



## NEWSLETTER Issue 3 December 2015

Welcome to our Newsletter in which we aim to keep all our members up to date with everything that is happening with Forest Town & District U3A. The main way we distribute the Newsletter is by email and if you have an email address but are not receiving a copy please let the Membership Secretary know in order that we can update our records. For those who are not on email we will have a supply of Newsletters at our monthly meetings.

We are particularly focusing in this issue on the Interest Groups as several are now becoming established and have met during November and others have their first meeting planned in December. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to join a group or if you want to find out more about them please speak to Denise Doud our Group Co-ordinator or to the Group Leaders, at the monthly meeting. I hope that at least one of the groups will be of interest to you but if you have other areas of interest not yet established, let me or other committee members know – it is very likely that one or more members will also have the same interest and a group can be formed.

Following our November meeting we now have 126 members and I know that several more have indicated that they will join at our December meeting. I am aware that quite a few of you would not have been at the initial Information Meeting that was held in September when background information was given about the U3A organisation and I hope that in future issues we will be able to provide that for you so that you are better informed.

I know it is very early! But can I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Mike King, Chairman



## Seasons Greetings to you all

### OUR DECEMBER SPEAKER

Our December speaker is Michell (Micky) Bradley talking about 'The Kept Village of King's Clipstone'. Micky is an authority on the history of Kings Clipstone, and passionate about discovering the history associated with the ruins of King John's Palace, which she and her husband own.

Micky also contributed to the book;  
*A Celebration of Kings Clipstone 1000 Years of History*

### LOOKING BACK AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING



A photo taken at our November meeting when Liz Weston MBE, Curator of Mansfield Museum gave a very interesting presentation on the work of the museum. Many people were surprised to hear of the number of activities, exhibitions and out reach work that takes place there. Liz told of the dedicated staff and volunteers, and the various awards the museum has won. She encourage everyone to visit and see their 'Made in Mansfield Exhibition' in the new gallery which had just been highly acclaimed in the 'The Museums Journal' a national publication.

After the talk there was the opportunity to look at a selection of mystery artefacts Liz had brought from the museum, and to attempt to decided what they were.

**Mansfield Museum Opening Hours**  
Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm  
(except public holidays). Free Admission



# INTEREST GROUPS



## Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10am

In December the group will meet at Sherwood Forest Visitors Centre, for a walk in the forest.

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## Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month

10 am - 12 noon at the Forest Town Arena.

First meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December

All FT & District members welcome.

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## Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob*

4/5 people per session

Next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December 2pm - Members Home

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## Craft

Group Leader *Jane Freeman*

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

First meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December

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## Fabric Upcycling

Group Leader: *Barbara Whaplington*

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 1pm Meet - Members Home

## Family History

Group Leader: *Glynis Benford-Chapman*

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 10am Meet - St John's Centre, Mansf.

## Film/Videos

Group Leader - *Arline Littlewood*

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 1.30pm Meet - Members Home

## Gardening

Group Leader: *Marian Story*

1<sup>st</sup> Monday 1pm Meet -Members Home

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Garden visit

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, an extra visit to Hollybeck Nursery

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## Local History

Group Leader: *Pauline Marples*

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm Meet - Members Home

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## Making Photo Books

Group Leader: *Marian Batt*

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2pm Meet -Members Home

## Photography for Fun

Group Leader: *George Clarke*

Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

10am - 12 noon Forest Town Arena

## Rambling

### **(Forest Town & District U3A Rambling Group)**

Group Leader: *Alan Radford*

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesdays of each month.

For the first few months meet at the Forest Town Arena car park for lift sharing to depart at 8:40 am.

Assemble at the end nearest to Pump Hollow Road

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## Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marlene Mee*

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10.30am .Meet - Various Locations



## GROUPS IN PROGRESS

### Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: *Joseph Bell*

Meeting - to be arranged

### The 60's Music Appreciation

Interested members to meet and discuss at the Main meeting on Thursday 5th December.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS

- Rummikub
- Scrabble
- Cycling
- World War One Military History
- Painting and Drawing
- Table Tennis

Groups can be any size, it just needs a few people who are members of FT & District U3A to be interested in the same topic, and one person to act as group leader to start them. For more advice or suggestions for new groups contact;

*Denise Doud Group Co-ordinator*

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**LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE  
WITH THE U3A**



## **Computer and IT Skills - Bob**

The first session of the computer group was at my home yesterday the 10th of November, three members attended and the meeting went well. The people who attended were pleased with the help I could give them and wanted to continue with the group. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at my home on the 8th of December at 2 pm.

## **Fabric Upcycling - Barbara Whappington**

The Meeting on Monday 16th November was a great success, one new member Olive arrived at 1pm with three of the original members, we had decided previously what we were going to make, so the ladies had an enjoyable afternoon turning old pairs of socks into monsters. Tea, coffee and biscuits were happily devoured as we transformed the materials into fun objects. we have set the next meeting date for Monday 14th December, 1pm when we will be making animal door stops and large pin cushions.

## **Family History - Glynis Benford-Chapman**

We had our first meeting on 3rd November at St Johns Centre with ten members attending. Under discussion was parish registers followed by a short quiz. Members were asked to state their research query and help was given where possible. Our next meeting on 1st December will look at census returns.

## **Local History - Pauline Marples**

On the 17th November thirteen members met at the group leaders home and we were enthralled with one members description of a Long House he had been working on near Winchester. In total contrast we then learnt how one members is delving into, and recording his personal knowledge of the history of the Mushy Peas stall in Mansfield. The tea break gave the opportunity to look at some local photographs of places that have now disappeared. Additionally there was a variety of maps and their value to local history was illustrated.

## **Gardening Group - George Clarke**

The first meeting of this group was at the Ravensdale Pub on the 13th November, everyone was soon talking, asking questions and giving out tips.

## **The Rambling Group - Alan Radford**

The first walk on the 18th November, was 7 – 9 miles. It was an autumn walk around Chatsworth, and seemed to have been enjoyed by everyone. After walking through grazing sheep and a herd of young deer in Chatsworth Park, we stopped in Edensor to view the famous graves before carrying on to Chatsworth House and its Christmas Market outside. Moving on up through Stand Wood we could admire the fine trees and the walkways, many carpeted with vividly coloured fallen leaves, and the broken Aqueduct planned by Joseph Paxton. Next came the Hunting Tower, built in the 16th century for Bess of Hardwick and one of only two structures remaining from the time of the first house at Chatsworth. After lunch (and a rainstorm!) we passed the Sowter Stone with water from the lakes above gushing over and running down the hillside to feed the Cascade near the House. After leaving the woods we descended through moor land to Beeley Hilltop Farm and on to the pretty village of Beeley before crossing pastureland and returning to our cars. A lovely autumn day out, and hopefully there shall be many more.

The next walk will be on Wednesday 2nd December, Monsal Dale and Millers Dale (8½ miles), meeting up at the Arena car park in Forest Town to organise lift sharing and departing at the new time of 08:40 am.

New FT & District U3A walkers always welcome!

### **MAIN MEMBERS MEETING**

St Alban's Church, Forest Town.

**2016**

**Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup> 1.45<sup>pm</sup>**

**'Music of the Musicals'**

by Chris Shaw

Chris has been an amateur/semi professional singer most of her life performing on stage in musicals and operas in the UK and East Midlands.

She took a degree in the background to opera productions when her children started school and now gives leisure classes in aspects of musicals, opera and film soundtracks for the WEA. Using clips from the classics we love, she will be taking us on a trip through the magical world of musicals, with gossip on the background events that shaped the finished shows .

### **DELIVERING YOUR NEWSLETTER**

If we have your email address these will be sent out by email. Do please make us aware if you change your email address.

For members not on email, paper copies will be available at the main meeting.



## FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A RAMBLING GROUP General Information

### Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the first and third Wednesdays of each month

For the first few months meet at Forest Town Arena car park for lift sharing for departure at **8:40 am**. Members attending should assemble at the end nearest to Pump Hollow Road

*Please do not bring your grandchildren or dogs with you*

The rambles are over all types of terrain therefore walkers should be prepared for stiles and rough ground as well as mud. Remember that weather conditions can deteriorate very quickly with little or no warning, particularly on high ground - so be prepared! We walk throughout the year so we suggest the following items - *some are seasonal*.

- Comfortable waterproof boots suitable for rough terrain, plus a spare bootlace  
**TRAINERS ARE NOT SUITABLE**
- Waterproof clothing (eg gacoul and over trousers)
- Small rucksack
- Packed lunch plus drinks (*extra drinks for very hot days*)
- Light waterproof mat or stout carrier bag (to sit on)

- Small personal first-aid kit including crepe bandage
- Spare pullover, a hat, gloves
- Change of footwear (essential for return car journeys)

Lifts, if required, are organised at the car park so it is suggested a voluntary donation of £4.00 is made by each passenger to the driver.

Should anyone have to leave the walk, for whatever reason, then the walk leader must be informed for safety reasons.

After returning to the cars, why not round off the day by enjoying a relaxing drink with everyone at a local pub or coffee shop?

Will members who wish to lead rambles please submit details with route descriptions, proposed starting points and distances as soon as possible please. Any ideas for rambles, or walking areas, are also welcomed by anyone who does not wish to lead a ramble. Rambles should be moderate or easy, but not strenuous.

We expect to finish walking by approximately 3:30 pm.



### FOREST TOWN LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

The library has a wide variety of books that will be of interest to various group members

Monday	9.30 - 12.30
Tuesday	2.00 - 5.30
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30 - 6.00
Friday	2.00 - 5.30
Saturday	9.30 - 1.00
Sunday	Closed

**PARKING** When attending our meetings at St Albans do respect our neighbours by not parking on the residential streets. Please use either the car park at the Prince Charles pub, Kingsway Hall, or the Forest Town Arena. There are four disabled parking spaces available at St Albans towards the rear of the church

### JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to [pauline@mp-marples.co.uk](mailto:pauline@mp-marples.co.uk) by the **18th December 2015**

### Forest Town U3A Steering Committee

Committee Position	Name
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King
V/Chair & Speaker Sec	Susan Wright
Business Secretary	Jennifer Wright
Treasurer	Lynne Cooper
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Doud
Asst Groups Co-ord.	Ann Stanford
Membership Sec.	Suzanne Herring
Asst Membership Sec	Kath Wolstonholme
Minutes Sec	Jill Gascoyne
Social Secretary	
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Marples
Publicity	
Webmaster	Bob Hunt

