



Chat From the Chair

Hello and welcome to the first Newsletter of 2020! I hope all our members had a wonderful Christmas and a positive start to a healthy New Year! All the celebrating and indulging seems so far away now though doesn't it? Speaking of which, I attended the U3A Christmas Meal at The Hostess in December and I have to say how impressed I was. Regardless of the vast amount of people at the venue the meal was wonderful and Marilyn did an amazing job in organising it and arranging a really complex seating plan.

Those members who attended the December meeting enjoyed excellent musical entertainment provided by members of Worksop U3A steel band, Steelpantastic! They were truly amazing and received rapturous applause.

The Coffee Morning held on January 13th was an enormous success! I am sure that everyone who attended will agree with me when I say that all those involved in the planning and organisation did an absolutely fantastic job! Many thanks to all those involved!

Members are reminded that they are invited to attend the Committee meetings, if you want to see what goes on behind the scenes then please contact any Committee member and we will arrange this for you.

Members will no doubt recall the recent article in our Newsletter on the subject of Loneliness and Isolation; I happened to be talking to someone recently who attended an event alone and then decided to leave

early.....because no one spoke to her! Whilst I found this to be a sad situation I felt that I had to ask her if she herself, had made the effort to speak to anyone.....apparently she hadn't. Clearly, the key to making new friends is making the effort to communicate. Please, keep on saying "Hello" to people; together we can break the chain of loneliness and isolation.

For some months now I have been encouraging members to share their views and ideas on how they want their U3A to be structured. I am very disappointed to announce that, to date, no one has come forward with any constructive ideas whatsoever. However, it has come to my notice that some of our proactive and dedicated members have been subjected to extreme criticism and unpleasantness for their ideas and the way they have organised and promoted certain events.

I will say that negative and derogatory comments are totally unnecessary and not at all constructive in making your U3A successful. If members consider that events are not being planned the way they want they should come forward at the time and every effort will be made to accommodate all suggestions.

It has to be said just how much work goes into producing and editing your U3A Newsletter! Articles need to be submitted by the pre-determined cut-off date, these are then edited and the first draft submitted for proof reading before the final edition is published. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our editor Steve Evans and proof reader Jenny Wright who, along with countless other U3A duties and their own personal responsibilities, do an amazing job in creating your Newsletter!

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.

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

Art Appreciation

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

Bird Watching

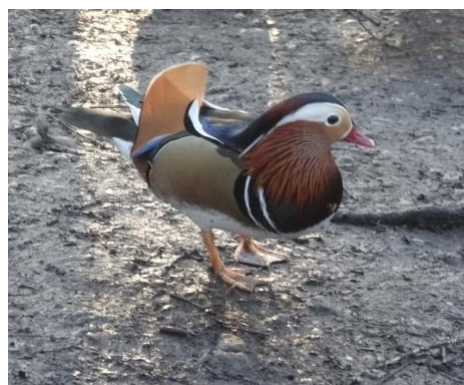
Group Leader: Lynne Cooper
Meet 2nd Thursday of the month
Contact 01623 652430
Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

On the morning of Thursday 9th January the enthusiastic members of our group arrived at 8am in the main car park of Rufford Abbey Country Park when it was still rather dark!

However, within a short space of time the sun suddenly broke through heralding the start of a lovely morning.

Our early start was in the hope of seeing Hawfinches which we understood had already been seen on other days at that time in a morning. Well, if they were there on Thursday they kept out of sight. Soon however binoculars were focussed on a very large bird in the distance which kept flying low at the base of trees or hopping on posts. After much discussion it was agreed it was a buzzard.

We left the car park and headed for the lake and there, amongst all the Mallards and other noisy ducks busy pecking away on the ground, was a beautifully coloured Mandarin Duck (see the photo).



It was a pleasant walk round the lake and we all commented on the fact that the water was a lot higher than normal and was very muddy looking. We saw a good variety of birds, at least 28 species, many of them the usual ones such as members of the Tit family and Robins (we lost count of how many of these we saw), one even flew onto Linda's hand for some seed. Among the special delights of the day was a tiny Gold Crest flitting its way around the lower branches of trees, also a Marsh Tit, and, looking over the lake to the island, there was a Kingfisher, its blue plumage caught by the sunlight. The sharp eyed (well with binoculars) amongst us saw it dive and get a fish.

Now the blue of the Kingfisher was not all we saw because as we neared the ford blue flashing lights were evident, and there were three fire engines and a police van. There was also a sorry looking car with its window down that had been dragged out of the water; it seems someone had once again attempted to drive through the flooded ford. We just hoped that all the occupants were safe.

Our morning was rounded off with a welcome hot drink, and for some of us a scone, in the Courtyard Cafe as we reflected on a really good morning bird watching. Pauline M

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 January meeting of the Book Group, fuelled by left over chocolates and drink, non-alcoholic, discussed the possible fallout to the very confusing ending of 'Sometimes I lie' by Alice Feeney, which starts with:

My name is Amber Reynolds. There are 3 things you should know about me.

1. I'm in a coma.
2. My husband doesn't love me anymore.
3. Sometimes I lie.

The book comprises of a pathological liar in a coma, a childhood diary, an imaginary friend and an evil sister. It is written with many unsuspecting twists and very surprising turns; the ending of the book is not conclusive. We had 3 possible explanations.

1. The whole book was a lie.
2. Edward, a thwarted ex-boyfriend, whom Amber tried to kill, was shadowing her to plot his next move.

As was ...

3. Claire, Amber's 'sister'. Claire and her husband were murdered by Amber, but did Claire die? Ann T put a very strong case for this scenario.

This is a modern, psychological thriller, written in the vein of 'Gone Girl' and 'Girl on the Train'. There are plans to make a TV film of this book. My favourite book so far this year!

If you would like to know more about the Book Group please see Anita Adlard, the Group Coordinator.

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

Silverstone Experience.

A new £25 million lottery experience has just opened at Silverstone. If any member is interested, or would like to know more, please contact Ann Stanford or Anita Adlard.

We would travel by minibus, the price based on 14 seats, at a day that would suit us all. The trip would approximately be £40 which includes return travel from Forest Town Arena and entrance fee to the experience. Ann Stanford

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

Below are the dates for Country Dancing. We have 3 of our special days of dance to mark the passing of the year. Tickets are £2 towards the cost of the hall and refreshments. The £2 can be paid on the door on the day. Everyone is invited; just bring something to contribute to a shared lunch. Janice and Pam will be the wonderful callers guiding us through the dances.

Friday 26th February, 2pm - 4pm

£2 Tickets for March Spring Equinox Lunch on sale at Main Meeting

Friday 20th March, Everyone is invited, just bring something to contribute to a shared lunch. 11am to 3pm.

Friday 17th April, 2pm - 4pm

Friday 22nd May, 2pm - 4pm

£2 Tickets for June Midsummer lunch for sale at Main Meeting

Friday 19th June Shared lunch and dancing from 11am to 3pm.

Friday 17th July, 2pm - 4pm

NO meeting in August

Friday 18th September, 2pm - 4pm

£2 Tickets for October Autumn lunch on sale at Main Meeting

Friday 16th October shared lunch and dancing from 11am to 3pm

Friday 20th November, 2pm - 4 pm

NO meeting December. Ann

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

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

Contact 01623 624003

Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

The Craft group convened with a "bit of a buzz" after the Christmas holidays, with a lot of chat and quite a lot of crafting activities, including some charming knitted catnip mice, destined for some very lucky felines; an intricate lace edging for a pillow case which had to be completed before the weekend, good luck with that one. More cosy crochet rugs; a cuddly knitted jacket for a baby; and new to the group, decoupage card work, which looked very intricate and involved; and, very topical and urgent, knitted "pockets" for the Koalas rescued from the devastating fires in Australia the patterns for which were passed round and copied out, with promises for

more to be made; the strawberry canvas work, two more leaves of which were completed today; and wait for it the very last arm(or should it be "leg"?) of that striped sweater we hope to see it all finished in February, no pressure there, then! The conversation "buzz" mainly concentrated on the complexity of The Royals and the kerfuffle that had been caused. Many "least-worst " options were offered up for The Queen to consider at their forthcoming meeting we will have to see if any of them were taken up! Next meeting, Monday 10th February 2.00pm Forest Town Arena Regards Jane

Cryptic Crosswords

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

Group Leader Kay Toy

Email kaytoy@hotmail.co.uk

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

Members recently joined together for a trip to POTTERS 5 * holiday resort for a Christmas extravaganza break. We all enjoyed the fabulous food of 3 x3 course meals a day with the option of midnight meal for those up late.



The evening entertainment is worthy of any west end stage. This year as Potters is so much in demand we are taking 2 trips. June 8th Monday to Friday price approximately £320 depending on numbers a great saving of £70 each plus bus fare.

7th December 2020 Monday to Friday price approximately £315 again depending on numbers plus bus fare. So come join us

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 £320 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

mjrfern@gmail.com

Gardening

Group Leaders: Angelina Taylor & Irene Brookes

Meet on 2nd Tuesday 10-12noon –

Stuart Avenue Centre

Contact Angelina 01623 622871

In December our Gardening Group had a Christmas "fuddle", with a lovely spread of largely home-made festive food, plus tea and coffee, Christmassy music and convivial chat. Angelina entertained us with some palm-reading (!), and we sewed gift labels as a side-line (well the weather was a bit grim for gardening projects!). All good fun. Ideas for the New Year were discussed (plant swaps, a gardening quiz, decorated items for the garden, eg painted slate/pebbles). We hope for some outdoor activity as spring approaches (perhaps a visit to a garden centre). Kay

At our January meeting, we planned our itinerary for the year. We also had a gardening quiz which we all enjoyed.

We painted our house numbers and flowers on slate which looked great!



We also did some stone painting which is good fun.
Angelina

Family History

Group Leader: Jenny Wright

Meet 2.30pm 3rd Monday - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact Jenny 01623 631371

Email j.wright445@btinternet.com

After a break in December everyone was raring to go and we welcomed a new member, Jill, to our group. The question, 'Has anyone discovered anything about their family since the last time we met?' didn't bring much forth from most of us, me included, Christmas etc. tends to get in the way of tracking down your ancestors at this time of year.

Ann had a complaint after finding a prison entry for one of her ancestors, only to find that in the image the book hadn't been folded completely back and she was missing half of the vital information!

Malcolm however, had been beavering away, having finally received a copy of a will he'd sent for which had thrown up a lot more questions than it answered. He brought along a copy of the original to

let us look at, the writing was very difficult to read and he eventually took pity on us and gave us a transcript that at least we didn't need a magnifying glass to read! Some of us had not seen a will before, especially one dated 1895, and even with the transcript it was mind boggling.

Our task was to try to help him work out the family connections, not as easy as it sounds as there was no punctuation included beyond the odd capital letter, which made it very difficult to decide which of the nephews and nieces belonged to which brother or sister of the deceased. Another puzzle was that some of the nieces were given their full (married) names e.g. Elizabeth Salt, while others were referred to only by their married surname with no Christian names included.

Malcolm now has the job of working out who became Mrs Cahill and Mrs Richardson.

Malcolm now has to work out who became Mrs Cahill and Mrs. Richardson.

Another problem was trying to work out, with no punctuation, who was to get which sum of money etc. I think by the end we had made some headway in helping him untangle it although where nephew Abraham Fletcher fitted in eluded us all.

One thing that was clear from a codicil to the will however was that there had been a big falling out leading to several beneficiaries being struck out, and we all wondered what had occurred. I suppose we'll never know, but it's one of those times you wish you could be a fly on the wall. 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

At our first meeting on January 16th everyone had been asked to bring along some aspect of local history they had discovered on the internet or in books. We were pleased to welcome Linda (our U3A Chairperson) to the meeting who joined in the theme by bringing along three photographs taken from the headstocks of Clipstone pit.



These were taken by her father in 1952 when he was working on the headstocks and reveal a very different Clipstone than we would see today, such as fields,

prefabs and possibly the Gwendoline Grove Mother and Baby Home.

Jenny A, then told us how her interest in a large house on Nottingham Road, led to discovering more about the owner Mr Hollins who lived at Berry Hill Hall and was the owner of the Pleasley Vale Mills. He had also built a whole village in the Vale for workers at the Mills. This sparked off Kathleen recalling her Grandma used to sing at 'Soirees' that Mrs Hollins held.

From Kathleen we learnt about the Gooseberry Pork Pie which was a traditional dish was made for the July fair, this fascinated members of the group who had never heard about it.

It was then Andy's turn, he connected his lap top up to the screen in the Flint Avenue Centre and introduced us to the nottsheritagegateway.org.uk web site with some interesting information on. He then went into Archi UK: Maps of Britain and demonstrated how a modern map could be placed over an old one.

It was then Julies turn, who told us how when they had moved to Forest Town they had lovely views of fields and Rushpool Farm, an area that is now just covered with a vast housing estate. She discovered more about this on the ourmansfieldandarea.org.uk web site. She then covered a wide area of topics revealing some of what she had found on both that site and Wikipedia, this included Streets of Mansfield Woodhouse, which set off a discussion on Street names.

At this point we ran out of time and will continue with the same theme next month to allow other members of the group to tell of their discoveries.

Pauline M.

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

Our meeting on December 6th was our Christmas gathering and final gig of the decade. Fifty one members attended and hopefully everyone enjoyed the afternoon, (We certainly did). We made a charge of £1 instead of the usual 50 pence which enabled us to provide some treats on the tables and a few extra raffle prizes. Our group (Now or Never) performed our two usual spots and were able to fit in three Christmas songs as well.

Bass player Chris was in charge of the Christmas quiz and I featured the famous Christmas album from 1963, A Christmas gift for you, from Phil Spector. Our meeting in January 2020 was another excellent turnout which surprised us a little and we also welcomed a few new faces. Like most people we have all been busy with family and friends over Christmas and lack of rehearsal time meant there were no new songs this month. Our featured artist spot also suffered from the Christmas holiday so I decided to repeat our very first one from April 2018, one of my favourite groups The Hollies. I was working on the premise that if the BBC and ITV can repeat programmes then why can't we? Let's hope the weather is kind to us in January and if so we'll be doing it all again on Friday 7th of February. Best wishes for 2020 John.

National Trust Group

Ann Stanford 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

Here is a list of the National Trust trips for 2020. All pick up at Forest Town Arena. There are 14 seats but if the driver does not take a passenger there are 15 available.

Saturday 18th April leaving 10am to Kedleston Hall.

Derbyshire £7.50

Saturday 16th May leaving 10am to Stoneywell,

Leicester £9.00

Saturday 13th June leaving 9am to Packwood and

Baddesley Clinton. £17.00

Saturday July 11th leaving at 9.30am to Tattershall

Castle and Gunby Hall. Lincolnshire £14.00

Saturday 15th August leaving at 9.30am to Biddulph

Grange Gardens, Staffs. £13 Note: There are 400

steps in the garden.

Saturday 12th September leaving at 9.00am to Mosley

Old Hall and Wightwick Manor Staffordshire £14.50.

Saturday 10th October leaving at 9.30am to Belton

£9.00.

There may be changes to the itinerary as all drivers for Ravenshead Community Transport are volunteers.

If you wish to pay by cheque it is to **Forest Town &**

District U3A. Payments can be made from the

February Main meeting. Thank you 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

Our first walk fell on New Year's Day, so family members were invited to join us on a ramble around Chatsworth Estate. The climb from Calton Lees car park gave us fine views over the house and gardens before we dropped down to the pretty village of Edensor. We then followed the River Derwent towards Baslow passing Queen Mary's Bower before heading steeply uphill to Dobb Edge and the Hunting Tower, passing a herd of red deer on the way. After skirting the Emperor Lake and Swiss Cottage, we dropped down a wooded track to Chatsworth House and then followed the river southward back to our cars.



Steve led our next walk from Grassmoor Country Park on a bright sunny day. We headed off to Heath village along the Five Pits Trail. The aftermath of Storm Brendan the previous day soon became apparent with paths turned to quagmires, mud splashing way over the tops of gators. Watching apacac in an adjacent field lifted our spirits.



Lunch was taken sitting on the ha-ha at Sutton Scarsdale Hall which afforded fine views across the Doe Lea valley to Bolsover Castle and beyond. After

exploring the exterior of the ruined hall and learning about its history, we passed through pleasant countryside to Temple Normanton. Steve's secateurs came in handy, cutting back hawthorn overgrowing a stile on the way back to the car park.

Our next rambles: 5th February: Cresswell Crag, Belp and Welbeck Abbey and 19th February Elvaston Castle, Ambaston & Thulston. Meet at Forest Town 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

Today's stroller meet was at Vicar Water Country Park where 22 members met on a very wet and dismal morning.

After a little discussion 6 of us strolled straight into Rumbels while the rest of us set off for a stroll around the park. Eventually splitting into a short and longer walk we then met in the Cafe' for a hot drink and our usual chat. Even though the weather was not the best we weren't the only people out walking which was nice to see.

The next meeting is on Friday 21st February at Rufford Country Park. Due to the car park charge it was suggested that we meet in the Arena car park for car sharing at 10 am but if you want to use your own transport meet at 10.30am in the Mill End car park

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 FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday 1st Coffee Morning Forest Town Methodist Church 10 - 12 noon

Tuesday 18th Forest Town Community Council will be meeting at 7.15pm, in the Sherwood Rooms, Forest Town Arena. This is open to all Forest Town Residents.

Saturday 15th Village Craft Market, Kingsway Hall Forest Town 10am - 2.00pm

WEEKLY

St Alban's Church, Drop in Coffee Morning each Thursday 10-12noon

PRAYER REQUESTS

Have you ever wished you could ask someone to pray for you, your family or friends without you having to go into church? On the gates of Forest Town Methodist Church is what appears to be a Green Post Box, this is however a Prayer Box for people to write their request on a card or paper and post it so that members of the church can do this for you.

(CPR) Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Workshop

We will be running another CPR workshop on Monday 23rd March 2020

At the February U3A meeting and March meeting I will be taking the names of members who are interested in either learning a new skill or updating your practical technique's the choice is yours.

For the members who do not attend the meetings but would still like to come along please e-mail me of your interest to add yourself to the list.

As like the first workshop there would be 3 sessions, each 2 hours long.

10:00 - 12:00hrs then 12:30 - 14:30 hrs; last but not least 15:00 - 17:00 hrs.

Many thanks for your consideration. Kind regards Kelvin

Deadline for March 2020 Newsletter Articles

Tuesday 25th February 2020.

Please send articles to Steve Evans @

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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