



Mike's Musings

Welcome to our June edition of the Newsletter which as usual is full of interesting articles and photographs of all things U3A. If you have any articles you want to put in the Newsletter, please forward them to Steve Evans or if you have any comments regarding the Newsletter please also let Steve know.

Next Year's Committee I was very pleased (and relieved!) to announce at the May general meeting that we had received nominations for all the vacancies on the Committee including the important posts of Chair and Vice Chair. You will recall that I had advised members on several occasions that without the four officer posts being filled we would have had to consider closing the U3A, so I am very grateful to Linda Shutt as Chair and Mike Lyall as Vice Chair for putting their names forward. The new members of the committee came as observers to our recent committee meeting and they are all enthusiastic and keen to take our U3A forward to a successful future. I know you will give them all your support.

June Meeting, I mentioned in the May Newsletter that following the AGM all our Interest Groups will be putting on displays and they have all put their 'thinking caps' on to ensure that they have interesting displays. Our 60's 'Pop Group' Now or Never will be demonstrating their Interest Group by performing several songs. Please support the Groups by taking the time to visit all the group tables.

Farewell Not exactly farewell as I will still be an active member of our U3A but as I think you all know I will be stepping down as Chairman of the U3A as I have now completed three years on the committee, in fact I was part of the Steering Group which first met in September 2015. I must thank all the members of the committee past and present who have worked together as a great team to initially establish the U3A and then support its growth over the last three years.

We now have 262 members and some 28 Interest Groups, and I also thank all of you, our members, for being such an enthusiastic group of people and making our U3A the success I believe it to be.
Mike King Chairman

Alan Radford A Tribute

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Alan's passing after a long period of ill health. Alan's long term friend Terence Whitehead, a member of Mansfield U3A, recalls that when both families moved to Mansfield about 20 years ago that Alan and Marlene had already joined Mansfield U3A. Sometime later Alan and Marlene moved to Ashfield U3A where Alan quickly got involved establishing their website and of course a walking group. When our own U3A was established Alan and Marlene who were living in Forest Town were some of the first members and early on Alan advised us that he would like to establish a Rambling Group as one of the Interest Groups we were looking to develop.

Andy Riby who is now the group Leader of our Rambling Group recalls that: - 'The first walk took place in November 2016. It was a slow start to the group with only 4 or 5 regular walkers, with Alan determining the walk programme. Gradually Alan attracted more members, encouraged and trained members to lead walks and involved all members in planning walk programmes.

Alan's knowledge of the Peak District was legendary. There seemed to be no path he hadn't previously walked. He knew all the short cuts and ways to avoid heavy traffic (and where all the speed cameras were to be found!) on the drives to the start of walks. Walking with Alan was always a pleasure, with his enthusiasm, gentle sense of humour, the odd interesting fact thrown in here and there, and his tales of past exploits. Alan screeching into the Arena car park, invariably the last to arrive at the pick-up point despite living only half a mile away, always caused great amusement.

It came as a bitter blow when Alan had to stop walking with us through ill health at the end of 2017, not just for Alan but the walking group he had created. Despite his condition, Alan was still thinking about Forest Town U3A rambling group and spent many hours producing meticulously detailed maps of the walks he had done over the years. His legacy to the group is a compendium of scores of walks filling six lever arch files. Thanks to Alan, the rambling group will never be short of ideas for walks.

Alan was a true gentleman and a great advocate of rambling. We are all privileged to have known him, and he will be sadly missed, but he's given us some great memories and instilled in us his passion for walking.'

Andy's sentiments I know are shared by all of our members who knew Alan and our thoughts are now with Marlene and her family as they come to terms with their loss.

Alan's funeral will be on Friday 7th June at 11.15am at Mansfield Crematorium, in the big chapel.

Marlene (Alan's wife) has requested that people wear some colour as she reckons Alan wouldn't want people to look morbid, and that any donations be made to DAST - Derbyshire Asbestos Support Trust.

Mike King Chairman

LOOKING BACK AT OUR MAY MEETING

At the May meeting of the Forest Town U3A, Trevor Dempsey was our guest speaker.

The topic was from Pinewood to Hollywood, with his entertaining presentation on famous personalities that Trevor had the pleasure to meet.



Trevor was seen earlier mingling with our members picking up titbits from them in which he brought into some of his dialogue during his meanderings of the wonderful personalities that he had met.

Trevor displayed photos of some of the many characters involved in the James Bond films plus many more to which members were able to see and albums of many wonderful stars were passed around to look through.

Along the way Trevor involved the members in their thoughts and memories of the stars that they also recalled.

To finish his narration Trevor played through speaker's conversations with some of the many people that he had the privilege to meet, then getting the members to shout out who he had been talking with.

Trevor's enthusiasm appeared to be boundless and it was obvious he could have gone on and on.

I think that the members who attended enjoyed the memories and flash backs to the distant stars.

Our chairperson Mike thanked Trevor for his presentation on behalf of the members. Kelvin

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday June 6th 2019 in St Alban's Church at 1.45pm.

There will be no Book Exchange at the July Meeting.

There will be no speaker this month as it is our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Following the AGM, instead of a visiting speaker we are taking the opportunity for all our Interest groups to have informative displays. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more of the groups and for you to consider joining one that you perhaps hadn't thought of previously. We now have 29 groups offering a wide variety of interests but if there is something else you are interested in and think could also be of interest to others please speak to our Group Co-ordinator Ann Stanford or any members of the committee.

THE MAIN MEETINGS IN 2019

Jun 6th	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	Mike Hill	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	Dr Ifran Malic	First World War contribution of Dulmial Village Pakistan
Dec 5 th	Members meeting	Slide Show; review of the year

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1 st	Book Club	Table Tennis Tai Chi Ambling Along	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 Cycling Off Road	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers Dancing
4 th	Short Walks	Art Appreciation Tai Chi	Classic Vehicles	Cryptic Crosswords Painting & Drawing Scrap Booking Evening Dining Out	Bridge
Groups with no Set Day - National Trust					

Ambling Along

The next meeting of this group will be on Tuesday 2nd July, 10-30am at Vicar Water Cafe. Linda will be there to meet the group. A gentle stroll round Vicar Water followed by chatting and coffee in the cafe. Please reply to my texts and emails, especially if NOT going, so Linda is not left at the Centre with no one to walk with. Ann

Art Appreciation

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

Bird Watching

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

For our April meeting five members of the Bird Watching group took a walk through Sherwood Forest. The weather was kind to us for a change and we had good sightings, Tree Creeper and Chiffchaff in particular. The Woodpecker proved elusive as we could hear it plainly nearby but were unable to find it. Good to see the RSPB are beginning to improve the site at last with new signposts and benches. Kathleen.

Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford
Meet 1st Monday of the month 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.
Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

Classic Vehicles

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

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: Bob Hunt
Email foresttownu3a@outlook.com
Please contact Bob re meeting

Country Dancing

Pam Lander. Mobile: 07708361057.
Email enquiries-annstanford1@sky.com

The group has decided to stay at St. Patrick's Church Hall. It is a lovely space with excellent facilities! As the hall is bigger we have spaces if you would like to join us. No experience required. There is a charge of £2 a session, paid in 3 monthly instalments of £6. This is to cover the hire of the hall and includes refreshments.

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman
2nd Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena
Contact 01623 624003
Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

Seven ladies convened today who all appeared to be concentrating so much on finishing a variety of projects all ready for The Big Display in June that our usual lively conversations were rather muted!

The items ranged from a gorgeous soft fluffy scarf (that has to be on the display table!) several twiddle muffs in varying stages of completion; a crochet throw; and a baby's jacket.

To all the ladies who were unable to meet with us a reminder and a plea. Please bring as many of your projects as you are able to carry it's, far better for us to have too many than too few, we aim to have as diverse a range as possible. Jane

Cryptic Crosswords

Meet on 4th Thursday, 10am at Forest Town Arena.

Group Leader Kay Toy

Email kaytoy@hotmail.co.uk

Last month eight of us met up for some mind-bending puzzle-solving, and had a light-hearted session, helping each other out as required. New "tricks of the trade" were explored, and I like to think the beginners' learning curve continued upwards. More tips and crossword practice next month, partly with the aid of the U3A Subject Adviser's excellent book. Kay

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

Cycling Off Road

Meet on 3rd Tuesday

Group Leader David Duncan

Email wings33@btinternet.com

Here are the days, times and places we hope to cycle this year. Most routes are around 4 miles easy cycling.

Tuesday 18th June - **local route** – Rufford. Meet 10am at the Arena or 10-30 am at Vicar Water.

Tuesday 16th July - **Cotgrave Canal and Country Park. NG12 3JW**. Meet at 10am car park on Hollygate Lane

Tuesday 20th August **local route** - **King John's Palace**
Meet 10am at the Arena or 10-30am at Vicar Water

Tuesday September 17th - Bestwood **Country Park. NG6 8TQ**. Meet 10am. Car Park off Park Road

Tuesday 15th October - **local route** - **Edwinstowe**
10am at the Arena or 10-30am at Vicar Water.

DAYS OUT/HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2019

Contact Denise 07791941502.

Email deewhits@aol.com

December 9th Christmas Spectacular at Potters.

Price to be confirmed approximately £325 including transport and accommodation

Please make all cheques payable to Skills

Days out and Holidays are very popular, places can only be reserved on payment

Evening Dining Out

Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern

4th Thursday

Contact jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com

mjirfern@gmail.com

June 27th Farndon Boathouse

Modern Home Cooked & locally produced food
N End Farndon NG24 3SX

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Irene Brookes

Meet on 2nd Tuesday 10-12noon –

Stuart Avenue Centre

Contact Angelina 01623 622871

Family History

Group Leader: Jenny Wright

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact Jenny 01623 631371

Email j.wright445@btinternet.com

This month we started by looking at how newspapers can help us to fill in the blanks and put some flesh on the bones of our ancestors. Much can be found in newspapers, if you're lucky enough to find an obituary it can tell you more about the person, what work they did, hobbies and interests etc. and also may help to confirm who relatives were.



On investigating some information Jenny received via Ancestry a search of the newspapers showed that several ancestors had been in trouble with the law, some on numerous occasions (including a 'Highway Robber'), and one had spent a considerable amount of time in and out of the Workhouse, along with her five children, after being deserted by her husband. Following the Workhouse theme Pauline and Malcolm brought along some folders on Mansfield Workhouse, which showed that there were a wide variety of reasons why an individual might choose to enter the Workhouse, apart from the obvious, and not all stayed.

Many girls went there to have illegitimate babies and then discharged themselves back to their home parish along with the child. The elderly and sick also accessed the infirmary that was usually attached to the Workhouse either when they couldn't afford doctor's fees or the family couldn't cope any more. There was also a vagrant population who would spend a night or two in the Workhouse, working for their keep before moving on. Many of you will remember Lurch Hills in Mansfield, an alley which led from Woodhouse Road around the town, this was supposed to enable vagrants and tramps to access the Workhouse on Stockwell Gate without passing through the town centre.

We had a new member of the group today who is a total beginner; I hope we gave him a good welcome but think we may have overwhelmed him with our enthusiasm to help him get started on his Family History, I hope we haven't put him off and that he will come back next month, believe me, it's not as daunting as it seems. Jenny Wright

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples
Meet on 3rd Thursday 2.15pm –
Flint Avenue Centre Contact 01623 431783
Email pauline@mp-marples.co.uk

Our May local history meeting saw 12 members busy studying paper copies of the 1911 census for Forest Town, the first one taken in this village.



The village then was mainly just the Avenues, and

houses/shops on the 'top road.' We looked at where everyone had moved from, places such as Belper, Whitwell, Eastwood, Hucknall, Berkshire, and Staffordshire and further afield. There were some interesting discussions on why people had moved here.

A study of peoples occupations showed the majority of men were miners, some working above ground and others working below. Many of the young boys of working age were pony drivers, the youngest noted was 14. One person however was found to be the caretaker at the Drill Hall; another person was laying lines for the Tramway Company (he was from Devonshire).

Other people (mostly women) worked at Metal Box or the Hosiery factory. Many women however were just noted as being at home or house keepers. Children were often recorded as Scholars or at school.

While some of the houses just accommodated one family, others shared their houses with other people (possibly relations) but it was obvious (because there were two census sheets) one house appeared to have been split by two families, one occupying two rooms and the other four rooms.

We finally broke off this topic to enjoy tea, cake or biscuits before having another discussion on the A-Z book which is making good progress. Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed
Meet on 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

Here we are in British Summertime but sadly the weather has some catching up to do, fortunately the Arena lounge is a nice place to spend a wet afternoon. Two new songs made their debut this month, hope you like them. Valerie was in charge of the quiz with all the answers connected to the alphabet, excellent.

Chris (our bass player) delivered the featured artist charting the life and times of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, so an easier time for me for a change. There has been a lot of information on TV recently about the health benefits of writing and researching as a hobby so why not come and join us to maybe devise a quiz or spotlight your favourite artist. You will have a great afternoon, improve your brain and live longer. (Hopefully) John.

National Trust Group

Ann Stanford 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

On Saturday 11th May the National Trust Group visited Sudbury Hall. After a bright start we managed to dodge the short showers by taking part in a guided tour, drinking coffee, eating lunch or ice creams. The plaster decoration inside the hall, especially the grand staircase, was stunning and huge portraits hung in room after room.

Sudbury also has a Museum of Childhood. We saw many toys that we had played with as children, or our own children's toys and in many cases the same toys stored in our lofts!

At the June meeting Denise Doud will be taking bookings, £9.00 for Lyme Park

Spring and summer 2019 National Trust Visits

We are using Ravenshead Community Transport. The mini bus will seat 14 passengers and all prices have been costed to this.

Saturday 22nd June: - **Packwood House and Baddseley Clinton**. Leaving Forest Town Arena 9.30am Cost £13.00

Saturday 13th July: - **Lyme Park and House**. Leaving Forest Town Arena 9.30am. Cost £9.00. Booking and payment will take place at the main monthly meeting. Please make cheques payable to **Forest Town and District U3A**

Painting and Drawing

Group Leader: Christine Cawthorne .
Meet on 4th Thursday 2pm till 4pm
Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue
Contact 01623 658171

Poetry & Play Reading

Group Leader: Alan Barham
Meet on 2nd Monday 10am till 12noon
Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue

Rambling

Group Leader: Andrew Riby
Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles
Meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Contact Andrew Riby 01623 656958
Mobile 07833 543705 Email ribya@imgroup.co.uk

Neil led us on our first walk in May towards Dale Abbey on a gloriously warm and sunny morning.

Bluebells were in abundance. In addition to wide views and beautiful countryside, there was historic interest and some industrial heritage on this walk. Neil told us how the church of All Saints in Dale Abbey was once uniquely part church, part inn, with a connecting door between the two "leading from salvation to damnation".



In Ockbrook we learned of the Moravian settlement founded there in the 18C, and in Stanton-by-Dale of the former Stanton & Staveley ironworks, drain covers from which can still be seen all over the country. A great day was rounded off in the tea garden of a splendid farm cafe.

Our next walk was classed as challenging. None of the group was put off though and we thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing day in hot sunshine. Carol led us out of Ashford in the Water on a long climb to Sheldon with views over the distant countryside. Our descent to Monsal Dale was precipitous and made treacherous by loose rocks, but we made it down intact. A gentle stroll following the course of the River Wye was followed by a hot and strenuous slog up to Monsal Head.



Here we leisurely ate our sandwiches taking in the magnificent view, finishing off with a visit to the ice cream van. The return to Ashford was pleasantly

gentle, with flower meadows, pretty villages and a glimpse of Thornbridge Hall.

Our next rambles: 5th June: Ashover, Wooley & Ogston reservoir (7.5 miles). 19th June: Lyme Park & Disley (7.5 miles). Meet at the Arena car park to arrange lift sharing, normally departing at 08:40 a.m. prompt but please check beforehand. New members welcome. Andy

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle
Meet on 2nd Friday & 3rd Monday Forest Town Arena 2pm
Contact 01623 627905

Scrap Booking

Group Leader: Ann Stanford
Meet on 4th Thursday 2-4pm
Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.
Contact 01623 641864 Email annstanford1@sky.com

Short Walks

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern
Meet on 4th Monday 10.15am
Contact 01623 646547 Email mjrfern@gmail.com

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud
Meet on 3rd Friday 10: 30am
Contact 01623 619856 Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

This month's Stroller meet was at Thieves Wood. 14 of us met up and set off on our leisurely stroll. We walked for 2.5 miles through the woods enjoying the nice walking weather not too hot and not too cold... As usual it was lovely to stroll and chat whilst looking into the woods, unfortunately there were not many bluebells around but there was an awful lot of dog mess. Why don't people carry poo bags.... It was lovely to have new strollers with us and look forward to seeing them again at our next meet which will be on Friday 21st June at Vicars Water Country Park at 10.30am. The only disappointment was no coffee van in the car park so we couldn't finish up with our usual bacon butty. Look forward to refreshments on our next stroll. Jen

Table Tennis

Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern
Meet on 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

Forest Town Methodist Church
"Next block of 10 sessions begins on 23rd April 2019 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Cost £14."

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman
Meet on 2nd Thursday 2pm
Mansfield Superbowl 2000
Contact 01623 620012
Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING

A coffee morning for new members was held on the 16th May in the Forest Town arena, around 50 people, including group leaders and committee members attended the meeting, Jane and Marilyn had a very busy morning signing up 35 new members at the very lively meeting.



220 members have renewed their membership for the current year, 7 new members joined us at the May General meeting and with the 35 new members above our membership total are now 262.

COMMUNITY NEWS

At many of these events you will discover members of FT & District U3A

A Coffee Morning will be held in Forest Town Methodist Church on Saturday 1st June 10am to 11.30am.

VILLAGE CRAFT MARKET by Berley on Saturday 15th June 10am -2pm in Kingsway Hall, Forest Town

It is open to all Forest Town residents, who are interested in events relating to the local community.

Pauline

Forest Town Community Council meets
7.15pm every third Tuesday in the
Sherwood Room Forest Town Arena

Deadline for July Newsletter Articles
Tuesday 25th June 2019. Please send articles to Steve Evans

steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

Visit our website for the latest news of meetings and groups: <https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/>

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Assist Treasurer	Marilyn Redfern	01623 646547	mjrfern@gmail.com
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