



### **Mike's Musings**

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2019 and a Happy New Year to all our readers.

#### **Newsletter**

I am extremely grateful to Steve Evans who has agreed at very short notice to edit this edition of the Newsletter. This is NOT a permanent role for Steve who already has committee and group leader responsibilities and we are therefore still looking for one of our members to step up and take on the roles of Newsletter Editor. As previously mentioned there is support, if required for anyone taking on the role; please speak to any of the committee members if you are willing to take this on moving forward.

#### **Groups**

Please contact your Group Leader if for any reason you are not able to attend a group meeting, this is especially important where payments are due, for instance the Lunch Group and Dining Group. Group Leaders can be placed in an embarrassing situation if bookings have been made and members don't turn up.

#### **Committee Membership**

I continue to wait expectantly for members to advise me that they will consider putting their name forward for next year's committee. Though there has been a small response I am disappointed that members are not coming forward. I appreciate that it is sometime for nominations to be formally presented for the AGM, but it would be very helpful for members to give an indication that they will consider a committee role. Again, speak to any members of the present committee if you want information on what is involved – it can be very rewarding.

#### **The 'Beast from the East'**

Should we suffer severe winter weather and have to cancel the monthly meeting, we will do our best to

get information out to you. We will email members, the Group Co-ordinator will try and contact Group Leaders, a notice will be put on the website and we will try and get an announcement made on Mansfield 103.2 and Radio Nottingham. If none of these initiatives have reached you and you are unsure if a meeting is to take place you can contact me on 07790177224.

Mike King

Chairman

### **We are having a Coffee Morning**



On Monday March 11th at 10-30am to 12 noon in the conservatory at Forest Town Arena

A drink and a biscuit with lots of chat cost £1.00

If you have anything that could be donated as a raffle prize that would be fantastic. Please give your prize to any Committee member.

We would particularly like to see any members that have shown an interest, or would like to know more about, the following suggested groups.

Wine Tasting, Cycling, Cryptic Crosswords, Classical Music, Walking with a dog and Flat path/No hills walking.

Tickets will be on sale during the February and March main meeting.

### **LOOKING BACK to our DECEMBER and JANUARY MEETINGS**

For our December Meeting we didn't have a Speaker but went with a more informal format to get us in the Christmas mood.

Pupils from Forest Town Primary School performed a medley of Christmas themed songs for us, some carols and some more contemporary. They put their heart and soul into it and came dressed for the part with sparkly outfits and Christmas hats. I'm sure most of us have sat through a school Nativity or other production and have swelled with pride when our little darlings did their bit, and listening to children, even if not your own at Christmas has a magical quality, all the joy and expectation is there

even if nerves did get the better of one or two. The children were followed by members of the Sutton in Ashfield U3A Drama Group, this is the second time they have performed for us and again they did not disappoint, the material was different however their monologues and sketches were known to most of us and were highly amusing.



To start the New Year, and it was only just into it when we had our January Meeting, David Tideswell gave us a talk on Autumn and Winter Birds that we might see in our gardens at this time of year. He also told us about the best way to feed, water, house and generally encourage birds to visit.



David's talk was backed up with many photos and by the end we could all identify at least a robin and maybe one or two more species if we were lucky. David's style of delivery made this talk entertaining as he interlaced the information with a dry sense of humour that had us all chuckling. I'm sure his talk will have us all looking at the birds in our gardens with new eyes and hopefully, armed with our new knowledge, we will be able to help them through the winter too.

Jenny Wright

## Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in St Alban's Church 1.45pm

### when Tony Brewer will be doing his Photo Quiz.

This fun quiz is about the audience guessing what the distorted, mixed up images are, they are all household items that are seen or used by most people. This talk consists of 60 to 70 images and it's just for fun. There may also be included additional images where the audience will be asked if the image on the screen is a real photograph or a manufactured one. i.e. Photoshop-ed.

## THE MAIN MEETINGS IN 2019

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

# INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

## GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <sup>st</sup>	Book Club	Table Tennis Tai Chi	Rambling	<b>MAIN MEETING</b>	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Craft Poetry & Play Reading	Gardening Tai Chi	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling	Bridge Scrabble & Rummikub
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Scrabble & Rummikub Family History	Tai Chi	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers Dancing
4 <sup>th</sup>	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

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena**

**Contact Jill Gascoyne**

**Email [jillgas.1@gmail.com](mailto:jillgas.1@gmail.com)**

We met today at Pam's home instead of the usual Arena. Thank you very much Pam for the comfy chairs and chocolate biscuits.

The programme for this year was discussed at length and with enthusiasm. So many artists and buildings which some had seen and others wished to.

However, we shall not organise a trip to Venice just yet.

Our visit to Harley Gallery is scheduled for 26th. February 2019. Meet at Forest Town Arena Car Park we will organise transport to the Harley Gallery. New members welcome.

Staying local for March 26th.meeting, gathering initially at the museum. Hopefully we shall be able to view the "window" at the Meeting House, and look around a new art shop/gallery.

Jill Gascoyne

### Bird Watching

**Group Leader: Lynne Cooper**

**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**

**Contact 01623 652430**

**Email**

**[lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk)**

We met at Thoresby Courtyard at 09.30am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January. We then walked over the bridge that crosses the river Meden and headed alongside the river bank. We saw a vast array of bird life including a tree creeper, Kingfisher and Grey Heron. The water birds we saw were Teal and Gadwall. There were also further sightings of the Kingfisher as we made progress along the river bank, over the bridge towards Perlthorpe. When we arrived back at Thoresby Courtyard we were informed that the Kingfisher is called Kevin.

We had such a wonderful time. Why don't you come and join us and enjoy the experience?

Mike Lyaal

### Book Club

**Group Leader: Ann Stanford**

**Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 10. 30am Forest Town Library**

**Contact 01623 641864**

**Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)**

### Bridge

**Group Leader: Steve Evans**

**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month**

**10 am - 12 noon at the Flint Avenue Centre.**

**Contact 01623 470282**

**Email [steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)**

### Classic Vehicles

**Contact Ann Stanford 01623 641864**

**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2pm Forest Town Arena**

**Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)**

### Computer and IT Skills

**Group Leader: Bob Hunt**

**email [foresttownu3a@outlook.com](mailto:foresttownu3a@outlook.com)**

**Please contact Bob re meeting**

### Craft

**Group Leader: Jane Freeman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena**

**Contact 01623 624003**

**Email [jam.freeman@btinternet.com](mailto:jam.freeman@btinternet.com)**

Eight of "The Regulars" and one new lady attended the meeting; we were pleased to welcome her, and were amused to hear the reason why she came.



She had had a knitting project on the go for several years, only to be thwarted at each attempt to complete it by the persistence and tenacity of her rescue cat, who, even if far away in the garden, managed to realise The Knitting had been brought out and would appear in a flash to "help" by playing with the balls of yarn. Hence the need for a "cat proof" place to work unimpeded. We hope that it has been found in our group~ and judging by the amount the sweater had grown at the end of the session, we rather think so!

We carried on with our ongoing individual projects which include twiddle muffs for dementia patients, hats and mittens for the neonatal unit, crocheted blankets, and a commission for a bobbin lace garter, obtained after one lady's other creations worn at her son's recent wedding were admired.

We discussed the idea for a group project, which may be a fabric wall hanging, possibly depicting aspects of the village, as well as (Very) ~muted discussions on The Brexit issues, the demise of Real family doctors, and reminiscences on how our parents and grandparents coped before all the modern home appliances. Meat safes, marble cold slabs, mangles, gas mantles, Ewbank sweepers, carpet beaters, mothballs and donkey stones were some of the items recalled.

A reminder to any ladies who have not attended for a while ~we are working towards the June meeting, where we will be having a display table~ so we need LOTS of items to put on it!

Another reminder we will be going out for our annual Spring Lunch at the April meeting~(to Taylor's Nursery, Normanton) 8th, so please put that date in your diaries and let me know at the February meeting if you are interested in attending, so I can give them an approximate number.

Look forward to seeing you all next month, Monday 11th February at 2.00pm, at Forest Town Arena.

Regards, Jane

### Current Affairs

**Group Leader: Desley O'Leary**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10am - 12 noon**  
**Contact 01623 421642**

At our monthly meeting, we discussed ten topics with the usual wide range of subjects. These ranged from 'a new law to make electric products cheaper to repair' to 'should £17m be spent on 'phones for every prison cell'.

Everyone enters into the discussions with some subjects getting a unanimous agreement like for instance 'should all electrical equipment be built to

last or at least repairable' others such as 'is using skype for consultations with your GP or Consultant the service we expect from our NHS' brought several views.

As ever we all had a good time and are grateful to Desley for hosting us and providing coffee and cake. We are aware that one or two members have indicated that they are interested in joining the group, but we are limited on numbers. However, there is a list in place for any members wanting to start a second group – see Ann Stanford, Group Co-ordinator if it something you would like to join.  
Mike King

### Dancing (Country and Sequence)

**Pam Lander. Mobile: 07708361057.**  
**Email enquiries-[annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)**

### Evening Dining Out

**Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**  
**Contact [jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com](mailto:jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com)**  
**[mjrfn@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfn@gmail.com)**

### **DINING OUT GROUP 2019**

#### Feb 28<sup>th</sup> The Lion

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

#### March 28<sup>th</sup> Naaz

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

#### April 25<sup>th</sup> Zucca

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

#### May 23<sup>rd</sup> Van Dyk's

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

#### June 27<sup>th</sup> Farndon Boathouse

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

### Gardening

**Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Mollie Bramley.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10-12noon - Stuart Avenue Centre**  
**Contact [Angleina 01623 622871](tel:01623622871)**  
**[Mollie 01623 635051](tel:01623635051)**

Ten or so of us attended our group's Christmas "fuddle" last year, and had a jolly good time. Various home-made savoury dishes were on offer (cheese being the order of the day!),

accompanied by Christmas music and chatter. We also enjoyed mulled wine (non-alcoholic - not that this detracted from the merriment!), and a cuppa for those who wanted one.

Angelina entertained us with a gardening quiz, and this provided much laughter as teams tried to get people to lower their voice when offering an answer (to no avail!).

Plans for next year were discussed, with one or two trips/gardening visits being suggested, and plant swaps that prove popular.

Kay

### **Family History**

**Group Leader: Malcolm Marples**

**Meet 2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday - Flint Avenue Centre**

**Contact 01623 431783**

**Email [malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk)**

Web sites, family history and ethics was the topic for some interesting discussion this afternoon (Monday 21st January). Basically the outcome was 'if you don't want others to look at your information or photos, DON'T PUT IT ON THE INTERNET.'

Pauline showed everyone an unusual document for a re-interment after a person had been buried in the wrong grave. The document revealed the names of several relatives of the man and their addresses, certainly a different side to family history information.

Ann and Chris told us about their outing to Skegness on New Years Day, taking photos of houses Ann's relatives had lived in. She then discovered information on a web site which told her how some of the properties (including here relatives) had been bombed in WW2.

Finally Pauline said she was going to 'kill off' some of her great aunts i.e. she wanted to find their dates of death and other information. Andy and Julie then set about showing her relevant web sites where she could discover more.

It was a good afternoon.

Pauline

### **Local History**

**Group Leader: Pauline Marples .**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre**

**Contact 01623 431783**

**Email [pauline.mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline.mp-marples.co.uk)**

Eleven members met for our January meeting, when we had an illustrated slide show on the history of Forest Town Anglican churches, starting with St Davids Mission Church built in 1905 and then St

Alban's Church 1911. As usual there was plenty of discussion on the photographs leaving us with some questions unanswered.



We take so much for granted these days that it is hard to imagine that for many years the church or the parsonage did not have an electricity supply. A photograph of a memorial service at the cenotaph showed a Scottish Piper and rows of men lined up in the road; this was in stark contrast to the armistice services today when traffic is not even stopped for the two minutes silence.

One notable thing was that at all ceremonial events the ladies and young girls all wore hats, and that the styles in 1929 differed very much from those in 1911 & 18. As the light faded and Pauline could not read her notes it was time to put the lights on and stop for refreshments and a good chat.

With only 20 minutes to go to the end of the meeting we decided to continue the slide show next month, and spent the rest of the time discussing the A - Z Book project and what we could learn from the 1939 Register to help with this. Pauline

### **Lunch Club**

**Group Leader: Denise Whitsed**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

**Contact [deewhits@aol.com](mailto:deewhits@aol.com)**

### **Music - 60's Appreciation**

**Group Leader: John Kirk**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm**

**Contact 01623 640528**

**Email [johnensorkirk@gmail.com](mailto:johnensorkirk@gmail.com)**

Hi, and a Happy New year from Now or Never that's Irene, Bob, Win, Chris and John. We are still working hard, to incorporate our new members into the group, whilst moving forward with new songs. Members please note, we are at the Arena on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at 2pm which is of course 6 days before Forest Town U3A main meeting. Hope to see you there. John.

## National Trust Group

**Ann Stanford 01623 641864**

**Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)**

## Painting and Drawing

**Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2-4pm - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.**

**Contact 01623 658171**

## Poetry & Play Reading

**Group Leader: Kath Wolstenholme**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave 10-12**

**Contact 01623 617194**

**Email [krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:krazy.kath@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Rambling

**Group Leader: Andrew Riby**

**Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.**

**Contact Andrew Riby 01623 656958**

**mobile 07833 543705**

**Email [ribya@imcgroup.co.uk](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)**

Carol led our first outing in December, which was a short walk to work up an appetite before the group's Christmas lunch at the Elm Tree at Elmton. We set off from Elmton and headed off across the fields to Creswell Crag in drizzle and mist, which added to the mystique of this former Ice Age settlement.



Fortified by a hot drink, we headed back via Creswell village to the Elm Tree. A warm cosy room provided a welcome setting for our lunch which, with good food and good company, was enjoyed by all.

Rita guided us round our walk from Shipley Park near Heanor in the week before Christmas. After a dull start as we passed through the park, we walked along the towpath of the picturesque Erewash canal in full sunshine. Lunch was eaten perched on the balance beams of a lock. We then headed back through

pretty woodland, passing the preserved headstock of the former Shipley Woodside colliery as we returned through Shipley Park.



Our first walk of 2019 set off from Hardwick Village in Clumber Park on a cold sunny morning. Steve and Rita guided us first to the attractive village of Bothamsall where we saw our first snowdrops of the year. After a coffee break in the church grounds, we came across a small herd of reindeer at Houghton Park Farm, resting up after their Christmas exertions. Skirting Elkesley, we had lunch in a wood seated on a fallen tree before hurrying back to Clumber Park following the River Poulter on what had become a chilly afternoon.

Our mid-January walk set off from Worksop and headed out to Osberton Hall, an impressive Grade II listed building noted for its International Horse Trials held each autumn. Looking round the small farming community of Scofton with its pretty church we saw our first new born lambs of the season. Lunch was taken in the drizzle by Scofton Lock on the Chesterfield Canal. We then headed back in heavy rain to Worksop on the "Cuckoo Way", a path which runs along the entire 46 mile length of the canal, arriving back just in time for a guided tour of historic Worksop Priory.





Our next rambles: 6th February: Teversal, Pleasley Pit Country Park & Silverhill Country Park (7.5 miles).  
20th February: Holymoorside and Linacre reservoirs (7.6 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*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Forest Town Arena 2pm  
Contact 01623 627905

### Scrap Booking

Group Leader: *Ann Stanford*  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2-4pm - Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.  
Contact 01623 641864  
Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)

### Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marilyn Redfern*  
Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 10.15am  
Contact 01623 646547  
Email [mjrfern@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfern@gmail.com)

### Strollers

Group Leader: *Denise Doud*  
Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10: 30am  
Contact 01623 619856  
Email [dmdoud52@gmail.com](mailto:dmdoud52@gmail.com)

Again the weather was good for the 17 strollers who ambled around Kingsmill Reservoir.  
It was 'interesting' to see work being carried out on a new footbridge, quite close to the path.  
The next stroll is Friday 15 February, 10.30 am at Newstead Abbey. This will be the last day of the winter opening times so, hopefully, there will be no car park charge.

### Table Tennis

Group Leader: *Marilyn Redfern*  
Meet - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Meden & Oak Hill Leisure Centre  
New Time 11:30 - 1:30  
Contact 01623 646547  
Email [mjrfern@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfern@gmail.com)

### Tai Chi

Contact *Ann Stanford*. 01623 641864  
Email [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)

The last set of tai chi sessions ended on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018.  
I will contact group members when we restart.  
Sue Harkin.

### Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: *Gordon Chapman*  
Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm  
Mansfield Superbowl 2000.  
Contact 01623 620012  
Email [chapmanrogere490@gmail.com](mailto:chapmanrogere490@gmail.com)

### From Computer Bob

Did you get a new Smart Phone for Christmas?  
Or, like myself, a hand down from a younger member of the family who "simply must have the latest model", I have put a very basic guide to using a Smart Phone on the Computer & IT webpage.

[foresttownu3a@outlook.com](mailto:foresttownu3a@outlook.com)

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

**Bob Hunt**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

We will be taking membership renewals for the membership year, April 2019 to March 2020 at the 7th February, 7th March and 4th April 2019 main meetings. Full Membership will cost £18.00 / Associate Membership £14.50 if you are a member of another U3A.  
PLEASE COULD YOU HAVE YOUR CHEQUES READY MADE OUT PAYABLE TO  
**Forest Town and District U3A** on the day you are renewing. This will enable the process to be much quicker for Members.

If you are unable to attend these meeting 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 Assistant Membership Secretary  
**14 Paulsons Drive, Mansfield NG19 7AA**, please make your cheque or Postal Order, payable to **Forest Town & District U3A**. Kath.

## **DAYS OUT/HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2019**

Contact Denise 07791941502.  
deewhits@aol.com

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

**May 20th** Windsor/Oxford Price £129 Staying at Copthorne, Windsor and Slough including bed/breakfast/3 course evening meal.  
**September 17th** Bletchley Park cost £36  
Once the secret home of World War Two codebreakers and is now a vibrant heritage attraction)

**October 13th /14th** Whitby/Pickering staying at Raven Hall Hotel Ravenscar including travel bed/breakfast evening meal and train ticket enroute stopping at Goatland and then onto Whitby.  
Please note for this one trip only cheques need to be made payable to **National Holidays**.  
December 9th Christmas spectacular at Potters price to be confirmed approximately £325 including transport and accommodation

**Places can only be reserved on payment as days out and holidays have become very popular**



Mick Barton our local councillor attended the December meeting.

Deadline for March newsletter:  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Please send articles for the newsletter to:  
[steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)

**Please make all cheques payable to Skills**

<i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee / Contacts</i>			
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