



## Chat from The Chair

### Our Chairperson Linda



**Welcome** to this July edition of the Newsletter which is once again edited and produced by Steve Evans. As you are aware, the AGM held in June marked big changes within the Committee for no other reason than several serving Committee members had reached the end of their term in office and were replaced by some new faces. Once again, I wish to express thanks on behalf of all our members to the Steering Group and Committee for all their hard work and dedication over the years.

Those members who attended the AGM will no doubt agree with me when I say how well we were entertained by our very own band "Now or Never" who took us back to the 1950's with Buddy Holly and Elvis to name but a few.

Additionally, each of the interest groups set up a wonderful display of "show and tell" information relating to their specific interests and I hope they were able to tempt members to join them.

I am really looking forward to serving as Chairperson and I am confident that, going forward and with the support of all of the Committee, we can ensure this

U3A continues to succeed in the way it has in the past.

### Now or Never



It is important to the Committee that our U3A members know they can approach us with any ideas and suggestions they may have. Contact details are shown in this Newsletter; alternatively there is always a suggestion book in place at the back of the venue during the monthly meetings. Members are reminded that, should they write a comment in the Suggestion Book, it is important to include a contact telephone number to enable the Committee to follow them up. Linda Shutt Chairperson

### **Thank you, Message from Marlene Radford.**

I would like to thank all those who attended Alan's funeral and for all the flowers and cards.  
Kind Regards Marlene.

### **Forest Town & District U3A Christmas lunch 2019 The Venue will be "The Hostess", Sookholme Road, NG19 8LL On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

There is still time to put your name down for Christmas lunch.

Please do this soon as final numbers are required by the venue.

Deposits of £2 will be collected from July at the main meetings.

However if you cannot attend meetings you can send your cheque payable to

**" Forest Town and District U3A" or post to 2 Mansfield Road. Clipstone NG21 9EJ".**

We have opted for a change from the usual venue and The Hostess has a good reputation.

They are including entertainment on the day for us.

Any questions - contact me by email [mirfern@gmail.com](mailto:mirfern@gmail.com) or on 01623 646547.

**IS THAT TOMMY?**

It was Saturday evening the 8th June 2019 and we were watching a programme on BBC 2 television, **D-Day 75: Return to the Beaches.**

To quote from the Radio Times the programme 'was following 300 veterans of D-Day, aged between 90 and 105, as they board ship to return to the beaches of Normandy.'

It was a very interesting programme and as we watched the veterans aboard the British Legion ship Boudicca, one face amongst all those people leapt out at us - it was our very own U3A member Tommy Cooper! We knew he had gone with the veterans but never expected to see him on TV.

Well done Tommy, we hope it was a memorable occasion, and we are sure you will soon be telling everyone all about it.

Pauline & Malcolm

In the photo Tommy is the man on the right behind the lady in the blue cardigan.



**Tai Chi**

The end of June also marks the end of the weekly Tai Chi sessions. Since May 2018 Graham from Southwell U3A has given excellent tuition in the gentle meditative art of Tai Chi. Forest Town & District U3A is indebted to Graham for giving this opportunity to our members. He gave his time and expertise with humour and understanding of the varying fitness levels of the group so all progressed through the exercises. The group will miss the sessions as the health benefits have been noticeable but wish him well in future travels and time with his family. FT&D U3A Tai Chi Group members

**Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 in St Alban's Church at 1.45pm.**

**There will be no Book Exchange at the July Meeting.**

Our Speaker will be Phil Cooper: Some may have visited Egypt and Turkey but these days it is difficult to visit Syria. Phil Cooper shares his experiences of such a visit through photos and narrative about its historic sites together with those of Jordan.

**THE MAIN MEETINGS IN 2019**

Jul 4 <sup>th</sup>	Phil Cooper	A trip of a lifetime - Syria, Damascus, and much more
Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mike Hill	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>	Dr Ifran Malic	First World War contribution of Dulmial Village Pakistan
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Members meeting	Slide Show; review of the year

# INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

## GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

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

### Ambling Along

The next meeting of this group will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

Our visit to Creswell Crags for a tour of the "church" cave to see the rock art was a great success. The guide was knowledgeable on the history of the caves and their exploration and welcomed questions on the lifestyle of the probably nomadic people using the caves. After the Victorians did some quite damaging exploration, it was left to the 20th Century archaeologists to make a thorough dig, though still argued about, findings, and preserving the site. It's good to know that 15000 years ago people felt the need to make pictorial records.

### Bird Watching

**Group Leader: Lynne Cooper**  
**Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month**

This month the Bird Watching group swelled in number to 17 so it is with great pleasure that we welcomed four new members.

We made a local visit to Sutton Reservoir where it took us 2 hours to walk round the lake which serves to indicate just how much we were lucky enough to see. Our photograph shows a Black Swan the first time we have seen such a swan. What's more it came up really close, so much, so that we could see with the naked eye the white tip of the bill.



Another delight was a lengthy view of a King fisher sitting on a low bow of a Willow tree overlooking the water. We were also treated to good views of 3 species of inland sea birds Black-headed gulls, Lesser Black-backed gulls and a pair of Common Terns. A local bird watcher told us of the sad successive decline in the number of breeding pairs of Grey Herons at the local Heronry.  
Lynne Cooper

### Book Club

**Group Leader: Ann Stanford**  
**Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 10. 30am Forest Town Library**

## Bridge All Abilities.

**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.**

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## Classic Vehicles

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

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## Computer and IT Skills

**Group Leader: Bob Hunt**

**Please contact Bob re meeting**

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## Country Dancing

**Pam Lander.**

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The Country Dancing Group celebrated Midsummer with dancing and feasting. We had a wonderful day with Janice the caller directing proceedings. We danced a 16th century summer dance, waltzed around in a circle and did our favourite OXO dance. Thank you to everyone that came to make this first venture a success.



Our next meeting at St. Patricks Church Hall is on Friday July 19th. 2 till 4pm. Cost £2 to cover the hire of the hall. Everybody made welcome. No meeting in August. Ann

## Craft

**Group Leader: Jane Freeman**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena**

Eight ladies braved the atrocious summer weather to meet up today with two new recruits joining us to

observe what we actually did, hope we inspired them to come again next month!

The “nattering “with the knitting varied from Wimbledon and the current competitors, who were compared with the more lively and interesting ones from bygone years, before Political Correctness and serious sports coaches intervened.

What to serve for desserts for a picnic in this variable weather.

The candidates for the new Prime Ministerial post What constitutes a good neighbour?

And When will the new drinks machine be installed today’s reason for the lack of any hot drinks (tea or otherwise!) was they were still waiting for it to arrive. Work in progress today included.

Twiddle Muffs( because new ones are always needed,) and Valerie has now taken our carefully hoarded supply to the hospital, after they had been admired at the AGM “show and tell” afternoon, a beautiful jacket for a baby a deliciously soft and cuddly blanket for a new baby, a canvas- work strawberry patch that may be a very long time in completing and the Infamous “cat jumper”, which will be modelled very soon (so, no pressure there ,Janis!) Our Next meeting will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July, at Forest Town Arena, 2.00pm till 4.00pm Jane.

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## Cryptic Crosswords

**Meet on 4th Thursday, 10am at Forest Town Arena.**  
**Group Leader Kay Toy**

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This month's meeting (May) produced much head-scratching amongst our members, as (working in pairs) we pitted our wits against the compilers. Result: compilers 10; group members 4! Nevertheless, there was joy in the camp when solutions were found. And "things" were learnt. Such are the motivating factors for struggling with cryptic crosswords.

Two, at least, of our beginners aspire to complete the Telegraph crossword, for example, within the next year! Hats off to them! Kay

## Current Affairs

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

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## Cycling Off Road

**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**  
**Group Leader David Duncan**

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

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July Cotgrave **Canal and Country Park**.  
**NG12 3JW**. 10am car park on Hollygate Lane

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

Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> **Bestwood Country Park**.  
**NG6 8TQ**. Meet 10am. Car Park off Park Road

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

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

**Contact Denise**

48 members attended our annual potter's holiday and despite the weather this year a lot of fun was shared amongst members with all the different activities Potter's has to offer. There is something to suit everyone; also some of our party between them won £1200 on bingo. The holiday resort offers 5 star accommodation, dining and entertainment. See Photo. **Information on 2020 holiday will be available at September meeting.**

### **Ten pin bowling team**



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### **Evening Dining Out**

**Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

### **Gardening**

**Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Irene Brookes**  
**Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 10-12noon –**  
**Stuart Avenue Centre**

This month (June) our group met at Angelina's house and, in view of the deluge of rain, gathered in her conservatory, peering at her pretty garden (jam-packed with interest) through the window. Alan served us with tea and coffee and we were treated to

Angelina's gorgeous home-made cakes. We chatted about all sorts of things, mostly non-gardening, but hey it wasn't gardening weather!

At the end of the meeting Chris offered us a good selection of plants that he had grown from seed, and these were gratefully received.

Many thanks, to Angelina and Alan for their hospitality and for a pleasant morning's get-together.

Next month (9th July) we visit Mike Davey's garden. Mr Davey has come to speak to our group on two occasions, and from the slides he has shown, his garden looks most attractive.

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### **Family History**

**Group Leader: Jenny Wright**

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

We started this month's session where we left off last month. Mansfield Workhouse, or 105, Stockwell Gate had been mentioned, and after a brief discussion about whether anyone had found any relatives, who had been in the Workhouse, and why, either in Mansfield or elsewhere, we followed it up with a closer look at what life may have been like for them. There were papers on various aspects of Workhouse life and a couple of local history books for the group to look at later if they wanted to find out more. We had one breakthrough that had nothing to do with Family History as we finally managed to get the TV screen at Flint Ave. to play ball and work with our computers, enabling us to view websites without having to huddle around a laptop, this has only taken about three years so we're obviously making great strides!

During and after the break several of us helped our new member, yes he came back, to get started properly, on putting the first building blocks into his family tree. This was helped as he'd been busy over the past month and had unearthed several birth, marriage and death certificates which already gave him quite a wealth of information. Using these facts we were able to introduce him to some family history websites and show him how to find out more using what he already knew as a foundation. He has gone away armed with some family tree charts to start filling in, plus some advice on where to look for more clues and we look forward to finding out how he's got on next month.

This is a useful exercise for all family historians, to start at the beginning and review what we actually know from time to time. It reminds us to check and double check everything; there is nothing worse than spending loads of time researching a branch of your tree only to find out later that you are not related, but if we're honest we've all done it!

## Local History

**Group Leader: Pauline Marples**  
**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.15pm –**  
**Flint Avenue Centre**

There were fourteen of us for this afternoons meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and our topic this month was The Changing Landscape and Some of the Reasons Why. This talk was inspired by learning via the National Trust magazine that HS2 is going through the Hardwick Hall estate. How devastating is this going to be for one of our wonderful country houses and what a change to the landscape.



This was just the start of our slide show and we continued through 58 more slides looking at other country houses such as Clumber, and Welbeck that have seen many changes over the years. Welbeck being the home of the Dukes of Portland led us on to areas of their estate and the Speed Trials, on Clipstone Drive, the Clipstone Army Camp and the selling off of the army huts. These huts went far and wide but also locally and one has recently been discovered at the Mansfield Tennis Club, it is hoped that more documents may be found regarding this hut.

Then intermingled between pictures of Mansfield railway sheds, the station, cattle market, Landers bakery and the demolition of the congregational church we saw a number of aerial views of Mansfield. All of these proved fascinating as everyone was picking out buildings and other landmarks, many which have now changed.

We moved out of town and looked at the site of Harlow Wood hospital and how once it was all woodland, then an orthopaedic hospital before being demolished to become a 'quality' housing estate. This brought us back to Forest Town and the houses that are now replacing allotments on Pump Hollow Lane. We also looked at the many other changes in Forest Town such as how once large properties on Clipstone Road West now have a number of houses in what was once large gardens. Now nearly at the end of the show we viewed photos of the Old Mill Lane changes when Asda was built and the massive housing estate stretching from Old Mill Lane to New

Mill Lane was built. This has provided many people with homes but changed our landscape for ever.  
Pauline Marples

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## Lunch Club

**Group Leader: Denise Whitsed**  
**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

No lunch group during July and August. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Derby Road College.

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## Music - 60's Appreciation

**Group Leader: John Kirk**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm**

Thursday 6th June. Annual General Meeting. We were happy to bring the group Now or Never to entertain everyone at the Forest Town U3A AGM. The reception and comments we received were very encouraging as we strive to keep improving. Thanks to the committee old and new for a well-organized and balanced afternoon.  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. This was our regular monthly gathering at the Arena and we welcomed 7 newcomers to the group bringing our total for the day to 42. (WOW). We ran the usual program and this month's featured artist was Adam Faith  
Cheers John.

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## National Trust Group

**Ann Stanford**

Weather was perfect for our National Trust visit to Packwood House and Baddesley Clinton. Beautiful gardens, historic houses filled with very old pieces of furniture, some over 500 years old, interesting family histories spanning the centuries and fantastic accounts of loyalties so strong that the Ferrer family risked their own lives giving refuge to Catholic priests. A lovely day as we chatted over coffee, scones and ice cream. A good memory trip for Pauline H who suggested this visit. I hope Bess forgives me for thinking she was in another group! (Failed there as a competent leader!) Ann

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July: - Lyme Park and House**

Leaving Forest Town Arena 9.30am. Cost £9.00.

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

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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2pm till 4pm**  
**Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue**

## Poetry & Play Reading

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

Next Meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup>.September

## Rambling

**Group Leader: Andrew Riby**  
**Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles**  
**Meet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

Our first walk in June set out from the delightful village of Ashover. Bob led the way to Ogston Reservoir, following the River Amber. A long ascent took us past the ruins of Trinity Chapel near Brackenfield, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and hidden on a woody hillside. Reaching Coldharbour Lane at the top of the hill, we had a lunch stop with views as far as Cottam power station more than 30 miles to the east. Descending through beautiful wild flower meadows with pyramidal orchids, we came to a smallholding with a flock of Jacob's sheep, and hurried past a bank signed "Adders nesting". Another stiff climb afforded more views from Ravensnest Tor and Cocking Tor, before passing Overton Hall on our return to Ashover.



The mid-month walk started from the grounds of Lyme Hall in East Cheshire. We began a slow but steady climb out of the park, observing a herd of red deer close by, until we reached the Bowstones. These 10C Anglian cross shafts are situated on the old ridgeway running between Disley and Macclesfield which afforded extensive views of Manchester, its airport and over the Cheshire Plain to Connors Quay power station by the Wirral and the Welsh hills. We then descended quickly from the moor and followed the Macclesfield canal for a while before

crossing agricultural land back into Lyme Park with fine views of the hall. A visit to the National Trust café there rounded off a good day.

**Our next rambles:** 3rd July: North Landing to Bridlington (7.9 miles – minibus fully booked). 17th July: Longnor, Lower Bootklow, Boosley Grange, Hardings Booth & Fawshaw (7.8 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.

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## Scrabble & Rummikub

**Group Leader: Celia Tassle**  
**Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Forest Town Arena**  
**2pm**

## Scrap Booking

**Group Leader: Ann Stanford**  
**Meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2-4pm**  
**Sherwood Centre, Stuart Ave.**

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## Short Walks

**Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern**  
**Meet on 4th Monday 10.15am**

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## Strollers

**Group Leader: Denise Doud**  
**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10: 30am**

After 2 weeks of awful weather, what a beautiful morning for our stroll around Vicar Water country park. Our group had swelled again with new friends joining us meaning 22 of us set out on our little trek. We started out together but after a little while the group split and 13 of us went off on a longer walk of about 2.5miles and the rest of the group strolled around the lake.

It was lovely to see the Canada geese babies and the ducklings on the lake and as we walked around we could see the wild roses broom and wild geraniums out in bloom.

Looking forward to our next Stroll which is at Brierley park on Friday 19th July 10.30 (Huthwaite end car park).

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## Table Tennis

**Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern**  
**Meet on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Meden & Oak Hill Leisure**  
**Centre New Time 11:30 - 1:30**

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### Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman  
Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm  
Mansfield Superbowl 2000

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### Deadline for August Newsletter Articles

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. Please send articles to Steve Evans  
[steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com](mailto:steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com)

### No Refunds Policy

It has been decided that when tickets are ordered, they must be paid for, unless advised differently. If you cannot attend the event you have purchased a ticket for, it is up to you to sell that ticket on, as no refund will be given by Forest Town U3A, unless there is a waiting list in operation.

### POLITE NOTICE

Under the National U3A guidelines U3A members and visitors are not permitted to sell any items during meetings, events or excursions for the benefit of any charity, organisation or enterprise other than the U3A.

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

<i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee</i>	
<i>Committee Position</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>Chair</i>	<i>Linda Shutt</i>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>Michael Lyall</i>
<i>Business Secretary</i>	<i>Sue Harkin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Andrew Riby</i>
<i>Assist Treasurer</i>	<i>Marilyn Redfern</i>
<i>Groups Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Anita Adlard</i>
<i>Assist. Group Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Steve Evans</i>
<i>Membership Sec</i>	<i>Jane Atkins</i>
<i>Assist/Membership Sec.</i>	<i>Kelvin Foster</i>
<i>Website Editor</i>	<i>Bob Hunt</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Hazel Hett</i>
<i>Joint Social Secretary</i>	<i>Denise Whitsed</i>
<i>Speaker Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Desley O'Leary</i>
<i>Welfare Officer</i>	<i>Kelvin Foster</i>



The Avenues today