



Chat from the chair

General meetings to resume

Hello, and welcome to the September edition of your Newsletter. The Committee is delighted to announce that our General Meetings will resume on Friday 10 September.

We have a new day, a new time and a new venue. Our first meeting will be our AGM which will commence at 10.30am in the Concert Room at Forest Town Arena. Members are asked to arrive from 10am onwards and to bring their life-time membership cards with them. Members who do not already have cards can collect them at the AGM.

Subsequent meetings will be held on the first Friday in the month in the Forest Town Arena at 10.30am.

Until such a time as the Committee is able to liaise with our Refreshment Team tea and coffee will not be served and Members are advised to bring a small bottle of water with them. The Arena will not allow any other beverages to be brought onto the premises.

On arrival members will have their temperatures taken

with a non-contact digital thermometer, anyone with a temperature of 38°C or over will be asked to return home. The digital thermometers are non-invasive and no personal details will be recorded. Members are also asked to wear a face covering on entering the Arena, these may be removed once members are seated.

After the business of the AGM we plan to have a relaxed, open forum where members can pitch ideas, share opinions or just catch up with u3a friends; there will also be a Book Exchange table, news on u3a Holidays and Groups.

It would assist the Committee enormously if you could advise us of your intention to attend the meeting; you may text or call 07903 982743 or 01623 422251.



Linda Shutt

A day at the seaside



I inherited this photo from my father. The only information I had was: 'Whit Monday 1929' written on the back. I always assumed they were my father's family but 'Who were they?'

It is interesting, social-history-wise, to see how they dressed for this occasion. No shorts and tee shirts but Sunday best and suitcases!

However, from a family history point

of view how could I find out who they were? I spotted a clue. The boy with glasses. Could this be my cousin Freddie, son of my father's sister Ada, who I first knew when he was a teenager? How old would he have been in 1929? On checking my family history database, I discovered he would have been nine. Also on checking the age of his parents and

two teenage sisters, these matched the visual age of the family subgroup next to him.

Next I checked the age of the baby, a cousin named George aged one; the son of another of my father's sisters, Minnie, and this gave me my second match of age and appearance of another family subgroup.

My father had five sisters. After accounting for Ada and Minnie mentioned above the three remaining sisters were, Rose Mary, married with no family, Nellie, a widow and Elizabeth, still single in 1929. The latter two, Nellie and Elizabeth, both match by age and appearance the two ladies at the bottom left of the photo.

So now I can put faces to some of my relatives who previously were only names.

If, like me, you have many photos of unknown people, you may be able to identify who they are by studying your family history.

Malcolm Marples



The phantom diarist

Garden:

The bees and hoverflies are enjoying the cosmos, crocosmia, hollyhock, oregano, and other flowers (bramble blossom too).

Butterflies are making the most of the buddleia (at last!): peacock, tortoiseshell, red admiral and white.

Domestic Doings:

Leaky toilet? Trying to find a plumber to come and do a straightforward repair job can be like pulling teeth. I did eventually find a Very Nice Man who came to rectify matters, to my great relief (literally!) No, don't worry, it wasn't the only loo on the premises! He did explain that whoever had put in the original rubber seal ("doughnut", as it is known among the plumbing fraternity!) had used the wrong size and packed it out with silicone. Why wasn't I surprised!

Local Matters:

The other day I came across the biggest, fattest caterpillar I have ever seen, making its way along the pavement in Forest Town heading towards the post box. Where was the 'hookah' (Alice in Wonderland),

I wondered? Just to say, I did my civic duty and nudged it to one side gently with my foot, so that it didn't meet a horrid fate. It wasn't very pleased...!

Covid Science:

A friend in London emailed to say that she had taken part in a research project connected to the coronavirus. The aim was to find out whether the antibodies that she has have come about from her vaccinations or from a bout of the illness that she was unaware of.

She had to collect blood in a phial, from a finger prick. So, not the usual drop of blood, but sufficient to fill a small container. She had to watch a video and follow the instructions: these involved jumping up and down and running round the room, in order to boost the circulation! Also, she had to immerse her hand in a bowl of hot water. The result of this was, that when she pricked her finger, blood gushed out and she had more than enough to fill the phial! She said her kitchen looked like the scene of a nasty accident!

Anyway, she was disappointed with the results, as they only covered the previous six months (and she was interested in the time before that), and she had a sore finger for several days afterwards. All in the name of science!



AGM Agenda

Forest Town & District U3A Annual General Meeting
To be held on Friday 10 September 2021 at 10.30 at
Forest Town Arena

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2020 AGM. (Vote to approve minutes)
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasure's Report (Vote to accept accounts)
5. Election of Executive committee members.

Members of the present committee nominated for re-election are:

- Linda Shutt, Chair Person
- Andy Riby, Treasurer
- Kelvin Foster, Membership Secretary/Welfare Officer
- Anita Adlard, Groups Coordinator
- Kathryn Cope, Speaker Finder/Assistant Membership Secretary
- Allan Barham, Vice Chair

Nominees are:

- Christine Ward, Business Secretary
- Marilyn Redfern, Assistant Groups Coordinator
- Tina Shirt, Committee Member

(Vote to approve committee)

6. Proposed Motions (None received)

The AGM in 2022 will be held on Friday 3 June 2022.

Holiday update

Thursford 16 to 18 November 2021

A single room has become available. Price £289.

Please contact Denise Whitsed if you are interested – see contact details at the end of this article.

All members who have booked for Thursford please note balances must be paid by Sunday 5 September.

Potters Resort 13 to 17 June 2022

There are still a few places available for this 5 star all-inclusive holiday. Choose from twins or doubles in bungalow plus accommodation, or in the hotel (please note supplements apply for hotel rooms)

This family-owned holiday resort boasts 5 stars and offers all inclusive holidays with four meals a day, all drinks, including branded spirits and wine plus a full daytime activity programme, spa facilities and top West End evening entertainment.

The holiday is booked direct with Potters so the full discount is passed on to members. Travel to and from the resort is by coach with Skills Travel

Price will be approx £410 depending on numbers and transport will be around £30 return.

Contact Denise by email: deewhits@aol.com or by phone Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm on 07791 941502

Denise Whitsed

Walking in all weathers

Bob and Vanessa led us out of Litton in Derbyshire for our first walk in August on a perfect walking day – dry, sunny and not too hot. Shady paths along dale bottoms took us steadily downhill to the delightful hamlet of Litton Mill. From here we walked the banks of the River Wye observing trout and bird life as we went. Leaving the river at Cressbrook, we climbed steeply out of the village before ascending more gently along Cressbrook Dale. At the top of the dale the more intrepid members of our group, with some difficulty, scrambled to the top of Peter's Stone, a striking rocky outcrop which afforded magnificent views of the dale below. A perfect walk was marred just at the end by a thorough drenching during a torrential thundery cloudburst.

Our next walk was billed as leisurely with panoramic views along old mining tracks and back lanes through rolling limestone pastureland in the hills above Castleton. That description was based on Georganne's experience when she reconnoitred the route on a beautiful day. Unfortunately we set out from the Mam Nic car park in drizzle on a cold day in a strong wind with low cloud and mist obscuring the views. We regretted not thinking to bring with us warm hats and gloves (in August!). Georganne did her best to describe the extensive views we were missing from Rushup Edge down the Hope Valley. Still, we had good company to keep us entertained throughout. Frustratingly we drove into warm sunshine in Calver, only a quarter of an hour into the drive home. Better luck next time!



Perfect walking weather in Cressbrook Dale when intrepid ramblers climbed the impressive rocky outcrop, Peter's Stone



What a difference a fortnight makes. For the second walk in August the walkers regretted not bringing their gloves and woolly hats!



Our next rambles:

1st September: Darley Bridge, Winster, Bonsall & Jughole Wood (8 miles),
15th September: Wessington, Crich and South Wingfield (8.2 miles). **New members welcome.**

Andy Riby

Ramblers 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

Ukulele group gets going

The new Dukeries u3a Uke 'n' Sing Ukulele group had their first get-together in the side room of the Jubilee Hall, Wellow Road, Ollerton, 10.00 –11.00 am on Thursday 29 July. Group organiser Linda Bond reported that: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the hour, even though several members had never played before. We shall be meeting at the same place and time each Thursday should any Forest Town & District u3a members feel like giving it a try. No reading of music is involved!"

Car park charges coming

I have just been to Mansfield Woodhouse railway station and there are several notices up about proposed parking charges by Mansfield District Council. These will come into force from 1/11/21 when there will be a £2 any time, any day, charge to park at Mansfield Woodhouse railway station. Currently there is no charge. I thought it might be of interest to our walking groups when planning their winter programmes.

Pat Smedley

A funny thing happened...

My 'grand puppy's' been back for her holidays recently while the human part of her household went to Tenby. Her limp seems to have just about gone which means we were able to get out and about again so we've been making the most of the dry weather. Recently I took her for a walk along the old train track that fed Clipstone colliery. I prefer to be able to do a round robin as I dislike retracing my steps and this led to what could've been a very sticky situation for me. Earlier in the year I'd cut back onto the cycle trail through the farmer's field, squeezing through a gap in the metal railings. However, now the hedgerows have put on their summer growth I struggled to find the gap in the fence. Eventually I did find it and started to squeeze through only to find that there now seemed to be an over-abundance of the three Bs (bum, belly and boobs). Seems like the undergrowth isn't the only thing that's been growing big and blowsy recently. After several attempts it became evident that you really can't squeeze a pint into a half pint pot and any further efforts on my part were likely to result in a call to the fire brigade to extricate me. As I considered that they had much better things to do than rescue a silly old woman who thought she was a size 10 when really she's a size 14, ok,

size 16, I gave up while I was still able. What was the dog doing all this time? Examining her paws and staring in the opposite direction with that nonchalant air that she's not with me and has never seen this person before in her life, and I now know who's been teaching my grandsons that look they give me when I'm doing something daft that totally ruins their street cred!

Breaking in

Recent events saw me breaking into my son's house at 9pm accompanied by a rather dishy Russian and a small dog with several loose screws and no volume control! Rather an odd mix for a housebreaking trio, but needs must. My son had received a call from the neighbours to say that their smoke alarm was going off. We've all been there; you get halfway down the motorway and then start thinking did I turn off the grill/lock the door etc? As mum was the only person who didn't have at least a three hour drive to get to the house I was dispatched to check it out.

Although I couldn't see or smell anything amiss, prowling round a house in the dark sniffing at air vents and peering through windows isn't to be recommended if you don't want the police, or men in white coats, to turn up, but it was the best I could do

in



the circumstances as I don't yet have a spare key.

Several plans were hatched. Send a courier with a key the following day, but if there was a problem there probably wouldn't be a front door left to open by then. Calling the fire brigade seemed a bit over the top, (they've been on my mind rather a lot this month) especially as their big key isn't exactly door friendly either. Therefore a call was made to an emergency locksmith.

Enter my dishy Russian. First he tried the integral garage door, undid the lock but couldn't open the door. I found out later it's bolted from the inside! Next it was the conservatory door's turn; 25 minutes of lock picking later it still wasn't giving in so it was all round to the front to try that door. Seems it's advertised as 'state of the art and one of the most secure locks on the market' and comes with a price tag to reflect these claims. It took him five minutes to open it and there was no damage to the locks front or back. He waited while I disembowelled the smoke alarm, checked to make sure there wasn't anything amiss and picked up a spare key so that we could leave the house in a more conventional fashion. I've told my son to make sure he gets paid as he knows where they live and can get in any time he likes!

Incidentally, he told me that the lock on the conservatory door that defeated him costs about ten times less than the one on the front door. Seems it really is a case of 'You pays your money and takes your chance', but it does make you think!

Jenny Wright

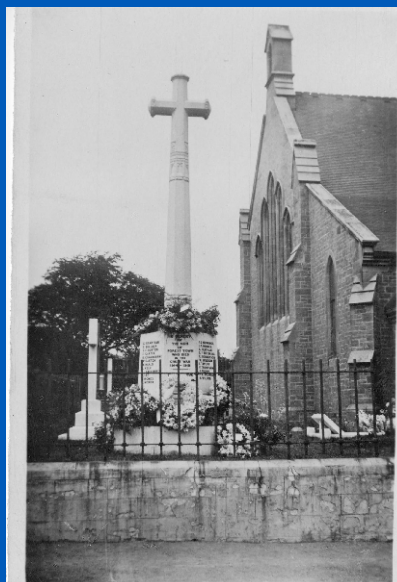
Forest Town Cenotaph at 100

On **Sunday 12 September** at 2pm there will be Centenary Celebrations marking 100 years of Forest Town's Cenotaph and 100 years of the British Legion.

There may be a short service in St Alban's Church but with limited capacity (100). Outside there will be a Reveille and drum roll by band members and the cenotaph, which will be draped with a Union Flag, will be unveiled.

People will then be invited to lay flowers (not poppies) at the cenotaph in memory of friends and family in a re-enactment of what took place 100 years ago when the cenotaph was first unveiled. Flowers can also be laid during the following week.

Pauline Marples



WAR MEMORIAL, FOREST TOWN.

Diary of a haven't a clue where I am kid part 13

I have to report it's been very quiet all round this month – being the silly season for daft news items – and with most folks stuck in holiday traffic queues or beavering in their allotments. There has also been a distinct lack of activity in the garden, with the birds still in hiding whilst they moult their summer feathers, so the felines have also been absent; even Marvellous Mabel.

Cyril the squirrel (or one of his relatives) has reappeared along the fence line, hoping for some sort of excitement.

Is it just me being incredibly unfortunate, or do any of you ever have 'issues' with your mobile phones and providers? I ask because recently, I 'endured' two days of stress via the helpline ChatBot and, subsequently, face-to-face with an equally 'helpful' assistant in my local store.

I had been having problems with my not-yet-two-years-old phone, which was working perfectly, except I was no longer able to delete old text messages, hence my inbox became clogged up.

You are position number five

After going through all the self-help options and asking advice from anyone within earshot, I had to resort to T'Internet. I knew from past experience it wasn't going to be a quick fix, so I armed myself with a cuppa and some (almost) crumb-free biscuits and sat down to await my turn. I was number five in the queue, so was quite hopeful!

The Chatbot person was as helpful as possible and ran through as many options as was at his disposal. However, after nearly two hours he conceded defeat and advised me to go down to my local store, where the transcript of our chat would be there and "all would be sorted."

Hmmm, been there before and didn't get the T shirt then! I braced myself for another less-than-pleasant encounter and, lo and behold, the same person who served me before was behind the counter!

To begin, she wasn't too bad to deal with, but, after about 20 minutes, she was getting more and more irritated with me because, in her own words, "she had targets to meet, selling contracts and phones, and I was taking her away from the job."

I pointed out I was also a customer and I wasn't going to leave until something had been sorted. She maintained it "Wasn't possible to delete the texts without restoring aforesaid phone to its factory settings, which would, of course, delete everything else I had stored on it."

So, after nearly another two hours, I was forced to buy another phone. This time (as a lot of their T's & C's had changed in the interim), the cost of it was to be added to my monthly bill. Plus, if I needed any help in setting it up etc, I was told it would cost me £25.00 for each half hour, as she pointed to a small sign on the wall behind her.

Not what I really wanted, but I felt I had been painted into a corner, as, like most of us these days, I need a phone.

Am I the only person who is not enthralled, enthused,

thrilled and excited about a trip to the hairdresser? I do not find such venues are places of relaxation, as many folks



seem to do. For this reason, I have never been one to frequent these establishments on a regular basis and the precautions and safety procedures still in place don't exactly make for a relaxed atmosphere.

I am sure the hairdressers have had to grow extra long arms to be able to keep their distance from their clients, as I found it incredibly difficult to engage in any sort of meaningful conversation, whilst wearing a mask, removing my glasses and trying my best to strain my ears over the noise of hairdryers, water splashing and the sounds from the streets wafting in through the now fully-open doors and windows.

Plus, trying to keep the obligatory face mask dry whilst having your hair washed is nigh on impossible, so I left with a very soggy cap of fabric in my hand. I had no idea what the hairdresser was saying, nor what she was actually doing to my hair until she produced the gigantic mirror from nowhere and waved it behind my head with a flourish, thus giving me a moment to replace my glasses, and allowing me to see that she had completely forgotten how I normally have my hair styled. The person I was now looking at in both mirrors was totally unrecognisable!

"Very nice," was my through gritted teeth response. I paid up (not looking happy!) and scooted out. As soon as I was round the corner, I found a comb in my bag and made a few tweaks, only to be met with a mini-hurricane as I turned into the next street, so my newly coiffed hairdo was all over the place in seconds, despite half a can of spray being administered before I left the salon!

Recently, on my still almost daily walk, I got into conversation with our newest neighbour (he who had been sitting in his front garden, watching the builders, if you recall?). In the space of about 15 minutes, I heard more or less his entire life history, so am now up to speed with the noticeable lack of developments in the project. Apparently they are waiting for 'stuff' to come over from China. I just hope he won't be sitting in the same place when winter draws in waiting for the consignment to be delivered.

I am now awaiting the traditional trundling of tractors down the road, carrying huge bales of straw, as for the past week there has been much noise, dust and activity from the nearby wheat fields.

TTFN,

AnonyMouse

It's all in a Notebook!

Really, it is – a scruffy looking notebook, slightly bigger than A5 and it doesn't have a cover. The content to me is fascinating and can be dated back to the years of the Second World War [WW2]. It is a mix of both local, family and social history and it belonged to my husband's parents. Everything is handwritten, sometimes in pencil, sometimes in ink.

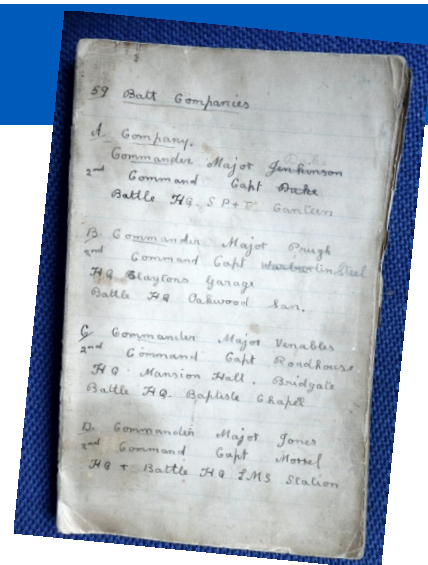
The first page lists 59th Battalion Companies A, B, C & D. It gives the name of the Command Major and Captain of each Company and where their Battle Headquarters were situated, i.e. the Baptist Chapel, Oakwood Sanatorium, LMS Station and S P & T Canteen (Steel Peech and Tozers). I know at least two of these places no longer exist. For any readers who come from the Sheffield and Rotherham area they may well have had family who worked at Steel Peech and Tozers at Templeborough.

My father-in-law, who wrote many pages in this note book, worked as a Hammer Man at Rotherham Forge, and while this was a reserved occupation in WW2 he was also in the Home Guard (Dad's Army). He obviously took this very seriously as he wrote on many things relating to this, e.g. the names of people in the different platoons, where police boxes and police pillar boxes were located (these would have had telephones in). He also recorded the details of a Browning machine gun and

information about being on parade complete with little sketches. How wonderful it would be if we had information like this for the Forest Town and Mansfield area.

They say an army marches on its stomach. My mum-in-law also used this notebook and her pages are full of recipes. Some of the recipes make us aware of a time of food rationing as they contain dried ingredients such as dried eggs and milk. There's one for almond paste containing soya flour. Another for lemon curd is interesting as the method is to use a double saucepan or stone jar in a saucepan half full of boiling water. Put marg ($\frac{1}{2}$ lb), sugar (1lb), 4 lemons juiced, in jar and bring to boiling point, then beat eggs well and add to other ingredients, stir well until it thickens. There is a recipe for tarts where the filling is mashed potato! A recipe for mock whipped cream reminds me of when my mum made a trifle spread with tiny coloured hundreds and thousands. Interestingly very few of the recipes tell you the cooking times or temperature. Maybe that is because the oven was at the side of the fire not one of the modern cookers we have today.

Interspersed with the Home Guard information and recipes were pages of Christmas carols, such as Once In Royal David's City, The First Noel, Away In A Manger and Silent Night which had a recipe for ginger biscuits



on the opposite page – it wouldn't have been a very Silent Night if you were crunching on a ginger biscuit!

Pauline Marples

John Kirk

As this issue was being finalised we heard of the recent sudden death of long standing u3a member John Kirk.

John was a very talented musician and leader of the 60's Music Group.

His funeral will take place at 13.15 on 8 September at Mansfield Crematorium. Donations in lieu of floral tributes to musicforall.org.uk via the family's Just Giving page at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gilian-kirk6

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), Sue Harkin (Business Secretary), Anita Adlard (Groups' Coordinator), Steve Evans (Assistant Groups' Coordinator), Kelvin Foster (Membership Secretary & Welfare Officer), Kathryn Cope (Assistant Membership Secretary & 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 Sunday 26 September.**

Please visit our website for the latest news:

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

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417