



Chat from the chair

Meetings stay virtual for now

Hello and welcome to the April edition of our fabulous Newsletter!

You may have read the article on page 4 of *Third Age Matters* about u3a Day on 2 June. Following our latest meeting the Committee has decided that the fairest and most inclusive way forward for FT & D u3a is to wait until we can all actually meet up in person and plan a day that we can all enjoy and take part in to showcase our u3a.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can promote and celebrate the ethos of u3a please do get in touch with any Committee member.

The Zoom General Meeting held on 4 March was very well received. Hopefully we can repeat this, month on month, until we can meet up again in person. The meeting for April is scheduled for Thursday 8 April, that being the second Thursday in April;

so a week later than our usual first Thursday gathering due to other commitments.

The Committee has also decided that our AGM will be held in June. If the current restrictions still apply, over which we have no control, this again will have to be a virtual meeting.

We are recruiting for various Committee roles so, if you are keen to ensure the continuation of your u3a, please let us know. The roles are not difficult but they are essential to ensure the smooth running of your u3a.

Hopefully, by now, the majority of our members will have had their first Covid vaccination and I am reliably informed that plans are in place for the rolling out of the second vaccinations.

Stay safe everyone and do keep in touch!

Linda Shutt

AGM to be 3 June

The Forest Town u3a AGM will be held on 3 June 2021 at 2pm. It is likely this will be via Zoom. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend. The calling papers and nomination form are enclosed with this newsletter and available to download from the website. If you do not have access to a printer the calling papers and nomination form can be obtained by contacting Sue on 01623 479110.

We are looking for assistants for the Treasurer and Groups Co-coordinator plus a general committee member. If you feel you can offer your time please contact one of the committee.

Sue Harkin

Back to Thursford

The THURSFORD mini-break is back for 2021 and will take place 16 to 18 November on a half board

basis at Hotel Caley Hall, Hunstanton, Norfolk. The price is to be confirmed but will be around £285. Bookings will be taken from 09.00 on 9 April.

Day 1: Travel to Thursford arriving around midday, optional lunch and extravaganza show at 14.00. Travel onto hotel for inclusive evening meal.

Day 2: Visit to Norwich. **Day 3:** Return via Holt

As we are unable to meet please phone Denise Whitsed for room availability on 07791 941502. When places are confirmed send a £50 deposit CHEQUE ONLY PAYABLE TO SKILLS HOLIDAYS* to Denise Whitsed 28, Farmcroft Road Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 8QT. In addition to your cheque please state your name, who you are sharing with, your telephone number, email address and membership number. Please note Denise is available Mon to Fri 09.00 to 16.00.

* Whilst this is a u3a holiday it is booked direct with Skills. Once booked monies are non-refundable unless a replacement can be found.

Denise Whitsed



Final reminder for free membership claim it or lose it

I would like to thank all of those members who have renewed their membership for 2021/22 in such a timely manner. It is a great help to the membership team.

This is the final reminder to those those who have not yet renewed.

Members who have not renewed by 1 May 2021 will lose their place.

I know that circumstances can change which may inhibit what we can do but I would like to remind you all that 2021/22 is completely free of charge

You can renew by email or by sending back the renewal form. Please follow the instructions on page 6 of this issue.

Thank you for your assistance

Kelvin Foster

The Census and Local History

If we want to look at the Census for Forest Town, the only one available today is the one taken in 1911. An entry in Forest Town School log book on the 3rd April 1911 tells us that the headmaster was absent for most of the day as he was collecting census schedules in his district. He was a census enumerator.

Luckily for us local and family historians, this census asked more questions than the one taken ten years previously. We can learn the number of years the given wife had been married, the number of children both dead and alive from that marriage and the industry, as well as the occupation, of the people. It is also easier to read because it is one household per page.

Before the pages of all the families in the village there is a page or pages with a description of the enumeration district and these give an insight into the area in 1911 and the possible route the enumerator had to go. We need to remember that at that time Forest Town was part of Mansfield Woodhouse and that most of the enumerator's journey would have been on foot.

These are two examples of the Forest Town pages named 'Contents of Enumeration District':

- 'Avenues 1,2,3,4 of Colliery houses, Clipstone Road, New Parsonage, George Street, Warren Farm & cottages, Rushpool Farm, Travellers Rest, & Forest Barn.'
- 'Avenues 5,6,7,8,9, of Colliery houses, (Forest Town) Club house, Pump Hollow cottages, Newlands Farm & cottages, Colliery Managers house & Villas'.

Clipstone Road would have been shops and houses. As we look at the individual pages, we first discover Bruce Middleton, a Grocers Manager and his family. This was the Forest Town Stores which in 1952 became the Prince Charles Public House.

In the next property No 4 is Leonard Taylor (Grocer), No 6 Frank Arnold (Hairdresser & Tobacconist) who was



often referred to as Sweeny Todd because it is said he nipped people's ears when cutting their hair. Mr Arnold's wife and daughter are listed as 'Assisting in business.'

No 8 Samuel Winfield (Butcher), No 10 Thomas Gilway (General Dealer) and his wife is also listed as assisting in business, No 12 William Betts (Dealer in Boots), No 14 Henry Kitchener (Draper) his wife is listed as a Milliner.

The next few properties are just houses until we get to No 32 where we find Samuel Lebeter (Shop Keeper). This was the shop on the corner of Clipstone Road and George Street.

On the opposite corner No 34 is Albert Elvidge Ramsdale a Carting Contractor whose wife is a Fried Fish Dealer. Today this is still a fish and chip shop.

We then have three more houses before we find dressmaker Alice Ashmore at No 42. Move on to No 48 and there is Frederick Whiteoak who is a Grocer and Newsagent, next door we discover Shadrach Osler (Engine Driver at Pumping Station and Sub Post Master), his wife Eliza is down as Confectioner, then at 52 we have John Henry Cross (Boot repairer) and finally Ernest Helliwell (Provisions shopkeeper).

Before we reach what is now Holly Road, there was the Methodist Chapel

and then the Farm where James Vincent and his family lived. Many of the other people I have mentioned had families listed as living with them, but space has not allowed me to mention them all. Today all the property numbers have changed and most of the properties that were houses in 1911 are now shops. Additionally over the years the types of businesses have changed numerous times.

The most recent photograph I have purchased and reproduced above shows a shop called 'A Willoughby', Grocer. I know from trade directories they were trading in 1915 & 1922 so I dearly hope they will appear in the 1921 census, which frustratingly will not be available to view till 2022.

Another interesting thing on the photograph is the sign sticking out which says 'Refreshment Room'. I have never found any mention of this in documents, nor was it mentioned by the elderly people I spoke to in the early days of my research.

We can place where Willoughby's shop was by the plaque in the wall above the shop to the left of the drainpipe. The plaque is still there today and says Forest View 1907. Have a look next time you walk through the village.

Pauline Marples

Diary of a Lockdown Kid (part 8)

Reasons to be Cheerful – One, Two, Three – (now, that could make a very good song title!)

1. The daffodils are all very beautiful, the miniature ones opening first, looking very fragile and dainty, but underneath very tough! A few hidden winter-scented shrubs are emerging, whilst out on The Walk (more of which later) I am looking around to find where the enticing fragrances are hiding.
2. Several lawns have been cut, after the 'pre-mowing – post-winter' preparations to assorted mowing devices have been undertaken, providing the delightful (well, I think so!) aroma of freshly-cut grass.
3. And, joy of joys, the first collection of the brown compost bin. This one's been packed to the brim for several weeks and been jumped on a few times to enable more debris, that won't go into the numerous compost bins that decorate the back garden, to be rammed into it.

Domestic disasters

More 'domestic disasters' have occurred. My trusty stick blender gave up in the middle of making a bowl of hummus. This was followed by a few choice words, much scraping and the employing of a potato masher in a lateral-thinking exercise (it didn't work!). A frantic scrabble at the back of a cupboard unearthed an almost forgotten spice grinder of diminutive size, which, after a thorough wash, was employed to complete the task.

It had to be 'fed' teaspoon by teaspoon, so the job that usually takes about 15 minutes stretched out to nearly an hour. Luckily it was completed just in time to put the kettle on for a 'Certain Quiz' on the radio.

I have to confess, I didn't get more than six points at the last try, so I am sure the questions are getting harder. My score never gets anywhere near the much coveted 39

points. It's either that excuse, or the contestants are choosing the 'wrong categories' for their bonus rounds, as most of the titles or singers' names elude me.

Must try harder; more medicinal 70% plain chocolate clearly required.

Lots of internet trawling followed, searching for a replacement. This resulted in me having to purchase one with many 'unwanted attachments' which will join all the others in the back of the cupboard. For some reason, it is nigh on impossible to buy one on its own.

Whilst all of the above was taking place, the washing machine was whirring away, all perfectly timed to finish after the aforementioned quiz, when the laundry was to be pegged out. Yes, I am one of these who put washing outside in the fresh air! However, a dreadful burning smell alerted me to the fact that 'all was not well'.

Images of flames leaping from the machine came into my head, allayed only by the machine stopping, which allowed me to rescue the washing.

The smell persisted, now accompanied by a strange rubbery one. The handbook was pored over, in the vain attempt to find a phone number, which was eventually discovered on the back page in extra small print.

After listening to the long-winded routine of an automated voice and the inevitable please select one of the following options I actually got to speak to a real person. After a lot of explaining the problem and giving my post code very clearly, the person triumphantly informed me the nearest agent was in Somerset. I don't think so!

After repeating the post code in several different ways (the phonetic method hadn't

continued on page 4 ▶▶▶

The phantom diarist (few lockdown snippets)

Feathered friends:

The skylark trills his song every day. Can't always spot him as I stand in my garden, but bless his heart, he is marking his territory and calling for a mate.

One morning I watched a buzzard, picked out against a clear blue sky, soaring in wide circles, closer and closer to where I stood. Stunning.

All zipped up:

Coming back from the shops one day, I reached for the side pocket of my shopping bag, as my house hove into view, in order to get my keys out..... and the tag of the zip came away in my hand.

Keys well and truly sealed inside!

I won't say "panic" ensued, but the heart sank a few notches.

- Plan A: walk to my son's house for spare key;
- Plan B: cry.

"Plan A" resulted in a cup of tea and a mended zip.

Sofa woes:

One fateful day I plopped down into my favourite corner of the ancient, but beloved sofa, and there was a horrible graunching sound.

Upon examination, I discovered that one of the

springs had broken. Yikes! This treasured piece of furniture, that has experienced many momentous family occasions, will now have to be taken away in ignominy.

These little things are sent to try us!



...diary of a lockdown kid *continued*

had the desired effect) it was decided there was a nearer person, in Sheffield, who duly diagnosed the problem over the phone and suggested a remedy which worked a treat. So, no expensive call-out or spare parts required and the aforesaid person's direct phone number is in the back of the handbook, 'just in case'. Phew!

Now, all the money that has been hypothetically 'saved' needs a new purpose; lovely things for the garden perhaps? Now that is an enjoyable task requiring an entire afternoon and another cuppa.

Cat news

In case anyone's wondering about the lack of 'Cat News', there's more information on the identity of one of the three Terrible/Timid/Fluffy tabbies that saunter through the garden. Rather like a spy she has multiple identities and aliases; this time morphing into Mabel from a few doors down. That's another long story, which is likely to run and run, as soon as she realises her cover has been blown. This is the cat who launches herself vertically at the bird feeder, after hiding under a conveniently placed clump of waving grass resplendent in its winter colours and which just happens to be a very similar shade to her fur. She definitely blends in very well.

She has also perfected leaping and landing onto the not insubstantial stone bird table, tipping it and its contents over the aforesaid clump of grass. Many methods of deterrent have been tried and found wanting. However, with a bit of lateral thinking, another cat has been drafted in. This one takes the form of a stone planter that has been hidden in the wilder part of the garden and is now repositioned exactly where she likes to lurk. So far, it seems to be having the desired effect, as she hasn't been seen in that part of the garden in the last few days. I may have spoken too soon. Time will tell.

Back to the daily walk

Speaking of the daily walk I wonder if any of you have developed a strategy for avoiding oncoming people? If so, do share as I am fast reaching the end of my repertoire!

It's rather like transferring the driving techniques of hazard -observation and taking avoiding action, but on foot. Viz:

1. Keep left. I try to do this as much as possible and imagine that oncoming walkers are going to do the same; it certainly looks like it, but, often as they get nearer, dithering and indecision take over.

If it's a large group (which is rather suspect in itself!) people scatter all over the pavement, leaving the oncomer (me) to make an instant decision to either:

- a) Keep walking and trust someone will move to the side;
- b) Stand to the side and wait whilst the convoy passes hoping for a 'thank you';
- c) Join in the communal dithering and walk in zig-zag style, trying to dodge in between their own

erratic meanderings.

All of the above is relatively easy if walking on a wide pavement or country footpath when there might be the added 'bonus' of being able to leap into the hedge.

2. If, on the other hand, you are on a narrow pavement next to a road, a different strategy has to be deployed. If the road is empty of traffic, you merely step into it to let the oncoming pedestrians have the whole pavement.
3. If, however, that road is in its current state of being full of roaring traffic (Lockdown; what lockdown?!) and thus too dangerous to utilise, you have to try staring them out, making yourself take an assertive but non-aggressive stance. (Tip: For best effect practise this in front of a mirror first.) It sometimes works. Otherwise, a stalemate ensues and everybody comes to a temporary halt, especially if the oncoming group are all staring at their phones and pretending that there is Nobody in front of them and they are going to continue walking in exactly the same direction, speed and route as before. I have resorted to saying loudly to the air in front of me; 'it would have been good if someone had moved to the side.' or 'Thank you for stepping aside.'

And some fell on stony ground.

4. Ensure you choose your walk route on a road with conveniently placed houses with large driveways into which you can, nonchalantly, sidestep. Whilst there, take a moment to admire the hopefully immaculate gardens, full of glorious displays of spring flowers.

It's the dog walkers who are the most prepared. They are already several moves ahead, having selected a suitable driveway in which to sidestep. Then there are the niceties to observe when walking past aforesaid people; the 'thank you so much, lovely day, isn't it, Oh, what gorgeous dogs, what are their names?'

This then poses another problem, as you are then dangerously close to breaking the two-metre rule and itching to pat the dogs, so you have to employ one of the many British excuses. 'Must dash, nice to meet you, maybe see you tomorrow in another driveway.'

5. If all else fails, cross the road to the other pavement, which will hopefully be less crowded, as 'all the world' was on your side.

And finally, don't mention 'The Silent Bicycles' that whizz up behind you with no bell or yell, thus startling you into almost falling into the hedge or the road. Oh and 'The Joggers.'

And on that note, I will away to welcome the delivery driver, who has timed his arrival well, just after that quiz has ended (24 points today!)



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AnonyMouse.

A funny thing happened...

Hi Everyone,

How's it going? I've had a funny month, mainly taken up with endless home visits by various health professionals to my 92 year old uncle.

When I took him to see the GP towards the end of last year because of some concerns mainly due to his age, I never in my wildest dreams expected it to escalate as it did. Apart from taking endless telephone calls, often followed up by visits to the GP and then on to various departments at King's Mill there have been up to five home visits a week and on one occasion three in one day, and all this while we're still supposed to be in lockdown!

I've been up and down to Woodhouse so many times lately the car goes on autopilot and Satellite Sally is definitely out of a job. All I have to do is get in, settle back with a coffee and a good book, say: 'Woodhouse please' and the car does the rest.

Some of these visits have bordered on the farcical at times.

How many smoke alarms?

Like the day the man from the Fire Brigade came to fit smoke and heat detectors in the bungalow. He came armed with said appliances, plus a carbon monoxide detector and proceeded to fit two smoke detectors in the hall, despite the fact that my uncle already had one of each (working I may add) situated in appropriate locations, plus a heat detector in the kitchen. Anyway, said appliances were fitted and uncle was issued with a red pole with a little white hand on the top, index finger extended to test the alarms.

A couple of hours later the chap turned up to install the lifeline. He came in armed with various boxes out of which emerged, you guessed it, smoke and heat detectors! When I

pointed out that the Fire Brigade had already fitted three a couple of hours before, he sighed and then explained that his devices 'talked' to the lifeline call centre so still needed to be fitted and that he couldn't remove the others as they'd been fitted by the Fire Brigade and he wasn't allowed to touch them. Result, my uncle now has five smoke alarms in the hall and two heat detectors in the kitchen. Talk about overkill, if he burns the toast again the whole street will know about it!

A new definition of co-ordinated!

I wouldn't mind so much if these things had been arranged by different people, but no, it's all been 'co-ordinated' by the same person from Social Services. I'm now left wondering if there might be a more appropriate place than the cupboard to store the red pole with its little white hand!

I had my first foray of the year into Mansfield this week, not been since early December last year. There were several things I needed to buy and I'm too tight to pay the price for the same article in the supermarkets. I was also curious to see what it was like before the shops start to open up again, having never before ventured in during a lockdown.

As we all know, this lockdown hasn't turned out to have been on the same scale as the first one so there were people around, but the best way to describe the atmosphere for anyone who's not been is that it reminded me of going into town on a Sunday before shops were allowed to open. That said, the Post Office in W H Smith's was busy and you had to queue to get into Wilko's; now that would never have happened in the 'good old days'



a year ago!

Well, Census Day rolled round again this March. Since it's taken every ten years it's supposed to give a snapshot of life in Britain. Wow, have the forms changed over the years!

In 1841, when the first official 'modern' census was taken, name, age and sex were recorded, sometimes an address, which was often rather vague. For many of my relatives it was only the name of the village where they lived, their occupation and whether they were born in or out of the county. Despite it not being very detailed, the 1841 census is the first one that is of much use to family historians. This is because although they were being taken every ten years from 1801, sadly not many records of the early ones survive.

I'm sure even my parents would be amazed at some of the questions being asked today and it makes me wonder what it will look like in another 100 years. Will they be asking if we have alien DNA, are clones or Artificial Intelligence and, in the residence and work sections, will we have to declare if we live or work off planet for part of the year?

One thing's certain though; we won't have to fill that one in, although perhaps I'll try to slip back and take a peek over my great grandchildren's shoulders and have a chuckle about how the world has changed since my day.

In the meantime, Spring has finally sprung, burst out all over or whatever, although my daffodils are still being rather coy, no bursting going on there yet, but if you can, get out and enjoy it, even if it's only in the garden.

Stay safe and well.

Jenny Wright

Polite reminder

Unless your telephone call is a welfare concern please be considerate and only contact your Committee members between the hours of 09.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday. Or send them an email, text or WhatsApp message instead. Thank you.

The Committee

It's going to be 'Bloomin Lovely'

Well that's what I hope anyway. Gardening has been a great therapy throughout the Covid crisis all last year and it is continuing into 2021. First it was the joy of seeing the snowdrops and now it's mini iris, tête à tête daffodils plus larger daffs and, already, we have tulips out. The forsythia and flowering currant bushes are adding to the picture.

I am fortunate in having a small greenhouse and have overwintered fuchsias and a few other plants so they should be the start of a colourful summer garden.

You will note I say 'the start' that is because after looking at the beautiful pictures in a plant catalogue, I purchased begonia tubers that will cascade from baskets in a wonderful array of orange and yellows, geranium plugs that will be a picture of colour in flower beds.

Packets of seeds were included in my purchase and I am now trying my hand at growing dahlias from seed. To date I have counted 12 sprouting through the compost! It is so rewarding seeing everything starting to grow.

If all the pictures in the plant catalogue and on the seed packets are to be believed our garden will soon be 'bloomin lovely'.

Polly Anthus



Your Executive Committee contacts

Forest Town & District U3A couldn't run without the hard work of its Executive Committee. Everyone gives their time freely. Welfare Officer, **Kelvin Foster**, has been keeping in touch by email but for members who do not use email he's keen to emphasise that any member who needs help should contact him by phone on **01623 422251**. All Executive Committee members can be contacted via the website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/contact>

Current members are: Linda Shutt (Chair), Allan Barham (Vice-Chair), Andrew Riby (Treasurer), Irene Duncan (Assistant Treasurer) Sue Harkin (Business Secretary), Anita Adlard (Groups' Coordinator), Steve Evans (Assistant Groups' Coordinator), Kelvin Foster (Membership Secretary & Welfare Officer), Kathryn Cope (Assistant Membership Secretary), Desley O'Leary (Speaker Seeker) and Bob Hunt (Website Editor).

Next issue

Please send articles or ideas for the next issue to Helen Riby by email ftu3anews@gmail.com or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW **by midnight on Friday 23 April.**

Please visit our website for the latest news:

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

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417



Claim your free membership

To claim your free Forest Town U3A membership (April 21 to March 22), please complete this form and return to the address shown. If you are unable to print the newsletter, or do not want to cut up your printed copy, simply write all the details on a slip of paper and return it, or put the details into an email. Clearly, if returning by email no signature is required.

Please return to one of the membership team:

Kelvin Foster, kelvinfoster298@yahoo.com

– 6 Walkers Close Forest Town NG19 0DQ

or **Kathryn Cope** cope.kevin@btinternet.com

– 97 Ling Forest Road Mansfield NG18 3NQ

I confirm that I wish to continue my membership of Forest Town & District U3A. *Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS*

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Tel: _____

Email (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

I would be interested in attending virtual General Meetings via Zoom

YES/NO



Forest Town & District U3A

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of **Forest Town & District U3A** will be held at St. Alban's Church, Forest Town or virtually via Zoom, on **Thursday 3rd June 2021** at 2 pm

Nominations for Election to the Executive Committee.

Nominations must be received by **6th May 2021**. They must be proposed and seconded by members with the consent of the Nominee (current restrictions permitting). Should this not be practical, volunteers would be welcome. These would be elected under the casual vacancy provision.

Only current U3A members will be entitled to vote.

Existing members of the Executive Committee who are willing to stand for re-election are:

Officers

Chair, Linda Shutt

Vice Chairman, Allan Barham

Treasurer, Andy Riby

Secretary, Irene Duncan

Committee Members:

Groups Coordinator, Anita Adlard

Membership Secretary, Kelvin Foster

Assistant Membership Secretary/ Speaker Coordinator, Kathryn Cope

Positions to be filled:

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Groups Coordinator

Committee member

If there are **two or more nominations** for a post then the decision will be made on the day by the members.

Any motions for consideration at the AGM should be proposed and seconded by two members. These should be submitted, to the committee, by 6th May 2021.



Forest Town & District U3A
Election of Officers and Committee members for 2021-22

The election of Officers and Committee members for the Forest Town & District U3A will take place at the Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 3rd June 2021.**

We will be electing four Officers:

Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Business Secretary	Treasurer
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And Committee members:

Assistant Treasurer	Groups Coordinator	Assistant Groups Coordinator
Membership Secretary	Assistant Membership Secretary	Speaker Finder
	Committee Member	

Any member of the **Forest Town & District U3A** who wishes to be nominated for the above posts should fill in the nomination form below and return it to the Business Secretary by the **6th May 2021**

Completed Nomination forms should be posted to Business Secretary at:
Mrs. S Harkin, 3 Harby Ave, Mansfield Woodhouse, NG19 9HU

Nomination forms cannot be accepted by email.

In the event of 2 or more nominations for the same post a ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting.



Nomination Form for the election of Forest Town & District U3A Officers and Committee members for 2021-22

POST	NOMINEE (Name in block capitals)

	NAME (in block capitals)	Membership No.	Signature
Nominated by:			
Seconded by:			

I am a member of the Forest Town & District U3A and agree to be nominated as a candidate for election to the Committee of the Forest Town & District U3A at the Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 3th June 2021.**

Signature of Nominee:

Membership No.

Date: