



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome to this December (dare I say Christmas), edition of our Newsletter, full as usual with interesting and informative articles.

A Thank You - As most of you will know by now this is the last edition produced and edited by Pauline Marples ably assisted by Malcolm. It is now three years since I accosted(!) Pauline in Asda and asked her to produce a Newsletter for our then newly formed U3A. I knew that Pauline had experience as she had in the past produced the local Forest Town Crier and also written books on Forest Town.

Pauline was pleased, I think, to do this for us and enthusiastically went ahead producing the excellent publication that we have enjoyed over the last three years. I know you will all join me in giving Pauline and Malcolm a HUGE thank you for all they have done to support our U3A by producing our Newsletter.

Vacancy This leads me on to the perhaps obvious point that we now need one of our members to come forward and take on the role of Newsletter Editor.

The Newsletter is our main source of communication to our membership, received either by email or by collecting a printed copy at our Main Meeting. If you enjoy reading the Newsletter, which you tell me you do, then you would not want us not to have one in the future.

I am confident that there is at least one of our members who has the enthusiasm to carry on the good work produced by Pauline and who would want to support our membership in this way.

Any publication would be in that person's own style and they would bring their own ideas to the Newsletter. Pauline has indicated that she would be willing to offer some initial support if required as has Bob Hunt if there are any IT technical questions.

Please contact me at mikethos42@yahoo.com or phone me on 01623 470929 or 07790177224 if you are interested in the role of Newsletter Editor; or speak to me or any committee member at the December monthly meeting.

It has already been decided not to have an edition in January so therefore someone needs to be in place by the middle of January at the latest in order that an edition can be prepared for circulation in February.

CHRISTMAS is coming - Finally I wish all our members the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Mike King Chairman

OUR DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday 6th December
1.45pm in St Alban's Church



Welcome by Mike our Chairman

Pupils from Forest Town Primary School will entertain us by singing Carols and Christmas songs.

also

Members of Sutton in Ashfield U3A Drama Group performing monologues and sketches.



BOOK EXCHANGE

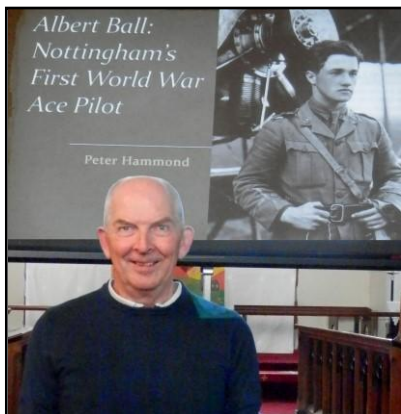


There will be no Book Exchange table in December

LOOKING BACK to our SEPTEMBER MEETING

Peter Hammond gave us a very interesting talk about

Nottinghamshire born Albert Ball VC. Letters that Albert had written, (many of them to his father) over the years were the central theme of the talk. Most of which are retained in Nottinghamshire Archives.



We learnt about Albert's family life, his father, (also named Albert) was a well known person in his own right becoming a Mayor of Nottingham and later being knighted. Albert had two older sisters Hilda and Lois also a younger brother Arthur Cyril.

Peter emphasised various sections of the letters which were sent when he was at school, Albert was educated at Lenton Church School, Grantham Grammar School and Trent College in Long Eaton.

He joined the 'Officer Training Corp' when at college which stood him in good stead when he enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters in 1914 at the age of 18.

Albert decided to learn to fly and gained the relevant qualifications which enabled him towards the beginning of 1916 to transfer to the RFC (Royal Flying Corps). Throughout all this time letters continued to be sent home and not only did we learn about his military life but also his social and love life - it seems he was fond of the ladies!

Much is recorded about his flying career and that he became one of Britain's top scoring pilots. He was awarded the Military Cross with DSO's.

Sadly Albert Ball was killed in an air fight on the 17th May 1917. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross and his medal was presented to his parents by King George V on 22nd July 1917.

It was disappointing members were not given the opportunity to ask Peter questions after his talk, I am sure there would have been many.

We now live in an age when people use mobile phones and the internet rather than write letters which suggests that such a talk will not be possible in the future!

Pauline

OUR JANUARY MEETING

**Will be on Thursday January 3rd 2019
in St Alban's Church 1.45pm**

when

**David Tideswell will tell us about
Autumn and Winter Birds**

David takes a look at gardening with birds and wildlife in mind, the correct way to feed the birds and how we can identify the birds that will visit during the Winter months.

THE MAIN MEETINGS IN 2019

Jan 3 rd	David Tideswell	Autumn & Winter Birds
Feb 7 th	Tony Brewer	Photo Quiz
Mar 7 th	Nick Blurton	Confessions of a Coach Driver
Apr 4 th	PC Jayne Walters	Personal Safety
May 2 nd	Trevor Dempsey	Pinewood to Hollywood and more
Jun 6 th	AGM & Members meeting	No Speaker. Show and Tell displays by groups
Jul 4 th	Phil Cooper	A trip of a lifetime - Syria, Damascus, and much more
Aug 1 st	TBA	Nottingham Search & Rescue
Sep 5 th	John Smith	Reading Body language: My Guide to People Watching
Oct 3 rd	Roger Browne	From New Orleans to New York (Live recreation of tunes from jazz tour of 1919)
Nov 7 th	TBA	TBA
Dec 5 th	Members meeting	Slide Show; review of the year

**WE ARE AWARE AS WE SEND SEASONS GREETINGS
TO YOU ALL THAT NOT EVERYONE FINDS
CHRISTMAS AN EASY TIME**

**LONELINESS, ILLNESS OR THE LOSS OF A FAMILY
MEMBER OR FRIEND, CAN MAKE IT HARD TO BE
JOYFUL.**

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU ALL



INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st	Book Club	Table Tennis Tai Chi	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 nd	Craft Poetry & Play Reading	Gardening Tai Chi	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling	Bridge Scrabble & Rummikub
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Family History	Tai Chi	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers Dancing
4 th	Short Walks	Art Appreciation Tai Chi	Classic Vehicles	Painting & Drawing Scrap Booking Evening Dining Out	Bridge
Groups with no Set Day - National Trust					

Art Appreciation

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

This month (October) a small group of us visited the Djanogly Gallery, adjacent to Nottingham University. This rewarding and interesting visit took in the University Autumn Exhibition, Mandy Payne's photographic exhibits and the Archaeological section. The display of students' artwork was fascinating and encompassed a wide variety of subjects and mediums ("giclée"? :- found out this is a form of inkjet printing). Much discussion arose, as we made our way round the gallery, picking out our favourites (sadly beyond our pockets!) and those not-so-liked. We were unanimous in not responding well to the overall winner!

Mandy Payne's exhibits of Sheffield's 60s deteriorating tower blocks (representing Brutalism in architecture) provoked a lot of discussion.

Energies were restored at the well run cafe, and we all felt we had learnt a lot and had a jolly good natter.

Next month one or two of us will talk about a favourite female artist, and we'll also discuss plans for future meetings.

Kay

Bird Watching

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

Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford
Meet 1st Monday 10.30am Forest Town Library
Contact 01623 641864
Email annstanford1@sky.com

Bridge

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

Next meeting 14th December 2018.
No meeting on 28th December 2018.
The next meeting will be 11th January 2019.

Classic Vehicles

Contact Ann Stanford 01623 641864
4th Wednesday 2pm Forest Town Arena
Email annstanford1@sky.com

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: Bob Hunt
email_foresttownu3a@outlook.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

Our usual "small but select" group assembled to put the world to rights, whilst keeping hands busy on various projects:

The (very Last) lace garter, in readiness for A Certain Wedding in December,

a knitted hot water bottle cover for a rather unusually-shaped bottle,

a twiddle muff (see Valerie's item last month);
 small knitted "comfort" squares used for new mums and babies (used to transfer mutual body scents),

and a very intense competition between two ladies who were making crocheted bed - throws for family members both requested that 'No Orders' were being taken, despite them being greatly admired.

Topics under discussion were the amazing poppy tributes that have been decorating streets, churches and shopping centres.

President Trump's abysmal "excuse" for refusing to attend a remembrance service due to the rains,;

the possibility that Tea May be available "soon" for refreshments (nobody is holding her breath on that one!),

and a germ of an idea for a "proper" group project, subject to be decided upon later - watch this space.

Jane



Two Cot blankets Jane has been working on.

Evening Dining Out

Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern

4th Thursday

Contact jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com

mjirfern@gmail.com

On 15th November a small group visited Masala Junction in Sherwood for what can only be described as gourmet Indian food - and what a fantastic meal we had! The restaurant was a former bank and the restoration and decor is impressive, as was the service. No doubt we will be returning next year.

Jane

DINING OUT GROUP 2019

Jan 24th Launay's

**Serving Anglo - French menu
Church Street, Edwinstowe NG21 9QA**

Feb 28th The Lion

**Serving modern British cuisine, pub classics & steaks
Main St. Farnsfield NG22 8EY**

March 28th Naaz

**Traditional Indian food
Priory Square Mans/Woodhouse NG19 9LN**

April 25th Zucca

**Italian & Mediterranean cuisine & Tapas
7 Ryton St, Worksop S80 2AY**

May 23rd Van Dyk's

**Modern European fine dining
Worksop Rd Clowne S43 4TD**

June 27th Farndon Boathouse

**Modern home cooked
& locally produced food
N End, Farndon NG24 3SX**

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Mollie Bramley.

2nd Tuesday 10-12noon - Stuart Avenue Centre

Contact Angelina 01623 622871

Mollie 01623 635051

What a lovely morning we had - all 13 of us - at the last meeting! We sat amongst evergreens cut from our gardens, fashioning Christmas wreaths: holly, laurel, bay, conifers, ivy and suchlike were twined round wire supports or inserted into a solid base, while pine cones and sparkly bits were added.

At times there was the silence of great concentration, and then the buzz of quiet chatter. I think we were all very pleased with what we produced, and when they were put together they made a lovely festive show of great variety (to be seen dotted round Forest Town/Mansfield in the near future!).

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

Dancing (Country and Sequence)

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

Meet 3rd Friday 2-4pm

Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.

Contact 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER



Unfortunately due to three members having NHS appointments we had to cancel our November meeting at short notice.

As we are now in the season of contacting family and friends by sending Christmas cards or paying visits to them, it is a good time for anyone interested in family history to ask what information/memories they have about relatives. It is amazing what little snippet might come out of an envelope, phone call or party.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Malcolm

Local History

Group Leader: *Pauline Marples*

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk

The intention this month was for Pauline to do her talk and slide show on Mansfield and Clipstone Camp, however with this being done to a small group (10 of us) it gave the opportunity to study and discuss each of the pictures in more depth which proved very interesting.

Of immediate interest was a photo of miners on a tram, some of them just boys. It was noticed that at least one carried a 'Dudley' for his drinking water. The advert on the tram created interest 'Stevens of Stockwell Gate Wholesale & Retail', and it was decided the photo was taken at the Crown Farm end of the tram line on Eakring Road.



Thanks again to those who provided us with refreshments. Next month (11th December) we'll be having our Christmas fuddle, with everyone in the group providing sweet or savoury items.

Kay

Family History

Group Leader: *Malcolm Marples*

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk



A slide of people who helped Belgium Refugees with donations of goods etc., invoked a discussion on some of the names, such as:

Messrs Leckenby's Employees who gave groceries,
Mr Sankey, Old Mill Lane, potatoes,
Mr Kent, loan of violin and automatic piano,
Messrs Heane Bros. Two pairs of blankets.

So interesting did it all prove to be we never finished the slide show and only just managed to make time for tea and biscuits.

Pauline

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed

3rd Wednesday

Contact deewhits@aol.com

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: John Kirk

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 640528

Email johnensorkirk@gmail.com

This was the first time for us in the Arena lounge, (see photo back page) which turned out be much more suitable in terms of both space and comfort. We have booked the next three months there and hopefully this will become our new home.

First time too for our new lady vocalist Irene who was made welcome by everyone and we hope to feature her much more in the future.

These are early days for all of us as we get used to each other and learn new material. I am also happy to report that Irene will be joining us for the U3A Christmas lunch at South Forest on 14th December, plus of course our regular meeting on the first Friday in the month. Cheers for now,

John.

National Trust Group

Ann Stanford 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

Christmas at Hardwick on Wednesday 5th December. 10-30am from The Arena - for car share, or 11am at the main entrance at Hardwick. The house opens at 11am and closes 3pm.

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: *Christine Cawthorne* .

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

Contact 01623 658171

Around four members met for an enjoyable session in November.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: *Kath Wolstenholme*

2nd Monday Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave 10-12

Contact 01623 617194

Email krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk

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

Carol led our first walk in November, a high level route setting off from the Grouse Inn near Froggatt. A short ascent up White Edge afforded distant views of Stanage Edge, Hathersage and the Great Ridge, with much closer views of red roe deer.



Plagued by a cold strong wind and prolonged heavy showers, Carol's energy packed homemade flapjack (recipe available on request) powered us round to Wellington's monument and Baslow Edge. Here we stopped for lunch with fine views over Chatsworth.

We didn't linger as yet another heavy shower hit us. A welcome dry spell along Froggatt Edge allowed us to enjoy spectacular autumn colours overlooking Gridleford, before a relaxing drink in the cosy bar back at the Grouse Inn.

Our second walk entitled "Holmesfield Histories and Halls" was led by Georganne. We set out from Holmesfield, west of Dronfield, on a bitterly cold but thankfully dry day.

Soon we came across our first hall – Woodthorpe, an attractive 17th century country house. Georganne gave us a well-researched potted history of each of the six halls we encountered. Bess of Hardwick apparently lived with her first husband, Robert Barlow at Barlow Woodseats Hall. He was just 13 when they married, she was 16.



There were great views throughout the walk, at times across to Sheffield, Totley Moor and White Edge. Hot chocolate was the favoured drink as we thawed out in a warm country pub at the end of the walk.



Our next rambles: 5th December: A short walk from Elmtun taking in Cresswell Crag before the Group's Christmas lunch which is now fully booked (5 miles). 19th December: Shipley Park, Cotmanhay & Erewash Canal (7 miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing, departing at 08:40 am prompt. New members always welcome.

Andy

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

**2nd Friday & 3rd Monday Forest Town Arena 2pm
Contact 01623 627905**

Scrap Booking

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

**4th Thursday 2-4pm - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.
Contact 01623 641864
Email annstanford1@sky.com**

Short Walks

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern

Meet 4th Monday 10.15am

Contact 01623 646547

Email mjrfern@gmail.com

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10: 30am

Contact 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

NOVEMBER STROLL - Even though the weather was overcast 14 strollers were still able to sit outside for refreshments after a leisurely walk round the lake at Rufford Park.

We next meet Friday 18th January at 10.30 am in the car park at Kings Mill Reservoir.

Denise

Table Tennis

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern

Meet - 1st Tuesday Meden & Oak Hill Leisure Centre

New Time 11:30 - 1:30

Contact 01623 646547

Email mjrfern@gmail.com

Tai Chi

Contact Ann Stanford. 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

The current set of tai chi sessions will end on 18th December until further notice.

I will contact group members when we restart.

Sue Harkin .

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

Meet 2nd Thursday 2pm

Mansfield Superbowl 2000.

Contact 01623 620012

Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

There were seven attended this months bowls meeting at the Mansfield indoor bowls venue. Sheila, Sue, John, Geoff made up one team, and Kathy, Allan and Terry made up team two. Geoff won both games in his team, and Allan and Terry drew the first game and Allan won the second game in their team.

As you can see from the following, members of the Bowls Team have taken to writing poetry!

Terry

TEN PIN TIME.

A poem by Allan Barham.

Ten pin is a monthly treat,
When at the Superbowl we meet,
Strikes and spares, they are our aim,
And we all succeed -- well now and again.

Gordon is the seasoned vet,
His back hand flip, we just don't get,
But that it works we can't deny,
To emulate him, we can but try.

Shelia's balls go right down the line,
Unerring accuracy, time after time.

Geoff has got style, his twist's perfection,
Sends the skittles in all directions.

Kathy is a real go getter,
Her bowling skills get better and better.

Terry too has learned to master,
The technique needed to avoid disaster,
And when at last he gets a strike, we see him jump
and jive,
To earn himself some plaudits and high fives.

Marilyn is nice and steady, likes to play it cool,
Sends those ten pins flying with a well directed bowl.

John, now there's a man with flair, and his attitude's
so nice,
His curved ball is legend, and he gives such good
advice.

Steve comes too, when time permits, and when
feeling so compelled,
He'll whang it down the alley, as though it's jet
propelled.

Sue too is keen to go, though sadly there's a twist,
But I'm sure she'll show us how it's done when the
plaster's off her wrist.

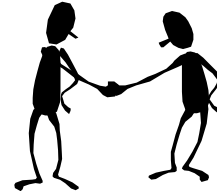
That lonely pin left standing, is held down by super
glue!
Still all in all we have some fun, as our camaraderie
unfolds,
At our monthly hour of pleasure at the Mansfield
Superbowl.

Because Allan had omitted himself from the poem
Terry Barrows, decided to add another verse!

READ ON -----



Now Allan's medium, not short, not tall,
He tries to make those skittles fall,
He rolls his ball, centre down the alley,
The screen above us shows his tally,
When he gets a strike, he's wild with glee,
And halfway through, we break for tea,
Sometimes he misses, and is quite dour,
His spirits sink down to the floor,
But at the end, it's all the same,
We all go and enjoy the game.

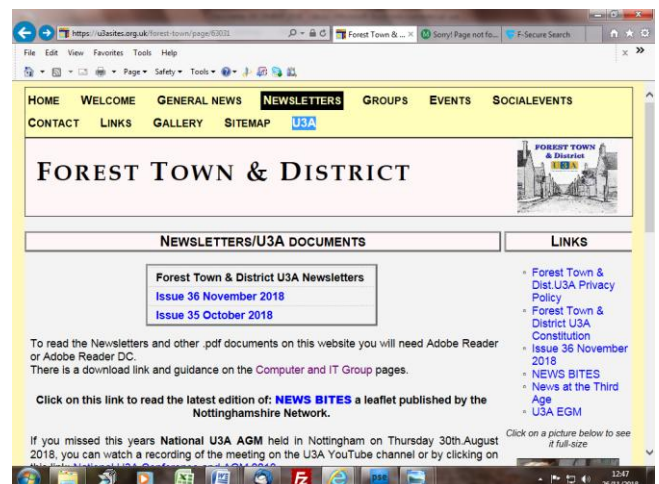


FROM COMPUTER BOB

Scams, 'phishing' emails, hoax telephone calls, we seem to be getting more of these every day and they are becoming more sophisticated, the latest one involves a telephone call from HMRC. It is getting more difficult to tell the genuine from the scam. Rather than take up valuable space in the newsletter each month I have set up a 'Scam Watch' page on our website where I will attempt to keep abreast of latest scams, you will find a link to the 'Scam Watch' page on my Computer and IT page. If you have a scam you want to make other members aware of, email me the details:

foresttownu3a@outlook.com

Bob Hunt.



*Do take a look at our web site which Bob works on
very hard, it is packed full of information.*

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

DAYS OUT/HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2019

Contact

Denise 07791941502. deewhits@aol.com



Where would you like to go luv?

February 22nd - **GOING TO THE DOGS!!!!** at Colwick, Nottingham - £37 inclusive of transport & 3 course meal. (limited places).

May 20th Windsor/Oxford Price £129 Staying at Copthorne, Windsor, Slough including bed/breakfast/3 course evening meal.

September 17th Bletchley Park £36

Once the secret home of World War Two codebreakers and is now a vibrant heritage attraction)

October Waiting To Confirm - 2 Day Trip Steam Train Whitby To Pickering 1940s Weekend Re-enactment Full Day In Pickering Celebrating The 1940s. 2nd Day In Whitby

**ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO SKILLS PLEASE
PLACES CAN ONLY BE RESERVED ON PAYMENT
AS DAYS OUT HAVE BECOME VERY POPULAR**



U3A CHRISTMAS DINNER

14th December 2018 1pm £16.50

at the South Forest Complex, Robin Hood Crossroads, Edwinstowe

Believed to be full but contact Marlene to see if there have been any cancellations.

01623 409072

marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com

Christmas fun but 'Oh Dear'

A family was entertaining some pious friends for dinner, The hostess keen to show they upheld Christian standards in their own home, asked her five year old son to say grace. He looked blank. There was an awkward pause, followed by a reassuring smile from the boy's mother. "Well darling just say what daddy said at breakfast this morning". Obediently the boy repeated; "Oh God we've got those awful people coming for dinner tonight"

PRODUCING THE NEWSLETTER

First - THANK YOU

To everyone who over the past three years has contributed to the newsletter, with group and outing reports, photographs etc.

As I said last month that after 3 years I now need to give up producing the newsletter, so we do need someone to take over please.

WHAT IS INVOLVED or HOW I HAVE DONE IT

You need a computer.

I use WORD but there are dedicated programmes to do this.

Once you have a template set up then each month you can paste your information into it.

Information & Photos are sent mostly by email from Group leaders or a group contact. Information also comes in from committee members. As it comes in I save it in a Newsletter file.

I usually start to put it all together around the 20th of the month and once done send it to two proof readers.

When the corrections are done, it is then saved as a PDF and sent to our membership Secretary to send out to everyone on email. It is also sent as a PDF to the printers, Portland Print based at Portland Training College, Harlow Wood. They usually print it ready for collection within a couple of days.

Each issue has its own challenges and a new editor may find their own way of producing the newsletter, ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Pauline

COMMUNITY NEWS





'NOW OR NEVER' Music Group playing in the Arena Lounge - see Johns report on page 6

Has anyone thought of starting a Cookery Group? If so here is a recipe they might like to try!

BRANDY CAKE

**1 cup of butter
1 cup of sugar
1 cup of dried fruit
1 cup of brown sugar**

**4 large eggs
1 tsp baking powder
Lemon Juice
1 Bottle of Brandy**

METHOD

Sample the brandy and check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the brandy again to be sure it is of the highest quality. Pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter and beat again, make sure the brandy is still OK. Cry another tup. Turn off the mixer. Break two leggs and add to the bowl then chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. Sample the brandy again to check tonsistincity. Next sift two cups of salt (or something who cares?). Check the brandy. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one babble spoon of brown sugar, or whatever colour you can find. Wix mel. Grease the oven. Turn the cake pall to 350 gredees. Do not forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the brandy again and go to bed.

As printed in the Forest Town Crier December 1999

Forest Town U3A Executive Committee / Contacts

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