings in the attic rooms he and his model railway had been banished to. These were of the state rooms at Windsor Castle, it isn't known how they came to be at Chavenage House, but they were subsequently purchased by a lady of the realm who often resides there and are now in the Royal Archives. They were of great use during the restoration of Windsor Castle following the fire there in 1992.

I can highly recommend a visit to Chavenage House if you are ever in the Cotswolds, but please check the website first www.chavenage.com as they are only open at certain times of the year.

Many thanks go to Caroline and her family for their hospitality, and also to Denise for organising another great day out. Please accept my apologies if I have any of the facts wrong,.

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee /Contacts

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



The Avenues today