



Future of your u3a secured

I am delighted to be able to announce that the future of your u3a has been secured. Three of our members have volunteered to join the Committee under the casual vacancy clause contained in our constitution.

At the latest Committee meeting Irene Brooks was elected as Temporary Chair, Mike Lyall was elected Temporary Vice-Chair and Sue Robinson and Winston Wall were elected general Committee members. These appointments will be voted on at the AGM in June.

I am sure you will all join me in extending our grateful thanks to them all for stepping up to save this u3a.

On a personal note, following my resignation as Chair person at the February General Meeting I have been inundated with messages of support. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the gifts, cards, emails, phone calls and text messages, your kindness is truly appreciated.

It has been a pleasure to serve on your Committee and I will remain a member of this u3a but for now I need to focus on my health and well-being.

Linda Shutt

Time to renew your membership

With members stepping up to fill the vacant Committee positions we are now in a position to proceed with membership renewals.

With an eye on the cost of living your Committee has set the annual membership renewal fee at just £16.00. Associate members can join for £12.50.

There are three ways of paying your membership fee:

- Bank transfer. Our sort code is 30-90-89, account number 53978960 **PLEASE ENSURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME AND/OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS THE REFERENCE.**
- Cheque. These should be made out to **FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A**, with your **membership number on the reverse**. Bring your cheque along to the meetings in March/April or post to K Cope, 97 Lingforest Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 3NQ.
- If you are unable to pay by bank transfer or cheque then you can pay in cash at the next two monthly meetings on 4 March 2022 and 1 April 2022.

PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.

The closing date for renewals is Friday 13 May 2022.

Kathryn Cope

Our March speaker might drive you round the bend



At our General Meeting on Friday 4 March 2022 (10.00am at Forest Town Arena) Autumn Rose, Road Safety Officer from Via East Midlands, will offer tips on how to prolong and enhance the driving experience for older drivers. She will include updates to the Highway Code and some of the simple adaptations available along with a friendly quiz.

Russian insight

Dr Cathy McAteer's talk on Russia and all things Russian captivated members at the February meeting. Russians she explained are incredibly hospitable in private but their history of all powerful and often violent leaders makes them less so in public; hence the stereotypical dour faced image.



Ramblers discoveries

Setting out from Brimington, near Chesterfield for our first walk in February, we entered West Wood. The wood is honeycombed with former pits as ironstone was mined here for hundreds of years, but there's no longer any trace of the workings. We stopped to inspect a couple of carved tree trunks, spookily reminiscent of the 'Weeping Angels' in Dr Who. Tapton Park afforded views over Chesterfield. George Stephenson once lived there, the engineer who built the first public railway line in the world to use steam locomotives, running from Derby to Leeds. It was then a pleasant walk back along the Chesterfield canal trying in vain to spot the kingfishers which Tapton Lock visitor centre had reported as being seen.

We set out on our second walk from the South Yorkshire village of Firbeck. We tried but failed to find the oval field in the village which was once the private racecourse of 18th century racehorse owner Anthony St Leger, originator of the St Leger Stakes. In the teeth of a strong headwind we headed across muddy fields to Laughton-en-le-Morthen where we stopped to admire the elegant church

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



In West Wood; these strange carvings look like something out of Dr Who

with its 185 foot tower and spire. Lunch was taken sheltering in the gatehouse to Roche Abbey. Despite the monastery being suppressed in 1538 when most of the buildings were dismantled, the soaring transepts of this Cistercian monastery still survive to their original height. Fortunately

we finished our walk before storm Dudley really kicked off and it was a wet and wild drive back home.

Our next rambles: 2nd March: Baslow, Dobb Edge, Beeley & Chatsworth Estate (8.3 miles). 16th March: Winster & Wensley (7 miles). New members welcome.



There was plenty of mud on the Roche Abbey walk

Trace your family tree

Both the January and February meetings went very well and at each we had a lot of discussion on the 1921 Census that has recently been released.

The drawback to this now (and possibly for the next two years) is that there is a cost to looking at the transcripts or original documents. Three of the group have decided to take the plunge and gamble that they had the correct families and purchase documents. They brought along printouts to show everyone what can

be discovered. Not only do you get a person's occupation but additionally the place and address where they worked.

For example George Barton aged 34 was a Blacksmith's Striker at the Midland Railway Carriage & Wagon Depot on Litchurch Lane, Derby and Rose Alice Marples, 24, was a General Domestic Servant at Misses Staniforth, 268 Fullwood Road, Sheffield.

This was all new information and can



lead to looking further into these places of work.

Report by: **Pauline Marples**
Group Leaders: **Andrew & Julie Rowbottom** Meet on 3rd Tuesdays

Bird Group learn from rising young conservation star

On Monday 7 February, 12 members of the Bird Watching Group were met at Sherwood Forest's RSPB Visitors Centre by a very special young man who was to be the group's guide for the morning. Indy Kiemel Greene is his name. He's just 16 but is already making a name for himself as one of the UK's most prominent young Naturalists and Conservationists. He's a member of the RSPB Youth Council and regularly volunteers and campaigns with organisations like Notts Wildlife Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology and he recently featured on BBC's Winter Watch with Chris Packham.

On commencement of the walk into the forest, we came across a very special tree aptly named Stumpy. It's a very old oak tree which is still alive and providing a home for numerous insect types. These in turn are a larder of food ready for the local bird population.

We moved on to another ancient oak; this time a dead tree but, again, a great home for insects and a larder for the birds.

During our two hour tour of the forest, we spotted numerous birds, including those we expected to see in a forest i.e. Great Tit, Blue Tit, Blackbird, Chaffinch and Robin. What gave the Group immense joy was to see:

- Three Great Spotted Woodpeckers fly overhead.
- A Scandinavian male Blackbird (distinctive by its black beak)
- A pair of Mistle Thrushes sitting comfortably on a branch of an oak tree above us.

Indy heard a Hawfinch and after some searching we spotted it high in a tree and only just visible. However, what a sight to see.

The group learnt a considerable amount from Indy, who has an immense knowledge of wildlife and Sherwood Forest, and enjoyed the entire session to its conclusion.

You can follow Indy Kiemel Greene on Twitter and Instagram @Greenelndy



Our young expert guide, Indy Kiemel Greene



Report by Mike Lyall
Bird Watching Group Leader:
Lynne Cooper
Meet on 2nd Thursdays

Bridge Group back at Dukeries u3a

The Dukeries Bridge Group is meeting again on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1pm to 4pm at the Jubilee Hall, Willow Road, Ollerton NG22 9AP. The cost of each session is currently £3 (We are hoping to reduce this to £2 in the near future.)

As Group leader Colin Barrett explains: "In the past members from other u3a's in the area have attended but since covid this attendance has dried up. This note is for three purposes:

1. To tell you that we are back up and running;
2. To remind all u3a members that they will be welcome to the group;
3. To let you know our biscuits are always at premium level."

If you would like to discuss the above, please call Colin on 01623 820824.



Gardeners get crafty

About 14 of us had a busy and creative morning, making progress with our macramé hanging basket holders, under the watchful eye of Kath, our expert, and other capable members of the group. Some of us started off "all fingers and thumbs", until we "got" the process and completed about half the project (apart from one member who triumphantly finished!). The morning went by with concentration and laughter, and as one lady said, she "didn't know where the time went!"

Next month there will be pebble-painting (for the garden), and/or completion of our macramé work.



Report by Group member, **Kay Toy**

Gardening Group Leader: **Angelina Taylor** Meet on 2nd Tuesdays

Poetry & plays group has a new leader

Hello members. My name is Jackie Evans & I am the new Poetry & Play Reading Group Leader. The group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month 10am till midday at The Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue, Forest Town.

Every month there is a different theme so bring your poetry books, download from the internet or make up your own poems or limericks. The group also writes Chinese Whispers, reads excerpts from plays or comedy shows & discusses current poetry and play-related topics from our area, the whole country and internationally. Refreshments are also available with a donation.

So I look forward to seeing members on Monday 14 March when the theme is Pets/Animals.

Poetry & Play Reading Group Leader:
Jackie Evans
Meet on 2nd Mondays

Strange Service

by Kay Toy

All was quiet, all was calm,
The vicar read the 14th psalm.
A lady coughed, a small boy sneezed,
Hymn sheets rustled, an old man wheezed.

They sat and held their candles high,
It would be Christmas by and by.

But all at once, quite loud and clear,
A scream rang out, for all to hear.
A tiny mouse ran down the aisle,
(The small boy produced a smile!);
The vicar had his cassock raised,
Though not much – he wasn't fazed,
And with priestly sang-froid to the end,
He said: "God bless our little friend!"

Cryptic crosswords sorted!

If you don't know how to solve a cryptic crossword, they will appear bafflingly bizarre. I had often read the clues and felt daunted, muttering: "Well, I don't have a clue where to begin!" Luckily, our u3a Cryptic Crossword group (meets monthly, 4th Thursday 10.00-12.00 at Stuart Avenue) offered the answer.

In true u3a spirit, the group learn from each other. Clues are discussed and 'broken down' to their key elements and explained. Helpful books and tips are shared. Bit by bit, some of the simpler clues began to make sense to me. Gradually, I am now beginning to solve some cryptic crosswords by myself...although it may take me a few days.

However, if I'm unsure, stuck or just don't grasp the link between the clue and the answer, I know where to go! Yes, our welcoming, cryptic crossword interest group. It offers relaxed guidance, the chance to try a new crossword either with another member of the group or on your own and the opportunity to stir the grey cells into action.....so, why not join us?

Report by: **Susan Wright**

Cryptic Crosswords Group Leader:
Kay Toy Meet on 4th Thursdays



For Group Leader contact details please email our Group Coordinator Anita Adlard: a.adlard@ntlworld.com

Diary date



◆ Friday 1 April 2022 *Gardener's Delight*

Rachel Barrowcliffe MCIHort is this month's speaker. A professional gardener for over 30 years, Rachel is gardener and adviser at Hodsock Priory and The Tropical Butterfly House, Wildlife and Falconry Centre, North Anston, near Worksop. Rachel loves to share her knowledge and will be talking about seasonal gardening in containers and growing veg in pots. There will also be time for gardeners' questions and answers, so come with your questions.

Kathryn Cope

What's on and when

Group	Day	Where	Time	Leader
Art Appreciation	3rd Fridays	Various	10.00 Arena car park	Jill Gascoyne
Bird Watching	2nd Thursdays	Various	10.00-12.00	Lynne Cooper
Book Club	1st Mondays	Forest Town Library	10.30-12.00	Ann Stanford
Computers & IT	Any time	Member's home	By arrangement	Robert Hunt
Country Dancing	3rd Tuesdays	Forest Town Methodist Church	14.00-16.00	Pamela Lander Ann Stanford
Cryptic Crosswords	4th Thursdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Kay Toy
Current Affairs	2nd Wednesdays	Flint Ave Centre	10.00-12.00	Michael King
Days Out & Holidays	Advertised at general meetings 1st Fridays	Forest Town Arena	10.30 start	Denise Whitsed
Evening Dinner Out	4th Thursdays	Various	18.30	Marilyn Redfern & Jane Atkins
Gardening	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Angelina Taylor & Irene Brooks
Music 50s, 60s & 70s	2nd Fridays	Forest Town Arena	14.00-16.00	Win Wall & Irene Brooks
National Trust	Some Saturdays	Meet Forest Town Arena	Various	Ann Stanford
Painting & Drawing	4th Thursdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Christine Cawthorne
Poetry & Play Reading	2nd Mondays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Jackie Evans
Photography	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Alan Taylor & Fran Smith
Rambling 7-9 miles	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	Meet Forest Town Arena	08.40 departure	Andy Riby
Scrabble & Rummikub	3rd Mondays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Celia Tassel
Strollers	3rd Fridays	Various	10.30 departure	Denise Doud
Table Tennis	1st Tuesdays	Oak Tree Centre	11.30-13.30	Marilyn Redfern
Trace Your Family Tree	3rd Tuesdays	Flint Ave Centre	14.00-16.00	Andrew & Julie Rowbottom

Your Executive Committee contacts

Forest Town & District U3A relies on the hard work of its Executive Committee. Everyone gives their time freely. All Executive Committee members can be contacted via the website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/contact>

For members who don't use email and need help, please contact our Welfare Officer, **Kelvin Foster** by phone on **01623 422251**.

Current members of the Committee are:

Irene Brooks (Chair), Mike Lyall (Vice-Chair), Andrew Riby (Treasurer), Christine Ward (Business Secretary), Anita Adlard (Groups' Coordinator), Marilyn Redfern (Assistant Groups' Coordinator), Kathryn Cope (Membership Secretary & Speaker Seeker), Winston Wall and Sue Robinson. Bob Hunt is the 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 20 March 2022.**

For latest news visit: <https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/>

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417