



Chat From The Chair

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter! Filled with all things U3A you should find that this month it is back to its normal size. Many thanks should be extended to Steve Evans, our Newsletter editor.

It was lovely to see so many members at the latest General Meeting on September 5th where we enjoyed a fascinating presentation on Body Language



by John Smith with his "Guide to People Watching"; who knew that there was so much science to facial expressions! I sincerely hope everyone in the audience could hear John too. Those members who attended the September meeting were informed that the Committee have purchased a defibrillator. This will be brought to every General meeting from now on and will be available for use should any member or visitor in attendance suffer a cardiac arrest. CPR training will shortly be offered to any member who wishes to learn and during that training members will also be shown the defibrillator in further detail.

I would like to remind all our members that the ladies and gentlemen on the Refreshment Team, the Meeters & Greeters and all of The Committee are volunteers and deserve to be treated with respect and consideration. On that note I will also point out that abuse in any shape or form directed towards any member of FT & D U3A will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The National U3A Code of

Conduct has been adopted into the FT & D U3A constitution and can be found on the website. There is still time for members to reserve a 2020 U3A diary, simply send me an email or put your names on the list which will be available at the October General Meeting.

There has been a change to the speaker in October. Gordon Howlett will present a talk on "Art in the Home" which I believe is centred on colourful stamps of other countries and the stories they tell. I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting. Linda

MEETINGS IN 2019

3rd October Gordon Howlett, will be talking about 'Art in the Home'.

7th November Dr Ifran Malic, will be talking about First World War contribution of Dulmial Village Pakistan

5th December Steel Pantastic A Medley of Music



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

17th DECEMBER 2019 at The Hostess Restaurant, Sookholme Road, Mansfield NG19 8LL

Hello, all 86 members are now on the list and a booking has been confirmed. We do have a small reserve list, in case of cancellations. Full payment of £16.50 is now required please, if you haven't paid your deposits of £2 you may lose your place. Can you please bring your cheques or cash with you to the next meeting in October or to avoid queueing you can post them to me (cheques to be made payable to **(Forest Town & District U3A), 2 Mansfield Road, Clipstone, NG21 9EJ**

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE.

This year we will be having a raffle; it will be drawn at the December meeting. This will be open to all members, not just those attending the Christmas lunch.

Tickets cost £1 each. There will be 3-4 hamper prizes. Proceeds will go into our general funds.

We would be most grateful for item donations for the hampers, which should be non-perishable items; a box will be available to put these in at the next two meetings. Many thanks Marilyn Redfern

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 Ambling Along	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation
2 nd	Craft Poetry & Play Reading	Gardening	Current Affairs	Bird Watching Ten Pin Bowling	Bridge Scrabble & Rummikub
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Family History	Cycling Off Road	Rambling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers Country Dancing
4 th	Short Walks	Art Appreciation	Classic Vehicles	Cryptic Crosswords Painting & Drawing Evening Dining Out	Bridge
Groups with no Set Day - National Trust					

New Interest Group: The Lace Market Theatre Halifax Place, Nottingham

Are you interested in going to the theatre? Pauline Doughty, will book tickets for you. Any theatre goers will need to arrange their own transport, there is a Tram Stop near Lace Market Theatre. Tickets will cost approximately £10 and there is a bar and coffee facilities. November 11th-16th Consent by Nina Raine, December 9th-14th Seasons Greetings By Alan Ayckbourn. This is on Saturday at 14.30. But other times are available 19.30 Weekdays.

Group Leader email: paulinedoughty80@gmail.com

IDEA FOR A NEW GROUP

Are you interested in old churches for their architecture and settings, history, and local characters? Southwell have such a Group with 34 members they meet March to October. And make day of it by having lunch out to. If anyone thinks they would like to do this and would like some ideas on starting this sort of group, Southwell are very happy to give you ideas and information. They have visited 250 churches since 2013 and keep driving time to 90 minutes a trip. For more information please contact Group Coordinator Anita.

Ambling Along

Group Leader: Linda Bancroft 01623 618099
Meet 1st Tuesday of the month at Forest Town Arena Car Park. Email lindasb07@gmail.com

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month at Arena Car Park at 10.15am for car share to venues or meet at Vicar Water for Vicar Water Amble at 10.30am.
Venues so far: Vicar Water: Rufford Park: Newstead Abby: another could be Sutton Reservoir.
COME ALONG AND TAKE LIFE AT A SLOWER PACE
YOU MAY SURPRISE YOURSELF.

Art Appreciation

4th Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena

Contact Jill Gascoyne

Email jillgas.1@gmail.com

Our September meeting involved planning for future venue visits. We had a choice of interesting places, from Newstead Lace to Grayson Perry.

We looked, listened and discussed with group members who had explored ephemeral art & artists, graffiti art, street art, and Banksie. October meeting will be Graves's gallery exhibition on Popart by Richard Hamilton. Jill

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

Contact 01623 652430

Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

On Thursday 8th August, the birding group were treated to probably the best weather they have ever had for their outings and this month there were two options for the members.

Lynne was joined by six other group members for a morning walk in Thoresby Park, whilst Andy led a group of four further afield to Blacktoft Sands, near Goole.

Whilst both groups had great experiences, this report covers the visit to the RSPB Blacktoft Sands nature reserve that hides on the south bank of the River Ouse, where it widens to become the Humber Estuary.

On our walk to and from the car park we were greeted by dozens of tree sparrows



gathering around the

feeders and darting in and out of the many nesting boxes along the short path. Why mention what used to be such a common bird? ... well their numbers declined by an estimated 93% between 1970 and 2008 and it's good to see them very slowly picking up again.

The site has a north facing aspect – perfect for viewing birds as the sun is always behind you lighting up the birds and showing their colours to full potential. As mentioned, Blacktoft is compact with three hides stretching 500m along an easterly path from the centre and a further three along to the west.

We were surprised to see some very young chicks this late on in the season, but our highlights were: Two adult Marsh Harriers tracking back and forth over the surrounding fields and marsh and a juvenile sitting up in a nearby tree giving us excellent views of its soft golden crown.

Approx. 100 Lapwing – the sun highlighting their iridescent green plumage

Numerous Redshank and two Spotted Redshank (not often seen)

Two Water Rails – a first for some of us

Several Black-tailed Godwit and Snipe



Spoonbills and Little Egrets on two of the lagoons – these birds, more common to southern Europe are becoming more frequent along the east coast and some have even started breeding here.

Whilst there isn't a café at this reserve, thanks to the said knowledgeable duty volunteer, we were able to make ourselves a welcome cuppa at the end of our visit and chat about what we'd seen.

Oh... I nearly forgot ... the Bearded Tits ... elusive as ever, and no we didn't see them ... all the more reason to go back!

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.

Meet 3rd Friday of the month

Email 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.

The Country Dancing Group

Invite

Forest Town & District U3A to Celebrate



Autumn & Harvest Time

Friday 18th October, 11am to 3pm

Come and go at any time

St. Patrick's Church Hall, Forest Town

Dancing with caller Janice Holland

Bring and share lunch.

Tickets £1 available at the Main meetings

Sept/Oct

Contact: Pam Lander 07708 361057

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

Contact 01623 624003

Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

Craft meeting at the Arena, August: as a gentleman quietly supped his beer with a friend, seven ladies of mature years descended and produced various craft items to get on with. Imagine his surprise! Well, he was intrigued and fascinated and asked many questions, with genuine interest. Lace-making particularly captivated him. I think we now have a "craft convert"!

So, we made lace, knitted, crocheted, sewed and embroidered. And chatted! Dogs and cats were discussed (and for those of you who have been following these riveting instalments, "Bertie's jumper" is on the home straight!), and families; also allotments and garden produce; interesting tours of the local recycling facility; the tour of the House of Commons, organised by our MP and taken by one of our group.

At our September meeting a group of 7 ladies convened for a convivial afternoon of crafting and chatting, one lady admitting she had inadvertently turned up on the wrong day for a different activity however she decided that once back home she would unearth her crochet wools and needles and consider joining us next month. Items in the making today were canvas work strawberries, bobbin lace squares for a larger patchwork project, a blue scarf for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, a multi-coloured blanket for a baby, an intricately embroidered linen tablecloth, and The Famous Jumper, which is on its last sleeve.

Conversation topics varied from cat stories, involving mistaken identities, vanishing when required to go to the cattery, devious methods of not taking medication, and tales of trips to the vets; plumbers forgetting about appointments; the complexity of understanding rules and regulations, and thankfully no mention of Brexit or Boris.

Next meeting will be on Monday, 14th October, 2.00pm at Forest Town Arena.

Cryptic Crosswords

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

Group Leader Kay Toy

Email kaytoy@hotmail.co.uk

This month our group had our usual brain-teasing session and, working in pairs, managed to solve 5-clue crosswords and other larger "beginner" crosswords (great jubilation in the camp!). The various tricks used by compilers (eg, anagrams and

hidden words) are now becoming familiar and great progress is being made. Lateral thinking reigns! I am pleased to say that we welcomed a new recruit at this session, and of course newcomers are always welcome. The meetings are light-hearted and members only require a love of words and problem solving. Kay

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

There was a varied selection of topics for discussion today.

Should Geoffrey Boycott have been awarded a knighthood, in view of his past history?

The majority voted no, preferring it to be conferred for something "extra", rather than being good at your job.

Is it likely that Prince Andrew will ever face up to the truth re his involvement with Jeffrey Epstein? The majority thought not, as ranks would be closed in on him.

What does Mansfield really need from the proposed £25 million bid for its regeneration?

A majority said more interesting independent shops, flats for younger people over these buildings, a thriving market and a Big Clean up to make it more visually attractive.

Is the expense of school uniforms preventing some families from applying for certain schools, due to the very prescriptive terms applied to the stockists and styles? Could common sense prevail and allowances be made for clothing to be purchased from supermarkets and chain stores?

There was a general agreement on this, and the idea of uniform exchanges at each school.

Are driverless cars the way forward, or are they a wheel too far?

Most thought they were too risky and gave passengers little or no control in the case of an emergency.

The Strictly Come Dancing team are not ruling out the possibility of same sex partners dancing together. We felt there was not a problem with that.

All the discussions left the group ready for the delicious cakes and drinks supplied, as ever, by Desley and John. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th October, 10.00am. Regards Jane

Cycling Off Road

Meet on 3rd Tuesday

Group Leader David Duncan

Email wings33@btinternet.com

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

HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OUT FOR 2020 FOREST TOWN, SHERWOOD and MANSFIELD U3A's

27th April visit to Lichfield and the Cathedral including a cream tea at the Cathedral. Cost £20 per person.

20th May visit to Liverpool free time around the docks and Liverpool centre plus a live guide tour of Liverpool/Beatles (we had the best guide). Cost £21 per person.

8th June Potter's resort 5* Resort with full daytime and evening entertainment (worthy of West End stage) Full board in bungalow.
Price approximately £340 depending on how many people are going, for free place share out.
Deposit £50 payable to Potters.

22nd June National Arboretum
Arrive in time for Daily act of remembrance.
Two course lunch, private dining. Land Train private tour of the Arboretum Cost £40 per person.

15th July Anderton boat lift & Chester including boat lift. Cost £32 per person.

16th November Thursford Christmas Spectacular 3day holiday staying at Caley Hall, Hunstanton, bed, breakfast and evening meal.
Day one, afternoon show and evening at the hotel
Day two, free time in Norwich
Day three, depart calling at Holt on the way home
£285 £50 deposit required

PLACES WILL ONLY BE RESERVED ON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT, ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "SKILLS" EXCEPT "POTTERS"

Recently 54 members visited Bletchley Park what an amazing inspiring day we had. Denise



Evening Dining Out

Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern
4th Thursday

Contact jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com
mjrfern@gmail.com

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Irene Brookes
Meet on 2nd Tuesday 10-12noon –
Stuart Avenue Centre
Contact Angelina 01623 622871

This month's meeting of the Gardening Group found us at the community centre, Stuart Ave, swapping plants and chatting about future plans. As winter descends, these will involve indoor pursuits, such as making gardening features and decorations. We all (eight of us) enjoyed our usual refreshments and our get-together after a month's break.

Family History

Group Leader: Jenny Wright
Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre
Contact Jenny 01623 631371
Email j.wright445@btinternet.com

We had another new member join our group this month, so welcome Moira, I'm sure Mick will appreciate having someone else who is just starting out in Family History in the group and I hope we can get you started on your journey into your past. This month we looked at the family history website, Find my Past, (they are the ones who sponsor Who Do You Think You Are? on BBC1). Everyone else is on Ancestry so were interested to know what the differences were and to compare the two. I am on both, there isn't much difference in price but I tend to use Ancestry to build my trees while I use FMP more as a reference library, plus my subscription enables me to access the Newspaper Archives without having a separate subscription to them which I find to be very useful to 'dig up some dirt' on my ancestors, it puts the 'meat on the bones', and it appears there's a lot of it out there! There were some chuckles when I revealed that my granddad had been involved in an 'unsound' meat racket in the 1930's

and was fined over £30, and there was me thinking he was a fine, upstanding citizen!

After tea break I threw my computer open to the group and let them have a play on Find my Past while I gave Mick and Moira some help with their trees. We are making headway on Mick's very difficult paternal line and he is hoping to find more out in the local parish records, while Moira has gone away with several charts to fill in, plus guides on how to get started. Jenny

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples

Meet on 3rd Thursday 2.15pm –

Flint Avenue Centre Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline@mp-marples.co.uk

Thanks to the knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm of member Ann Alcock today we learnt about one of the traditional local history crafts, that of Bobbin Lace Making or Hand Made Lace. This is a craft that goes back to the 1600's and handmade lace was very much in demand until mechanisation saw the introduction of machine made lace in the late 1800's. Producing lace on a machine meant the price that could be asked for handmade lace dropped drastically and it became less of a cottage industry. Ann demonstrated with examples large and small, four types of lace, Bedfordshire, Honiton, Bucks Point and Torchon. She had a number of pillows set up with bobbins and thread and showed us how the lace was made, Pam (brave lady) tried her hand at this afterwards.



It was not just the lace making and examples that fascinated us all but the bobbins which were made of bone or wood, these were a craft in themselves. At the bottom of most of the bobbins was a circle of coloured beads on a wire, these were called spangles. We were encouraged to sift along the

many Ann had brought along and they were fascinating, some had names on, or names and a date recording a specific event, this could have been a wedding anniversary OR the name of a person and the date they were hung! They were also in different colours and sometimes had a small design painted on them.

This really was a new aspect of local history that was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. 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

Another excellent turnout to our 60's music group which I hope you all enjoyed. Our three new songs this month were Kiss me Honey Honey by Shirley Bassey, Sailor by Petula Clark and Till I Kissed you by the Everly Brothers.

This month's quiz was devised and presented by Linda our new U3A chair-person and we say Thank you for that. Our next month's quiz is also being delivered by one of our lady members and this is how I hoped the group would develop with members taking part in either the quiz or spotlighting their favourite artist for our feature spot.

Chris (our bass player) was in charge of this month's feature spot and covered the very early days of the Shadows and Cliff Richard explaining how they came together at the start to become one of the most successful groups of all time.

Chris, Bob, Win, Irene and I are now looking forward to our October session, hope you are too.

Kind Regards John.

National Trust Group

Ann Stanford 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

Calke Abbey, Saturday 12th October, cost £8.50. (The hire of the bus has gone up slightly there are 2 buses booked and we have a total of 9 seats left.) **Bus leaves Forest Town Arena Car Park at 9am** as there is a guided walk round the estate at 10am if any walkers wished to do that. The cafe will be open; the house opens at 11am. We will leave around 3pm. The evenings will be drawing in by then. Ann

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: Allan 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@imcgroup.co.uk

Our first Ramble in September started from the "Cat and Fiddle inn" near Buxton. It was a fine day but windy Georganne led us up Shooters Clough towards Errwood Hall enjoying the views of the Goyt Valley.



Errwood Hall was a magnificent country house and is now a ruin it was built in 1840 and demolished in 1934. We then walked to Oldgate Nick were stopped for lunch. We walked back to the Cat and Fiddle along Cats Tor and Shining Tor. Due to the Cat a Fiddle being closed until January 2020 we went to the High Peak Bookstore and Café for our refreshments. Our second ramble in September took us around "Last of the Summer Wine" country on a beautiful day for walking. Steve and Carol led us from Hade Edge along a ridge with fine views all round including both Holme Moss and Emley Moor transmitters, and

Castle Hill near Huddersfield,



our morning break was spent in Sid's Café in Holmfirth, after which we explored the town seeking out Nora Batty's cottage and Peter Sallis and Bill Owen graves. After many steep ups and downs, we came across a vineyard although sadly we had insufficient time for a tour and wine tasting. We got back to our cars rather tired, but having enjoyed a great day out with lots of interest and great scenery. Our next rambles: 2nd October: Froghall, Churnett Valley, Ipstone & Foxt (7.1 miles) 16th October: Osmaston Park (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. Andy

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: Celia Tassle

Meet on 2nd Friday & 3rd Monday Forest Town Arena

2pm Contact 01623 627905

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

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

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

Meet on 2nd Thursday 2pm

Mansfield Superbowl 2000

Contact 01623 620012

Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

October 5th Coffee morning 10.00am till 11.30am Forest Town Methodist Church

October 5th Patchwork Quilting Show 10am till 4pm Clipstone Scout Building - entry£1

October 6th Patchwork Quilting Show 10am till 2pm Clipstone Scout Building - entry £1

(all proceeds go to Breast Care Unit, Kings Mill Hospital).

November 2nd Autumn Fair Forest Town Methodist Church

November 10th Remembrance Parade, Service and laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph, followed by a service in St Alban's Church.

November 22nd Christmas Lights Switch on at Kingsway Hall

Deadline for November Newsletter

Articles

Tuesday 29th October 2019.

Please send articles to Steve Evans also note the change of email address.

ftu3anews@gmail.com

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

<i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee / Contacts</i>			
<i>Committee Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone number</i>	<i>Email</i>
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