



Chat from the chair

AGM well attended - thank you!

Hello everyone and welcome to the October edition. Well, I'm pleased to say that the AGM was very well attended. Many thanks to those members who advised us of their intention to attend as this did give us an idea on seating numbers and was a great help to the Arena staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new Committee members and to thank those who have stepped down. Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated.

Our new venue, The Arena, offers much more space which is a bonus under current circumstances as we are not all obliged to sit close together. The room is very well ventilated and the premises have adequate toilet facilities plus disabled access throughout. Looking to the future, the added capacity will enable us to increase our membership. We did have an issue with the microphone but I am assured by the Arena management that this will be resolved in time for our next general meeting.

If at any time during a meeting, you are unable to hear the commentary, please raise your hand and tell us at the time. We want all our members to enjoy meetings but there is little point in complaining afterwards that you

couldn't hear.

Moving forward we will continue to take members' temperatures on arrival at the Arena as well as requesting everyone to wear some form of face covering on entering and when moving around inside. These may be removed once members are seated, the choice is yours. Medical grade hand sanitiser is provided where members book in although you can use your own if you wish to do so.

These measures have been put in place for the welfare and protection of everyone, including the Arena staff and we thank our members for their compliance.

I look forward to seeing you all at the October General Meeting scheduled for Friday October 1st with a prompt 10.30am start time.

Linda Shutt.

1st Oct meeting

Speakers Kath and Geoff Deighton (Penny Bunn) remembering the days of *The London Palladium*, with song, poetry and a singalong.

To access the Arena, please use the door at the far end of the car park. This brings you directly into the our meeting room and please **DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 10am**, thank you.

Garden of England holiday back for 2022

It had to be postponed in spring 2020 but the u3a Garden of England National Trust tour is back for 2022.

Departing Monday 9 May 2022 the five-day (four night) trip cost £485 for National Trust members (£535 for non-members). There is no single supplement! The holiday includes private coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast for four nights, hotel portorage and excursions:

Monday, en route to the Holiday Inn Rochester, your base for the four nights, you visit Hever Castle. On Tuesday it's Chartwell House and Gardens in the morning and a guided tour of Emmetts Garden in the afternoon; followed, on Wednesday, with a visit to Scotney Castle and an

afternoon in the historic spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells

Thursday it's Knole House before travelling on to Broadstairs for a leisurely afternoon by the sea.

On the way home on Friday you visit Pashley Manor Gardens.

Potters resort

Places still available for the Potters 5 star, all inclusive holiday 13-17 June 2022.

Twins and doubles in 'bungalow plus', or go for 'hotel deluxe' (supplements apply for hotel).

We book with Potters direct to pass on the discount. Brochure price is £499 for a standard room. Our price is approx £410 for a 'bungalow plus'.



Coach to the resort with Skills approx £30.

Interested in either of these? Please contact Denise on 07791 941502 (Mon to Friday 9am to 4.00pm) or email deewhits@aol.com

Denise Whitsed

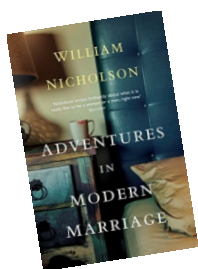
Getting back to normal u3a groups on the way back

General meetings

The speaker for November is Mike Hodkins, a retired Fireman. His talk is entitled *Life as a Firefighter*; a fitting subject for our meeting on Friday 5 November. Mike will talk about his years as a firefighter with anecdotes and stories from his career. Get that date in your diary and don't miss the November general meeting, 10.30am at the Forest Town Arena.

Kathryn Cope

Book worms



The Book Group will be meeting in Forest Town library on Monday 11 October at 10.30am to discuss: *The Adventures in Modern Marriage* by William Nicholson.

There aren't any particular covid practices to consider at the library and the u3a register will form a track and trace list but there are a few 'no's'! No refreshments available and no toilets!

Future meetings will revert to the first Monday of the month.

Book Group leader: Ann Stanford
Contact Ann Stanford by email:
annstanford1@sky.com

Cryptic crossword puzzle solvers

By the time you read this, our October newsletter, we will have reconvened our Cryptic Crosswords Group and had our first meeting, all being well! We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month from 10am till 12, at the Stuart Avenue Community Centre (a free venue, courtesy of the local authority; tea and coffee can be made in the kitchen). All newcomers welcome: whether beginners (tuition offered) or other skill levels (we all help each other out!). You can bring a crossword that you are working on, or join in with crosswords provided. We do have a few laughs along the way!

Next meeting: Thursday 28 October.

Cryptic Crosswords Group leader:
Kay Toy Contact Kay Toy by email:
kaytoy@hotmail.co.uk

Country dancers

Hip, Hip, Hooray!!!! Country Dancing is meeting on 26 October when we will be in the Methodist Church Hall, Forest Town from 2 pm till 4 pm. We have the wonderful caller, Janice Holland from Southwell to help us learn new no-contact dances at the cost of just £2 each for the hire of the hall. Bring your own drink and snack if you need one.

Face masks will be required on entry. Hand sanitiser provided.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

16 November; December no meeting; 20 January 2022; 17 February 2022;
17 March 2022; April no meeting (Easter); 19 May 2022 and 16 June 2022

Looking forward to seeing old and new friends.

**Pam Lander, Ann Stanford &
our caller Janice Holland**

Country Dance Group leader:
Ann Stanford Contact Ann Stanford by
email: annstanford1@sky.com



Strollers

How nice to see so many strollers out with us on Friday 17 September when we had 23 people, including 3 new members to our group.

We met in the car park of Kingsmill Reservoir and eventually after sorting out car parking charges and payment, set off for our stroll.

As we got underway we could see the swans, cygnets and Canada geese all near the car park. About half way round there was a massive amount of coots and some lovely coloured ducks. Bird watchers we need your help to identify these!!

After once round the reservoir some of us stopped for coffee and some carried on to do another circuit. A lovely stroll for all comers.

Our next meet is at Pleasley Country Park on 15 October at 10.30am.

Strollers leader: Jen Lowe
Contact Jen Lowe by email:
jen.lowe@talktalk.net

Covid risk assessments

Personal Members Checklist (Pre-Attendance) AND General U3A Assessment Checklist Covid 19 forms can be downloaded from the Forest Town & District u3a website.
www.u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/groups

Anita Adlard

Of well dressings & damsons

Our first ramble in September was led by Bob & Vanessa. We started on a clear, cool day, high above the River Wye at Chee Dale with a fairly gentle walk to Blackwell village, stopping at Blackwell Hall. From Blackwell we descended into the valley and along Chee Dale to the Millers Dale Station for our morning break. Continuing along the Monsal trail, we stopped to watch children abseil from the viaduct, before proceeding down towards the bridge over the River Wye and up the far side of the valley to the hamlet of Wormhill. After a leisurely lunch at St Margaret's Church, we took in the Well Dressings and views of Wormhill Hall. The return to Chee Dale via Blackwell Mill involved a steep uphill path. Our day was rounded off by a visit to the café at Thornbridge Hall for a well-deserved coffee and a competitive game of net a duck in the fountain.

Bob and Vanessa also led our second walk on a pleasantly warm day with sunny intervals. Starting in Wessington we headed gently downhill to South Wingfield, before steep uphill pulls, first to the hamlet of Park Head and then Crich. On the way we came across trees heavily laden with damsons. Many were eaten and even more picked so Georganne could make damson gin!! We were all made very welcome by Norris, a delightful 15-year old sheepdog and his elderly mum and dad at Edge Farm as we passed by on the way back to Wessington and stopped for a good chat. They even offered to put the kettle on but we thought



it best to decline – there were 10 of us! Edge Moor then afforded a spectacular 180 degree view from the wind turbines at the M1/M18 junction in the North to the Ratcliffe on Soar power station in the South.

Our next rambles: 6th October: Ford, Troway, Moss Valley & Ridgeway (7.5 miles) 20th October: Ambergate and Alderwasley (7.5 miles). New members welcome.

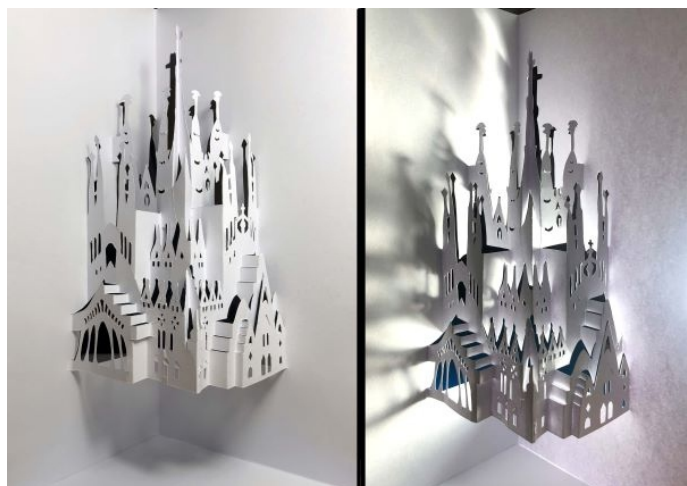
Ramblers Group Leader: Andrew Riby
Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles
Meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Contact Andrew Riby: 01623 656958
Mobile: 07833 543705
Email: ribya@imcgroup.co.uk

Photo fame for Bob

I recently had the pleasure of one of my photographs being shown on the u3a eye webpage.

The u3a eye project is not a photographic competition and is open to all u3a members. A different theme is posted each fortnight and members are invited to submit a photo on that topic. 15 photographs from the entries are then chosen to be shown in the u3a eye gallery.

My entry was for the Architecture & Buildings theme. I submitted a photograph of a Kirigami model.



Kirigami takes Origami one step further and involves cutting and folding paper or card. When cut and folded and opened to 90 degrees a 3D model appears.

This model represents the Sagrada Familia and was made from one sheet of A4 card.

You can see my entry, other entries and previous themes on the u3a eye site. Visit

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/u3a-eye

Bob Hunt

What a beautiful baby!



This is my new great grandson covered with the blanket I crocheted and featured in this u3a newsletter before he was born. I thought it would be nice to show him off now he's here. His name is Beau!

Andrea Lewis

A second unveiling for Forest Town's Cenotaph

In 1921 all over the UK memorials were being erected in memory of those involved or affected by the First World War. The focus was on those who had lost their lives. Forest Town in 1921 was a much smaller place than we know today. Most of the men and boys worked at the Bolsover Colliery Company's, Mansfield Colliery (known to most people as Crownie).

Many of them were also members of the Colliery Band, the Ambulance Brigade, Cadets and Boys Brigade etc. They also went to local churches and some sang in those choirs. Sadly, when they went off to fight for their country some did not come back. The community of Forest Town decided to erect the cenotaph memorial we see at St Alban's Church today. It cost just over £400. The Bolsover Colliery Company contributed £250 and the rest was raised by public subscriptions. Just how they did this we do not know.

The design was by Mr A W Barrowdale of Carlton Road, Worksop. A firm of monumental masons, Barrowdale and Sons can still be found at that address today.

The memorial, or cenotaph as we know it, takes the form of an Elizabethan Cross. It is carved in White Kemay Granite with a die and base. The total height is 14 feet 6 inches. The shaft of the cross is 9 feet 6 inches and is in one piece of granite. It was placed in this position so that the inscriptions could be read from the road. In 1921 the churchyard was divided from the road by metal railings, not a stone wall as it is today.

On the morning of Sunday 25 September 1921, a procession started from the Drill Hall (now known as Kingsway Hall). It was led by Forest Town's Silver Band. Next came a military guard of four men who were

to take charge of the memorial cross during the service. They were followed by members of the British Legion and Boys Brigade, with the Ambulance and Bugle Band. There were representatives of Mansfield Woodhouse Urban District Council, a party of people carrying floral wreaths and members of the general public which continued to grow as it progressed the Church. This must have been a wonderful sight to see.

At half past ten when the service began the church was filled to overflowing. There were many civic dignitaries. Among those present were the Mayor of Mansfield, Councillor S Beasley and representatives of the Bolsover Colliery Company and the Mansfield Colliery. Reverend Bull, curate in charge of St Alban's, conducted the service. He was assisted by Rev Booker, Vicar of Mansfield Woodhouse. During the service it was said that the memorial cross had been made of granite, a hard and durable stone, that it might last and be a witness to generations that were yet unborn. That it is still standing proudly in St Alban's churchyard and that people of all ages congregate there each year on Remembrance Sunday, proves that this was a good decision.

At the close of the service everyone filed out to take part in the second half of the proceedings. A specially made tiered stand filled with children from local village Sunday Schools had been erected to one side, so they could watch. The memorial was draped with a Union Flag. Four soldiers of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment stood as sentinels at each corner of the base, their heads bowed. John Plowright Houfton of the Bolsover Colliery Company then unveiled the Cross.

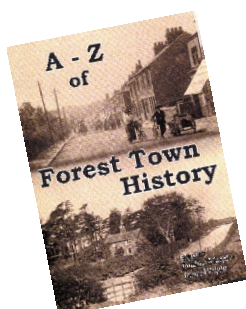


There was more hymn singing and spoken word. Rev. Bull dedicated the Cross and read out the names of the men inscribed on the memorial. There would have been tears of joy and sorrow as this was done.

We are all aware that more names were added after the Second World War. However, on that day in September 1921 the service continued with the laying of floral tributes and bouquets of seasonable flowers laid at the foot of the cross.

One hundred years on in September 2021 a service was held in St Alban's Church after which everyone gathered outside. The cenotaph had once again been draped in the Union Flag and four cadets stood at each corner. The cadets and band members looked splendid in their uniforms. There was a drum roll, and the cenotaph was slowly unveiled. People present then laid flowers in memory of friends and family they had lost, re-enacting the service of 100 years ago.

Pauline Marples



Discovery Time

When you visit a place are you interested to discover something about the buildings and people who have lived there? How much do you know about Forest Town where some of you live or come to the U3A meetings? Do you know about Water Board Jack or Raja Ram or even the Police Station? The A-Z of Forest Town History has 88 pages of fascinating facts about Forest Town and will be on sale at your next u3a meeting for the meagre sum of £4.00.

Pauline Marples & Jenny Wright

Diary of a Totally Confused kid

Greetings. Black Friday (no, not the mad day when we are all supposed to think we have got an online bargain), this is laundry related!

I make sure that all tissues are removed from all pockets, concealed or otherwise, before placing items in the washing machine. **I know I do.**

Apparently, not this time. When I was given the warning beep that the wash cycle had ended, I was confronted with a confetti of shredded white tissue gently drifting out of the door as I pulled out the clothes, mainly black ones, now all covered in a haze of off-white blobs. Oh what fun.

Oh well, I thought, a flap-about on the line will get rid of most of it (won't it?). Then I realised I had another load to put on, so it was a scour round inside the drum with a dry cloth, in an attempt to get out any rogue remnants. Bother, then I saw a tissue trail all across the kitchen floor, so it was out with the dustpan and brush.

And, no the 'flap-about' didn't do the trick, so it was out with the sticky fluff-removing roller, which promptly came apart in my hand, the business end disappearing under the fridge. At least it will collect some of the dust that is no doubt lurking there. It was retrieved with the longest wooden spoon I could find at the back of the drawer of 'useful items', covered in very suspect shrivelled-up items which were duly disposed of.

Half an hour of vigorous rolling (and cursing, as the roller kept coming apart) ensued. However, I rather think another wash will be required to restore the garments to almost wearable condition.

I have just noticed there is also a film of tissues adorning the grass under the whirlygig. I trust a good downpour will remove them.

Speaking of washing matters, my neighbour has let me down this year, as I usually rely on her to inform me spring really has arrived, because she has a dramatic uncovering of her whirlygig on the equinox. This apparatus stands all winter in its cosy duvet.

For some reason, this year she decided to dry all her laundry in the tumble-dryer. Need to make enquiries on this, as maybe she doesn't realise how I trust her judgement!

The farmers have been 'hard at it' these past weeks with the return of the trundling tractors and grain trailers, all bouncing and banging down the lane. I count them going down and hopefully the same number will duly return up, fully laden.

There seem to have been more this year, so maybe extra fields have been put down to wheat. They come back more slowly, heavy with grain or huge bales of straw (at least 20 precariously balanced without any visible signs of being tied on) scattering Country Confetti in their wake. This remains on the verges until the birds have pecked it clear.

There is again another flurry of repairs, renovations and redecorating works springing up all around, no doubt with the idea to be finished before the winter sets in.

It now takes a lot longer to complete any walks, as there are so many diversions and distractions to admire and comment on if the DIY-er is actually 'on task' (quite a few seem to be in the 'Round Tuit' state of suspended animation.)

New roofs, extensions, fences, driveways and, the pièce de résistance, an entire new road surface.

Half a mo, I hear a thump outside, Marvellous Mabel has reappeared after several weeks of absence and the bird table is, once more, upended on the lawn. Must dash to restore the equilibrium and sprinkle new bird seed on it.

TTFN

AnonyMouse



The phantom diarist

Mists and mellow fruitfulness:

The garden has taken on a weary air, cloaked and ready for colder weather. However, berries are in abundance: black (elder), red (rowan) and orange (pyracantha). A friend gave me a nepeta (catmint) off-cut. This was left on the bench, pending a planting decision. My local feline friend went potty over it and pulled it about. It has now been attached to the house wall, in its pot!

Family fables:

My brother told me over the phone about the mild panic he experienced, when he took out a favoured suit from the wardrobe for an important 'do'. The moths had nibbled a patch around the trouser zip area! Fortunately, a second suit had remained unscathed.

Another of his stories that made me laugh involved his

church choir, where he sings every week. They have been under-rehearsed, as a result of Covid restrictions, and a few wrong notes crept into their Sunday Service performance. The vicar sent an email (tongue-in-cheek) to say that he didn't want any more "descant disasters"!

Music:

The Proms. Glorious performance from the Icelandic pianist, Víkingur Ólafsson, playing Bach and Mozart; wonderful music from Handel: Dixit Dominus; and Bach's St Matthew Passion, a stunning 3-hour choral and orchestral narrative.

The night sky:

Blue Moon, 22.8.21, a bright, shiny yellowy-orange full moon. Quite a sight!

AGM chairperson address

Thank you all for being here today. The past 18 months has been a very trying time for all of us. Everyone has been affected by the global pandemic and the u3a overall has been no different.

Forest Town & District u3a has missed 17 General Meetings and countless hours of Group activities, Day Trips and Holidays. Efforts were made to bring you together remotely by holding online General Meetings but these were not well subscribed and were therefore discontinued.

Recently a comment was made that we should 'defer' for a year as the Committee hadn't done anything! That's not true: local, regional, and national newsletters have been made available and you should all have received a copy of TAM magazine.

Committee members have attended online Peer Support Group meetings, Regional Network Meetings and Covid Management Team Meetings; not to mention the 366 welfare calls made by our Welfare Officer and the Phone Buddy calls from our volunteers.

Bob Hunt, our u3a Website Manager, has been busy updating our website throughout the pandemic. Those who claim: "we haven't done anything", you are way off the mark!

Outdoor interest groups (ramblers and strollers) have been active for some time now. Many other groups have found ways of keeping in touch.

Some time ago the Phone Buddy

Scheme was launched to maintain contact among members; particularly those who felt isolated. The Committee would like to extend its thanks to those members who volunteered to be a Phone Buddy and we hope those who took advantage of the scheme have found it beneficial.

You will recall that we have been looking to recruit a replacement for our Business Secretary, Sue Harkin, who completes her three-year term of office this year. I received suggestions from several members that we 'write off' the year and 'pick up where we left off!' Basically, this suggestion was that all Committee members extend their term of office for one full year. Enquiries were made to u3a National Office but this confirmed that legally we are not allowed to hibernate.

Despite Covid it has been business as usual throughout. At this point I want to stress that Forest Town & District u3a officers and Committee members can only serve for three consecutive years unless we amend our constitution. Your Committee has discussed this idea at length and has decided that constitutional changes are not an option.

It did look, at one point, that we may have had to dissolve Forest Town & District u3a; all efforts to recruit a Business Secretary were unsuccessful. Dissolution was not something I relished but it did look like our only course of action. I am

delighted that, at the eleventh hour, we have had a nomination for a Business Secretary and, for now, your u3a is safe.

I would like to thank the retiring Committee members, Sue Harkin and Steve Evans and also to thank those Committee members who stepped down during the year due to personal circumstances. Their service, hard work and commitment are very much appreciated.

I would like to personally thank my fellow Committee members for their continued support and the way they have all pulled together during these exceptionally difficult months.

It should be noted that in June 2022 Anita Adlard, Groups Co-ordinator, and myself as Chairperson will reach our three-year term of office and we will be stepping down from your Committee.

In conclusion, I would like to share this with you. Recently someone not familiar with the u3a asked me to define the structure of the u3a; the best way I could describe it is that each individual member is a spoke in a wheel or a tooth on a cog. To function effectively and achieve anything we need the support of one another. Any one of you could be a spoke in that wheel or a tooth on that cog. This support within the u3a is vital, not just locally but regionally and nationally, to ensure that we all continue to Learn Laugh Live.

Linda Shutt

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), Christine Ward (Business Secretary), Anita Adlard (Groups' Coordinator), Marilyn Redfern (Assistant Groups' Coordinator), Kelvin Foster (Membership Secretary & Welfare Officer), Kathryn Cope (Speaker Seeker & Assistant Membership Secretary), Tina Shirt 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 24 October.**

Please visit our website for the latest news:

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

*Forest Town & District U3A is a
Registered Charity Number 1186417*