



Chat From the Chair

“Hello and welcome everyone” to the December edition of our Newsletter. Edited by our very own Steve Evans I am sure you will find this edition filled with all things U3A!

Members who attended the November general meeting enjoyed an inspiring and thought provoking presentation by Dr Irfan Malik.



The topic of the presentation was based on his research into the contribution by the men from his home village, Dulmial in modern day Pakistan, when serving along side the Allies during The Great War. The presentation was excellent and I personally consider it to be one of the best we have seen. As you are already aware, there will be no general meeting in January as the first Thursday happens to be so very close to the New Year and the Committee considered it to be impractical. However, we will be

hosting a Grand Coffee Morning on Monday 13th January. This is to be held in the Forest Town Arena and promises to be an event not to be missed. Cost is £1.50 which includes a piece of cake and endless cups of tea/coffee; extra cake will be on sale to ‘eat in’ or takeaway. There will also be a raffle and a light hearted quiz to keep us all entertained. Tickets will be on sale at the December meeting, alternatively you may pay on the door but we would prefer that members buy a ticket to enable us to have an idea on the number of people attending.

The Committee would like to extend an invitation to any member who wishes to come along to one of the Committee meetings to see what goes on “behind the scenes” and to get to know “what makes your U3A tick”. If you feel you would like to attend a Committee meeting please advise one of the Committee members and we will arrange this for you.

Some time ago, I asked members if anyone would like to share their life or work experiences with others; as no one has come forward I would like to expand this invitation and ask any member who might like to submit an article for inclusion in the Newsletter. This could be submitted anonymously if members prefer but I am sure I am not alone when I say that it would be very enlightening and interesting to hear more from our members.

There will be no speaker in December; instead we are to be entertained by “Steelpantastic”, a steel band from a neighbouring U3A. There will, of course, be the usual seasonal treats served along with the usual “cuppa” by our wonderful refreshment team who always do a great job every month and we will also be providing Vegan and Gluten Free options too. In addition we will be holding the draw for our Christmas Hamper Raffle so please do remember to bring your tickets with you.

We are always on the look-out for more volunteers to be involved in setting up the church for our monthly meetings; so, if you can help in any way, please let one of the committee know, your help would be hugely appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to the Meet and Greeter team, the Refreshment Team, my fellow Committee members and all those individuals who have helped and supported me in my role as Chairperson over the last six months; you are all amazing!

Please note Forest Town and District U3A is now a registered Charity, number 1186417.

I wish you all A Very Happy Christmas!

There will be no book exchange at the December meeting.

Online Membership

The Committee have decided that our U3A may consider an Online Membership option for our members. As we are presently full to capacity and are restricted as such by the fire regulations for occupancy of the church it has been suggested that Online Membership could be a way forward.

This type of membership would be ideal for anyone who does not want to, or never does, attend the monthly meetings but still wants to be involved in the Interest Groups and enjoy the trips and holidays and social outings.

An Online Member would naturally be required to have internet access to enable them to receive the Newsletter, be able to view the website and also receive Groups information.

Membership in this format would be offered at a reduced annual membership fee but the actual fee has not been decided on at this early stage.

The Committee have made no firm decision and we would therefore value the opinion of our members; should you wish to discuss this further or have any alternative suggestions please do not hesitate to contact any Committee member. Alternately, you may leave comments in the suggestion book but please also include your name and contact details. Members can rest assured that this is not a cost cutting exercise; it is simply a way of us being able to open up our U3A to more members in the long term.

MEETINGS IN 2019

5th December Steel Fantastic A Medley of Music

MEETINGS IN 2020

February 6th 2020 – Andrew Tucker A brief look at the history of Live Theatre in Mansfield.

March 5th 2020 – Anthony Sharp, The History of Lincoln, from the Romans to the Georgians.

April 2nd 2020 - Patsy Rayner - Images of Japan: Traditional and Modern.

May 7th 2020 - Elizabeth Holloway, Off The Boats Living on a Longboat.

June 4th 2020 - Jonathan Smith, The joys of Metal Detecting.

NEW GROUP

Sherwood U3A has started a "Gentle Keep Fit Group", and they are looking for new members.

It is to be held in the big room at Sherwood Colliery Welfare Centre, Dunsil Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, NG19 7GD every Wednesday from 2.00pm till 3.00pm. It costs £5 per session and is geared for our

age group. There is no need to book, just turn up in casual wear. There is no pre-payment you pay on the day and no commitment to come every week, come when you can. Hopefully we will see people from other U3As there. For more details contact Anita a.adlard@ntlworld.com

Alan Radford memorial walk

Alan Radford was a passionate walker and was instrumental in setting up rambling, short walks and even strollers groups not only in our U3A, but also in Ashfield, Mansfield and Sherwood. Sadly Alan died in May last year, but he has left behind a huge walking legacy and many friends. A memorial walk is being planned in conjunction with all the other U3As in the Mansfield area on Tuesday 30th June 2020.

While the detailed route is yet to be finalized, it will be a walk of about 5 miles around Forest Town and Clipstone taking in Spa Ponds and Vicar Water Country Park, an area in which Alan loved to walk. Most likely it will start at the White Gates Hotel in Forest Town and end with a drink there. It will be an opportunity for ramblers and short walks groups from U3As around Mansfield to walk together, share anecdotes and memories of Alan, and to celebrate his legacy.

Full details of the route, the start location and start time will be circulated nearer the time, but for now walkers should make a diary note so they don't miss this event. Andy

HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OUT FOR 2020 FOR FOREST TOWN, SHERWOOD and MANSFIELD U3A's ARE VERY POPULAR THESE PLACES ARE FILLING UP VERY QUICKLY AS WE ARE SHARING WITH THREE OTHER U3A's

If you are interested please check the Days Out/ Holidays and Outings Section on page 4.

"THESE ARE NOT JUST HAMPERS... THEY ARE OUR FIRST FESTIVE RAFFLE HAMPERS"

Haven't bought your ticket yet? Email me before the next meeting and they can be reserved and entered for the draw. Tickets are £1 each, payment to be taken on entry to the meeting. mjrfern@gmail.com
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		Rambling Cycling Lunch Club	Local History	Strollers
4 th	Short Walks	Art Appreciation	Classic Vehicles	Cryptic Crosswords Painting & Drawing Evening Dining Out	Bridge Country Dancing
Groups with no Set Day - National Trust					

Ambling Along

Group Leader: Linda Bancroft 01623 618099

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month at Forest Town Arena Car Park at 10.15am for car share.

Email lindasb07@gmail.com

The next Ambling Along meet will be 3rd December 10.30 at Vicar Water, meet in the car park. Please allow time to stay after the walk for drinks, a snack & a chat. I have decided that there will be no Ambling along in January. The February 4th meet will be at Vicar Water again if there is a good attendance we will discuss future plans for this Group. Linda

Art Appreciation

4th Tuesday 10am Forest Town Arena

Contact Jill Gascoyne

Email jillgas.1@gmail.com

Our November meeting was at the Harley Gallery. There were three fascinating exhibitions and a look around the newly refurbished Welbeck collection, which featured three 'Welbeck' ladies, their families and furnishings. The tiara space was exactly that - a square cut into the glass of its erstwhile cabinet. The portraits, old and nearly new were shown to advantage, and display of a Michelangelo crayon study of parents & child was shown for the first time.

In lieu of the December meeting, we gathered at the Tap Haus for lunch. No meeting in December. Venue for January's meeting to be announced.

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

Meet 2nd Thursday of the month

Contact 01623 652430

Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

Meet 1st Monday of the month 10. 30am Forest Town Library

Contact 01623 641864 Email annstanford1@sky.com

The first meeting of the Book Group in 2020 will be at 10.30am on Monday 6th January at Forest Town Library.

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

No meeting on 27th December.

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 at St. Patrick's Church Hall Email annstanford1@sky.com

Thank you to all the members who supported our recent Country Dancing shared harvest/autumn lunch celebration. We had a wonderful time learning new dances (one was called Woolly Jumper!) Janice, our fantastic caller, joined us in a superb lunch and chatted with old and new friends. It was in essence everything U3A stands for - live, learn and laugh.

Thank you once again for making it such a lovely event.

There will be no Country Dancing in December. 2020 will see us back at the Church Hall Friday 24th January. 2-4pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall. This is a week later than our usual date. (Weather permitting of course!)

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 stalwart ladies braved the dreary November weather today, and we brightened up the afternoon with convivial chat and very busy fingers most of which were working with ongoing projects. A snuggly velvet yarn scarf; The Stripy Sleeve (on its very last rows, we have been assured!); A girl's knitted bonnet; the magnificent embroidered table cloth; Two (rival!) crocheted blankets which one will be completed first?

The canvas work strawberries.

Topics of conversation varied between the follies of planning permission being granted for housing in Berry Hill Quarry, with the resulting mud slide in the recent wet weather.

The "promise" from Nigel Farage of not competing against Conservative seats in the upcoming general election; Favourite genres of music (this was instigated by the background music coming from behind the bar).

We were also catching up with the engrossing serials on TV with, nobody spoiling the plot line for those who hadn't watched the latest episode. Next meeting Monday 9th December at 2.00pm come with all of your "Festive Cheer." Regards, Jane
PS, we have heard rumours that a new hot drinks machine will be in place!!!!

Cryptic Crosswords

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

Group Leader Kay Toy

Email kaytoy@hotmail.co.uk

Last month (Oct) we had a successful meeting, in which "Coffee Break" crosswords were attempted and (jubilation!) solved. Great satisfaction in beating the machinations of the crossword setters, and the little grey cells were suitably polished! The "Radio Times" crosswords proved to be more of a challenge, and the writer of this piece had to admit defeat and finish two of them off at home, after a period of head-scratching.

No meeting in December our next meeting will be 23rd January 2020. Kay

Current Affairs

Group Leader: Desley O'Leary

2nd Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Contact 01623 421642

Email desley@uwclub.net

Cycling Off Road

Meet on 3rd Wednesday

Group Leader David Duncan

Email wings33@btinternet.com

DAYS OUT/HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS 2020

Contact Denise 07791941502.

Email deewhits@aol.com

**LIMITED PLACES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR
HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS NEXT YEAR
DEPOSIT CHEQUES WILL RESERVE YOUR PLACE AND
WILL NOT BE CASHED TILL JANUARY 2020**

27th April visit to Lichfield and the Cathedral including a cream tea at the Cathedral £20 pp

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) £21 pp

8th June Potter's resort
5* resort with full daytime and evening entertainment (worthy of west end stage)
Full board in bungalow plus
Price approximately £340 depending on how many 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 £40 pp

15th July Anderton boat lift & Chester including boat lift £32pp

16th November Thursford Christmas spectacular (3day)
Staying at Caley hall Hunstanton bed breakfast evening meal
Day one afternoon show and evening at the hotel
Day two is spent in Norwich
Day three depart calling at Holt on the way home
£285 £50 deposit required
DENISE 07791941502 deewhits@aol.com

Evening Dining Out

Group Leaders: Jane Atkins, Marilyn Redfern

4th Thursday

**Contact jane.e.atkins60@gmail.com
mjirfern@gmail.com**

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Irene Brookes

Meet on 2nd Tuesday 10-12noon –

Stuart Avenue Centre

Contact Angelina 01623 622871

This month about a dozen of us gathered together at the Stuart Ave Community Centre for a fun-filled "crafty" morning. Tutored by Chris and Angelina, we struggled with sticky fingers as glue and paint were daubed and Christmassy figures were put together with flowerpots, polystyrene balls, stickers, tinsel, and other bits and pieces. In addition, some of us painted small rectangles of slate with garden themes, in the hope that they would be splendid enough to be displayed outside at home to welcome visitors! Our spirits were revived with tea, coffee and biscuits, so thanks to the refreshments ladies.

As can be seen from the accompanying photo, a bright and cheerful collection of characters resulted from the morning's work!



Next month we'll all be bringing food for our Christmas "fuddle", which promises to be great fun.
Kay

Family History

Group Leader: Jenny Wright

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact Jenny 01623 631371

Email j.wright445@btinternet.com

At the start of the meeting Ann and Chris walked in with two small rolls of carpet, was this some new way of transporting family trees we wondered? No, it turned out that they'd just bought them on the way to Flint Ave. however see further down.....

This month we had a general chat session about what had been discovered since the last meeting.

Malcolm had been busy keeping Pauline off Find my Past by looking into one of his lines. This had thrown

up some questions, why was Leonard born in North Kensington when his parents came from Sheffield and where was the family in 1891? Also why was he living with his grandmother in Sheffield in 1901 but there was no sign of his parents who seemed to have vanished off the face of the earth? We all put our heads together to come up with suggestions for him to try.

This kind of mystery often occurs in Family History (we've all got them) and can be very frustrating, sometimes it can be that people are living with a relative, may be in the Workhouse or have disappeared for reasons best known to themselves, it doesn't mean the end of the line though and often some lateral thinking can unearth further information that may solve the mystery, you just have to keep plugging away.

I've had a similar problem with my great aunt, the difficulty here is that she (and her husband) often changed their names, Elsie or Ethel Madge to Madge Ethel and possibly Marjorie and is he Percy William, William Percy or some other combination? No one left to ask, so according to the group I'm just going to have to bite the bullet and order the marriage certificate for William P Oldfield to Marjorie E Frost in 1922, in Derby, not Doncaster, and hope it's the right couple!

Now back to the carpet rolls, Mick was not aware of directories, available in Archives and libraries, and how they can help to fill in the years between census returns about where our ancestors were living, and sometimes occupations, if they owned a shop at the time. Pauline had brought along some directories for him to have a look at, one of which was very large and very old so you don't want to be opening it and allowing the rest to flop about, one of the carpet rolls fitted the bill nicely as a support, not what you get in the Archives but beggars can't be choosers.

There will be no Family History meeting in December, so hope you all have a Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year. 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

Our meeting this month was a hands on discovery session looking at maps. Pauline had brought a large variety relevant to Forest Town and Mansfield. Guest U3A member Allan Barham also brought a large map (on a board) of Mansfield which needed dating. This map had the names of shops etc. on it that was in living memory and this sparked a lot of conversation. Some of the maps Pauline brought despite being in a very delicate condition proved of great interest, they showed Mansfield and Forest Town. These plus

some of the others needed weighting down as they had been rolled up. Not having the type of weights to be found in archives, alternatives had to be found and Pauline brought along glass paper weights, tins of fruit amongst other things - these caused a smile but did the job.



Among the other maps were some showing before and after Forest Town was built which are very intriguing to see how the village was built in the field patterns. One map was of Forest Town (circa 1950) when planning for the Prince Charles pub was underway and the area it was anticipated it would cover. There was paper work to go with this revealing how petitions were got up from those who wanted and didn't want a public house in the village. The planning of the Mansfield Railway map (early 1900's) revealed many of the owners of properties en route. We had a break for refreshments and chat, but soon everyone was back to poring over the maps. We do not have a meeting in December. Our next meeting is Thursday 16th January 2.15pm when (hopefully) everyone will have brought along some aspect of local history they have found on the internet that has interested them. Pauline

Lunch Club

Group Leader: Denise Whitsed
Meet on 3rd Wednesday
Email 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

Next stop Christmas whether you're ready or not. Our next meeting will be on December 6th the day after the U3A monthly meeting across the road. We were slightly less busy for our November session due I think to our day falling on the Friday 1st November 6 days before the U3A monthly meeting on the 7th. I must try and remember to give a little reminder when this crops up again. For our December meeting we will be charging, £1 instead of the usual 50 pence in order to have a few treats and extra raffle prizes. Last Christmas we did a full buffet but

unfortunately a lot of the food was left over which was not what we wanted, probably due to our session being 2 till 4 in the afternoon which is neither lunch time or tea time. We'll see how it goes. There will of course be a couple of Christmas songs as well as our usual program all being well. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of (Now or Never) to wish all U3A members a Happy Christmas and New Year. Best Wishes, John.

National Trust Group

Ann Stanford 01623 641864
Email annstanford1@sky.com

The first trip for 2020 is on Saturday April 18th 2020 to Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire leaving the Arena at 10am. Cost £7.50. There will be 14 seats available and can be booked onwards from the February Main Meeting.

I have provisionally booked 7 dates with Ravenshead Community Transport for our 2020 programme. Most visits will be on the second Saturday of the month, starting from April through to October 2020. 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
Contact 01623 620849
Email allan.barham@gmail.com

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

Carol led our first walk in November from Rowsley on a cold morning with mist clinging to the bottom of the Derwent Valley. After a steady incline we arrived at Stanton Woodhouse, with its 16th century manor house where a startled deer dashed across our path. In woodland displaying beautiful autumn golden hues we came across the disused Lees Cross quarry, which has the highest quarry face in the UK, before arriving at the Nine Ladies standing stone circle. The walk over Stanton Moor afforded wide views. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to climb the Cork Stone. Luckily no-one was injured. Dropping off the moor to Congreave, we had views over Haddon Hall before the weather closed in for the final leg back to

Rowsley.



Steve's walk from Eakring first took us to Mompesson's Cross, marking the site where Mompesson preached on becoming the village Rector in 1670 A.D. after leaving Eyam which had been decimated by the plague. Then we headed for Dukes Wood, the unlikely site of an oilfield which operated in secret during the Second World War, keeping Britain moving when German U-boats were sinking oil tankers coming from the USA.



Our coffee break was interrupted by a herd of highland cattle passing by to fresh pasture. Lunch was taken at a view point above Maplebeck, although it was too hazy to see the promised view of Lincoln cathedral. Our walk back to Eakring over ploughed fields was tough going, our boots caked in mud and heavy.

Our next rambles: 4th December: Short walk from Cromford followed by Christmas lunch (around 4.5 miles) 18th December: Cuckney & Church Warsop (8.2 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

There will be no stroll in December. Weather permitting the first stroll in the New Year will be Friday 15th January.

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

Theatre Group,

The Lace Market Theatre Halifax Place, Nottingham

Group Leader: Pauline Doughty

Email: paulinedoughty80@gmail.com

Tickets will cost approximately £10 and there is a bar and coffee facilities. 9th - 14th December, is Season's Greetings, by Alan Ayckbourn. This is on Saturday at 14.30. But other times are available 19.30 Weekdays.

Ten Pin Bowling

Group Leader: Gordon Chapman

Meet on 2nd Thursday 2pm

Mansfield Superbowl 2000

Contact 01623 620012

Email chapmanrogere490@gmail.com

PICKLEBALL

Does your U3A run a Pickleball interest group? Hucknall U3A is looking for local opposition and would like to organise some friendly matches with local rivals! If you don't have a Pickleball group but are considering setting one up we would be very willing to assist its development.

I look forward to being inundated with replies!

Bob McEwen bob.mcewen@ntlworld.com

Telephone 07715 107115

Hucknall U3A Pickleball Club

Lilian Whitehead

Some of you will have met Lilian on the holidays at Thoresby Hall that Terry Whitehead (her husband) organised. Unfortunately, Lilian died following a stroke on Sunday 10th November at King's Mill Hospital. If any of our members wish to contact Terry, please contact him on the Notices on the Welcome Page of Mansfield U3A website <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/mansfield/home>

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Alban's Church - Christmas Services

Sunday 1st December 4pm - Christingle
Sunday 15th December 4pm - Carol Service
Tuesday 24th December 4pm - Christmas Crib Service
Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm - Midnight "Mass"
Wednesday 25th December 9.30 am- Christmas Day Communion

Forest Town Methodist Church

Saturday 7th December 10am -12noon - Coffee Morning
Sunday 22nd December 4pm - Candle Lit Carol Service
Wednesday 25th December 10am - Family Worship for Christmas day

Saturday 14th December Forest Town Craft Market 10am - 2pm at Kingsway Hall. Pauline

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Training

Thank you to Linda and Kelvin for their time, knowledge and organisation of the above course held on Monday 25th November. It was brilliant!

Reminder

If your address, contact number or e mail address changes would you please remember to let the Membership Secretary know.

Deadline for February 2020 Newsletter Articles

Monday 27th January 2020.

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>			
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