



## NEWSLETTER Issue 46 October 2019

### 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> October Gordon Howlett, will be talking about 'Art in the Home'.**

**7<sup>th</sup> November Dr Ifran Malic, will be talking about First World War contribution of Dulmial Village Pakistan**

**5<sup>th</sup> December Steel Pantastic A Medley of Music**



### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

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

### 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 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Consent by Nina Raine, December 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Seasons Greetings By Alan Ayckbourn. This is on Saturday at 14.30. But other times are available 19.30 Weekdays.

### 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**

**Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at Forest Town  
Arena Car Park.**

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

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

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

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!

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### Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

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

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### 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.

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### Classic Vehicles

Ann Stanford

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

### Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: **Bob Hunt**

Please contact Bob re meeting

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### Country Dancing

Pam Lander.

Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

## **Craft**

**Group Leader: Jane Freeman**

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

Craft meeting at the Arena, August: as a gentleman quietly sipped 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**

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

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## **Current Affairs**

**Group Leader: Desley O'Leary**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10am - 12 noon**

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

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## **Cycling Off Road**

**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**

**Group Leader David Duncan**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - [local route](#) - [Edwinstowe](#)  
10am at the Arena or 10-30am at Vicar Water.



## DAYS OUT/HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2019

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

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

**20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**15<sup>th</sup> July** Anderton boat lift & Chester including boat lift. Cost £32 per person.

**16<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

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#### Gardening

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

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.

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#### Family History

**Group Leader: Jenny Wright**  
**Meet 2.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday - Flint Avenue Centre**

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

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### Local History

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

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

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### Lunch Club

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

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### Music - 60's Appreciation

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

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.

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### National Trust Group

**Ann Stanford**

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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 2pm till 4pm**

**Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue**

### Poetry & Play Reading

**Group Leader: Allan Barham**

**Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 10am till 12noon**

**Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue**

### 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Forest Town Arena 2pm**

### Short Walks

**Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern**

**Meet on 4th Monday 10.15am**

### Strollers

**Group Leader: Denise Doud**

**Meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 10: 30am**

### Table Tennis

**Group Leader: Marilyn Redfern**

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

### Ten Pin Bowling

**Group Leader: Gordon Chapman**

**Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm**

**Mansfield Superbowl 2000**



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** Coffee morning 10.00am till 11.30am Forest Town Methodist Church

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** Patchwork Quilting Show 10am till 4pm Clipstone Scout Building - entry £1

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** Patchwork Quilting Show 10am till 2pm Clipstone Scout Building - entry £1

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

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Autumn Fair Forest Town Methodist Church

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

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** Christmas Lights Switch on at Kingsway Hall

### Deadline for November Newsletter

#### Articles

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

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

[ftu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:ftu3anews@gmail.com)

Visit our website for the latest news of Meetings and Groups:

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

**Group Leaders can be contacted via their group page on our website**

| <i>Forest Town U3A Executive Committee</i> |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Committee Position</i>                  | <i>Name</i>            |
| <i>Chairman</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>Joint Social Secretary</i>              | <i>Denise Whitsed</i>  |
| <i>Welfare Officer</i>                     | <i>Kelvin Foster</i>   |



The Avenues today