



NEWSLETTER Issue 5 February 2016

Welcome to our February edition of the Newsletter; other than the monthly meetings this is our main way of communication with you about all that is happening with the Forest Town & District U3A. Additionally thanks to Bob Hunt, we now have a web site up and running, see page 2 for details

If you have any comments, ideas etc. about the Newsletter and your U3A please forward them either to me or Pauline Marples our Newsletter Editor.

As I mentioned at the January meeting the paperwork for confirming our 'full' membership of the U3A wasn't completed due to holidays and the Xmas post; I anticipate that everything will be in place by our February meeting, though I am unsure at this stage whether Jane Pavier and Jeremy Lloyd will be able to attend that meeting.

We are still looking for an additional person to help with the PA system at our monthly meetings and it would be helpful to have one or two more people who will act as 'meeters & greeters' and to help with setting up before, and clearing away after the meeting. Please contact any members of the Steering Committee if you feel you can help.

Our June meeting will also be our AGM at which there will be the opportunity for any members to stand for the Management Committee to replace the Steering Committee that has been in operation since the original 'information' meeting back in September. I know this is still some way off but please consider whether joining the committee is something you would like to undertake; again talk to any members of the Steering Committee who can give you an idea of what is involved.

Mike King, Chairman

OUR APOLOGIES

At our January meeting there was a problem with the microphone and many of you could not hear the notices etc read out by Mike our Chairman. The Audio equipment belongs to the church and our volunteer technicians are still finding their way round the system.



AT OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Our speaker Patrick Smith MBE will be giving us an illustrated talk on 'Andalucía' a breathtaking area in Southern Spain. The historical buildings and atmosphere are wonderful whilst experience of the annual Seville Fair will add another layer.

Patrick who has lived in Nottingham for many years has a very interesting profile both as a former maths teacher, and in the field of sport. Indeed his MBE awarded in 2002, was for services to School Sport. He was also involved as a Football Referee in the Barcelona Paralympic Games 1992, a Games Maker at the 2012 Olympic Games Volunteer, and at the 2015 World Cerebral Palsy Championships in Nottingham. He is also a member of Nottingham U3A.

GROUPS - The number of Groups has expanded since our January meeting - look out for the new ones. Wander round the tables and browse the groups which are already active. If you have suggestions for new groups that you would like to participate in, speak to Denise Doud the Group Co-ordinator, or a committee member. It is not hard to start a group, it only needs two or three people with a similar interest and before you know where you are you are chatting, sharing ideas, living and learning with the U3A.



Have you left your car safe?

Make sure it is locked
Do not leave any items large or small on view in your car.
Don't let sneak thieves spoil your day while you are at a U3A meeting.

LOOKING BACK TO OUR JANUARY MEETING

On Thursday January 7th the meeting started with information on the progress of our U3A given by Mike King our chairman. Keith Bancroft then told everyone about his 60s Appreciation Group that will have its first meeting on the 5th February 2pm at Forest Town Arena.

It was then time for refreshments and an opportunity to chat and look at the various groups on offer.

Chris Shaw then took us down memory lane with a history of the musicals and film soundtracks by using clips from the classics we can recall. It was all very entertaining and feet were tapping. I am sure many were tempted to get up and dance especially when we watched Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

As usual your newsletter editor was busy with her camera recording the people and events at the meeting.



Two former friends who have met up again at our U3A meeting



Three of the ladies who serve refreshments
There is a rota so different ladies serve each meeting

Forest Town U3A Web Site

This is now up and running see

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

We hope to add photos that are taken at Group meetings/events or are in the Newsletter
If **YOU** do not want your photo on the WebSite
pleased advise Bob our Web Editor at

foresttownu3a@outlook.com
or any committee member

OUR MARCH MEETING & SPEAKER

On Thursday 3rd March 2016 at our Main meeting in St Alban's Church, Barry Davies will be the speaker. His talk is entitled Saints and Sinners in the Classroom and he has us all guessing at what may be revealed.

Barry has been a teacher in inner-city comprehensive schools for some fifty two years. He retired from his full-time job as Deputy-head of a Nottingham City school in 1994.

After a few years in retirement, he grew frustrated and restless, and re-entered the teaching profession to teach pupils who had been permanently excluded from a number of comprehensive schools: that job morphed seamlessly into teaching children who were on the autistic spectrum, mainly pupils who had been diagnosed as suffering from Asperger's Syndrome.

Saints and Sinners in the Classroom is the tale of his pedagogic adventures, with he admits, in response to U3A tastes, are as he has observed them, more emphasis on the Sinners than the Saints.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

NEWSLETTER - MARCH DEADLINE

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk by the **20th February – sooner if possible,**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership fees of £18 for the 2016/17 year are due for payment at our March meeting; (our membership year is from the 1st April to the 31st March). If you are unable to attend the March meeting your membership fee can be paid at the April meeting.

June 2nd - AGM plus additional activities

**'Get active, make friends
learn, laugh, live with the U3A'**

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

Bird Watching

Group Leader: *Lynne Cooper*

2nd Thursday 10am



This intrepid group once again braved the elements in search of our feathered friends. We met at Rufford car park and set off round the lake. Among the usual suspects on the water, we were lucky to see some goosanders and a lone heron. We enjoyed watching a flock of long-tailed tits and hoped to see a reported Hawfinch, but were not in luck. We thought the weather couldn't get worse, but it did, so we went for a coffee to shelter from the snow and to compare notes. We found that we had seen twenty nine different birds, and later, as we were nearing the car park, a magpie flew overhead to make the thirty!

Olive Moore

February meeting - Pleasley Pit Country Park.

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: *Steve Evans*

Meet 2nd Friday of the month

10 am - 12 noon at the Forest Town Arena.

I attended my first meeting of the 'Bridge' Group at the Forest Town Area on the 8th February. There were 12 of us altogether with Steve Evans leading this group of 'virgin' bridge players – though most had attended the first meeting. Everyone got on very well together and though we all want to learn more about the game we aren't taking it too seriously (at the moment anyway) – certainly with those who I was playing with there was a certain amount of hilarity!

The two hours went very quickly and most want to consider meeting every two weeks rather than

Monthly – a decision will be made at the next meeting.

Where else good you have such an enjoyable time at the cost of a £1.50 for a cup of coffee other than a U3A Interest Group.

Mike King

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: *Bob Hunt*

4/5 people per session

The third meeting of the computer group met at my home on the 8th January, the main topic was how to transfer photographs from the camera or pad to a PC or laptop and organise the photographs into folders. It was decided at the meeting that this group will meet on the first Tuesday of the month in future.

Because of the interest shown I have decided to run two groups. Members of the second group have been given the date of this meeting in my home

Craft

Group Leader: *Jane Freeman*

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

Our meeting began by welcoming 2 new members, who soon started to knit squares that will be added to the ones being used to complete the knee blanket project. Two beautifully finished blankets were displayed, admired and photographed.



We agreed on the target figure of 6 to be aimed for, and carried on matching and stitching the squares made during the past few weeks, with the promise from all to continue at home, and bring them to the next meeting, ready to be taken to the hospice.

Some gorgeous knitted hats and jackets were presented by one of our group for the premature baby unit at King's Mill Hospital, which will be delivered there next week.

We discussed ideas for the next projects, and it was suggested that patterns for soft toys could be explored, as well as covering coat hangers in a variety of ways, with the possibility of these being donated to the Hospice for their own fairs, or maybe collected and saved for a similar sale at the U3A.

The meeting was made even more enjoyable by the sharing of New Year cake and chocolates, whilst we all worked and endeavoured to "put the world to rights".

Next meeting on Monday 8th February.



Family History

Group Leader: Glynis Benford-Chapman

1st Tuesday 10am Meet - St John's Centre, Mansf.

New members welcome

No report this time

Film/Videos

Group Leader: Arline Littlewood

Temporarily Postponed

Gardening

Group Leader: Marian Story Monthly, various dates

On Monday 4 January (at 10am) six of us met at Marian's house for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and a convivial chat about our gardens, ourselves and future plans for the group. We discussed the idea of visiting Hodsock Priory at the beginning of May to see the bluebells - transport, etc., to be arranged. Marian kindly offered us some back numbers of gardening magazines to take away with us. New ideas always welcome, of course! Sympathies were offered to her regarding the work required on her new garden. I'm sure she will tackle it with enthusiasm.

During the afternoon of the 14th January, eight of us braved the chill winds to tour the local garden of Liz's elderly father. And what an inspiring time we had of it! Front and back gardens were neat and full of interest - even some colour at this dreary time of year. An advocate of recycling, this stalwart gardener had some ingenious ideas for saving water and re-using items that would otherwise have been thrown away. Healthy lawn areas lived side by side with vegetable plots containing a great variety of vegetables. Fruit trees and bushes apparently provide a good supply of fruit, and we could see that flowers

and flowering trees and shrubs would liven up the garden in spring and summer. A few of us trailing at the back of the group caught sight of a beautiful tower of ivy, supported by a hidden clothes pole - home to a nesting robin in the spring, apparently!

We then went to see Sue's small garden nearby, beautifully and creatively landscaped. Inspiring to see what homeowners themselves can achieve. Ideas for all of us to think about. Before wending our way home, we talked about further trips that the group could make. Much to look forward to.

Kay Toy

Next Meeting(s) Feb. 3rd Talk on 'Queen of the Climbers' At Hollybeck Garden Centre. March 7th Rueben Shaw Garden Centre, Moor Green.

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples

Normally 3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Members Home



Jenny opened our January meeting by telling us of her recent trip on the Flying Scotsman. She then told us the history of this steam engine, where it was built, its working history, various owners over the years, and how now once again it is enthralling railway enthusiasts. Following this we looked at a selection of photographs of railways in the Mansfield area which stirred a number of memories, including a train derailment at Forest Town. A copy of the official report on this accident was available to look at, as well as plans of when the Mansfield Railway was being built in the early 1900s. Pauline told the group of archives etc., where such plans and documents can be discovered. A large selection of Railway books were also available to look at.

The next meeting will be the 25th February at Mansfield Museum for a behind the Scenes Tour

Learn, laugh, live with the U3A

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

The idea is are for people to bring along cd's and records to listen to, also any interesting memorabilia from the era. Sell or exchange records & cd's. Also I will bring my acoustic guitar and perform a few 60's songs. The Sherwood Room is booked at the Arena for the following dates: - Fri 5th Feb, Fri 4th Mar and Fri 8th Apr. These dates are all the day after the U3A monthly meeting.

First Meeting Friday 5th Feb On rare occasions the meeting could be the 2nd Friday so always check the newsletter

Photo Books

Group Leader: Marian Batt

Twice a month - Meet -Members Home



I have begun two group meetings which are held every two weeks and hopefully I will combine the groups when everyone has got going. The main aim of the group is to develop knowledge of the photo editing software on laptops and use photos to make personalised gifts online. The gifts can range from a notebook and pen to a set of books for a wedding, as shown below. A large project takes time but can be very rewarding and it is a great hobby for long Winter days.

Marian Batt.

Rambling

Group Leader: Alan Radford

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.



The 6th January ramble went through a variety of different sections of woodland and heath in Sherwood Forest as well as passing by the 4th Duke of Portland's Archway House of 1844 with its niches containing statues of Robin Hood and other Forest folklore heroes. The paths were quite mud-free for a change, after the recent heavy rains. A lovely day ending with a cuppa in the Visitor Centre tearooms.

In contrast the 20th January ramble took the group to Winstar, Grangemill and Aldwark, formerly at the centre of a large lead mining area as shown by the hummocky fields. Nowadays quarrying prevails in the area. Several paths still had occasional patches of snow residues, which did not trouble our walkers. After the early mist and murk cleared, we were left with extensive views of the lovely countryside – absolutely gorgeous! We finished with drinks and/or cuppas in the Miners Standard opposite the car park.

After the Grindleford ramble on 3rd February, the Group's next rambles will be to Linacre Woods and Millthorpe (Weds 17th February; 8¾ miles), followed by Carsington, Brassington & Harboro Rocks (Weds 2nd March; 7¾ miles), meet up at the Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. New members always welcome.

Scrabble

Group Leader: Celia Tassell

3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena

The scrabble group held their first meeting at the forest town arena on Jan 18. Although there were only 8 of us we had a great time and I think we all made new friends.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 15th Feb at 2pm at the arena, and thereafter every third Monday of the month. New members are welcome to join us.

Celia Tassell

Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marlene Mee*

2nd Tuesday & 4th Friday 10.30am.
Meet Various Locations

The 3rd short walk was on Tuesday 12th January and it started from the White Gates Forest Town at 10:30am 11 people attended 7 sent apologies.

We crossed the road from the Whitegates turned left then right onto Clipstone Drive and then left along the edge of the Garibaldi Plantations passing the Spa Ponds. We then crossed over the River Maun and walked up Spa Lane, turned right at the cross paths, and once again came to the river Maun which we followed along, passing the fishing lakes we crossed the Maun again and an uphill climb, the return journey was Via Cavendish Woods.

A small group but we really enjoyed the walk rather muddy underfoot but the weather was kind to us a very sunny morning. The distance was approx. 4/5 miles. which we walked in 2hrs. 10mins. The Whitegates Pub welcomed us afterwards for a drink or food.

The next two walks are:-

FEBRUARY - TUESDAY 9th Vicar Water car park.

FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 26th Sherwood Forest car park.

For the next 2 walks I will be meeting people at the Arena car park at 10 a.m. If anyone requires a lift, leaving the Arena at no later than 10:10am, or if you prefer you can make your own way to the start of the walk which will commence at 10:30am. **ALL WALKS WILL START AT 10 30 a.m. THE DISTANCE IS APPROX. 4/5 MILES AND A 2-2½ HR. WALK.** After that I am hoping a lift share will be in operation and we can meet at the beginning of each walk.

Forest Town U3A Steering Committee

Committee Position	Name
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King
V/Chair & Speaker Sec	Susan Wright
Business Secretary	Jennifer Wright
Treasurer	Lynne Cooper
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Doud
Asst Groups Co-ord.	Ann Stanford
Membership Sec.	Suzanne Herring
Asst Membership Sec	Kath Wolstonholme
Minutes Sec	Jill Gascoyne
Social Secretary	
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Marples
Publicity	
Website Editor	Bob Hunt

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

On Friday 22 January, 10am: six of us (brave souls!) ignored the foul weather and met up at Vicar Water for our first walk together. As the rain was lashing down and on and the wind whipped around us, we sought refuge in Rumbles Cafe, instead of beginning our proposed walks. Over refreshments we discussed further walks/dates etc to meet on the third Friday of the month. Once we had thawed out and were sure that the weather had improved a little, we ventured forth for a stroll around the lake: a peaceful and wintry aspect - the headstocks loomed above us, a grey and magnificent reminder of industry past; bird song accompanied us and the dark waters played host to a variety of waterfowl. I think it is fair to say we all enjoyed our short but bracing walk.

Next walk 19 February, 10 am Kings Mill Reservoir car park for one circuit of the reservoir.

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: *Joseph Bell*

First Meeting - being arranged in February

! STOP PRESS !

Creative Writing

This group has just had its first meeting and a 2nd one is planned for Tuesday 23rd February 2pm at Forest Town Library. For more details see Ann Stanford or Denise Doud at our February main meeting.

OUR U3A WEB SITE

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

