



Upcoming events at FT&D u3a

As your temporary chair I would like to welcome all our new and renewing members. Thank you for joining/re-joining! We now have 21 groups for you to get involved with and our group leaders will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

I have some up and coming dates for your diary:

- ◆ Friday 27 May starting at 11.00 through to 14.00 we have a Bring and Buy sale at Forest Town Arena. I need tombola prizes, handbags, scarves, bric-a-brac, bottles of wine, prosecco, costume jewellery, craft, plants etc. There will be a coffee/tea and cake station at a cost of £3 each. No entrance fee and you can bring your friends and family with you.
- ◆ For the Jubilee Celebration and AGM on 10 June (the June general meeting) I also need non-perishable foods, wine and prosecco, biscuits and chocolates to be made into hampers and raffled off at our Jubilee Celebration.

We have a great year ahead of us – let's make Forest Town u3a the place to be.

Irene Brooks

Gardener's delight

The speaker for our general meeting on Friday 1 April 2022 is Rachel Barrowcliffe MCIHort. Rachel is a professional gardener with over 30 years experience.

She 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



National Trust

National Trust - here we come again!

- ◆ The National Trust visit on Saturday 23 April is first to Woolsthorpe Manor, home to Isaac Newton and then, in the afternoon, it's on to Belton House. The cost is just £10.
- ◆ Saturday 21 May's visit is to Lincolnshire's Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens as well as Monksthorpe Chapel. Cost £14.
- ◆ Saturday 25 June we go to Shugborough Estate, Staffordshire. Cost £12.
- ◆ Saturday 23 July the visit is to Packwood House and Baddeley Clinton in Warwickshire.
- ◆ Saturday 20 August we are off to Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire.

The minibus, with 14 places, will leave Forest Town Arena at 10.00 and return around 16.00. Autumn trips will be announced in future issues. Members can book their places and pay at the general meetings or contact Ann by email/phone.

National Trust Group Leader:

Ann Stanford.

Contact Ann on: 01623 641864

Email: annstanford1@sky.com

Driving round the bend



Autumn Rose, second from right, and the team from Via entertained and educated members at the March general meeting. Key messages to ensure you continue to drive safely included choosing a route to avoid difficult junctions and 'the two-second rule'. By keeping a minimum of a two second time gap in front of your vehicle (double in poor weather) you will create space in which to react to any emergency that happens ahead.

Nominations needed for committee positions

As usual, all committee roles are up for renewal at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) this June meaning we will need to elect **four officers** and **eight committee** members.

The AGM will take place at the June general meeting which is on 10 June 2022. Note this is the second Friday in June and not our usual first Friday in the month.

If you would like to help run your u3a or think you can do a better job than any current incumbents, then get two members to agree to nominate you and complete and submit a nomination form.

If there's more than one nomination for a particular committee post, then there will be a vote to see which candidate has the most member support. Nomination forms will be emailed to members, but you can pick up a copy at the April and May general meetings. Completed forms must be submitted by 13 May 2022. Forms cannot be accepted by email.

Your u3a cannot function without the four officers:

- ◆ Chair;
- ◆ Vice-Chair;
- ◆ Secretary;
- ◆ Treasurer.

Please note, the current Treasurer will be retiring in June having served three years in the role but will be available to train and provide ongoing support to the new Treasurer if required.

Bertie

by Janis Bye

I have a cat called Bertie,
He means the world to me.
Most cats walk on four legs,
But Bertie only has three.

We don't know how he lost his leg,
The cats' home weren't too sure.
They think that someone shot him,
But they couldn't tell me more.

It doesn't stop him climbing,
Or catching the odd mouse.
I only wish he didn't insist
On bringing them in the house.

Bertie's been my lifeline,
Since I've been on my own.
He's simply the most loving cat
that I have ever known.
And when he's curled up on my lap,
I never feel alone.



Janis and Bertie

Here's a brief description of what each of these officer roles involves:

Chair – to plan and chair committee meetings and the AGM and to ensure the committee complies with its constitution and remains focussed on the U3A's charitable purposes. Also to help the committee to set short and long term goals and evaluate performance.

Vice-Chair – to support the Chair and deputise as required.

Secretary – to support the Chair in ensuring the smooth running of the committee, take overall responsibility for the day to day administration, deal with all correspondence and the circulation of information to members. Also to organise committee meetings and take the minutes.

Treasurer – to oversee finances of our U3A in line with good practice charity legislation. Essentially this means budgeting so that our u3a doesn't spend more than it has, making sure u3a money is used wisely and that no committee member, nor group organiser spends money without full committee approval. The Treasurer also provides regular reports on the financial position to the committee.

Gardeners' artwork

The March Gardening Group meeting saw a morning of quiet concentration as members painted a pebble/stone of their choice with acrylic paints, as a garden



decoration. And some pleasing artwork was on display.

The writer of this piece was grateful to Christine for finishing the macramé hanging basket holder, watching how she did it and hopefully remembering the process. This will be proudly displayed at home once a ceiling hook has been put in place. Tea, coffee, and biscuits were provided, as usual, by our much-appreciated "refreshments team".

Report by Group member, **Kay Toy**
Gardening Group Leader: **Angelina Taylor**
Meet on 2nd Tuesdays

Dancing will be back in May

There is no April meeting for Country Dancing. The next dance will be 17 May at 2pm. This will be our last meeting at Forest Town Methodist Hall. We are having a cake and tea party. So, bring a cake/bun/scone/or anything you like and we will provide the tea, dancing and laughter! We are looking into hiring another venue so Country Dancing can still continue.

Country Dancing Group Leaders:
Pam Lander & Ann Stanford

1028 and all that!?

When you say to people that you are researching your family history, they often ask: "How far back have you got?" Well, most of us will say early 1800s or late 1700s, if we are lucky!. However one member of our Trace Your Family History group, Ann Alcock, surprised us all this March by bringing along one line of her family tree that went back way beyond the 1700s.

This family tree was produced on a scroll, well, a roll of anaglypta lining paper that cost under £5, and it was beautifully presented with brief information of each person written on sticky labels. Where possible, the whole tree had been beautifully illustrated.

The first name on this tree was Ann Woods, (her maiden name) born 1958, she then followed her father's line through to grandparents, great grandparents and great, great grandparents. There were photographs for most of them. Ann had worked back through the census and other records also on the Ancestry web site, checking that the website's information was correct as she went along.

The tree continued by linking with French families in the 1600s. These were illustrated with coats of arms. Further back there was John Talbot 4th Earl of Shrewsbury and Joan Fitzalan of Arundel (Ann's 20th x Great Grandmother). Eventually it stopped with William the Conqueror in 1028. It was just amazing!

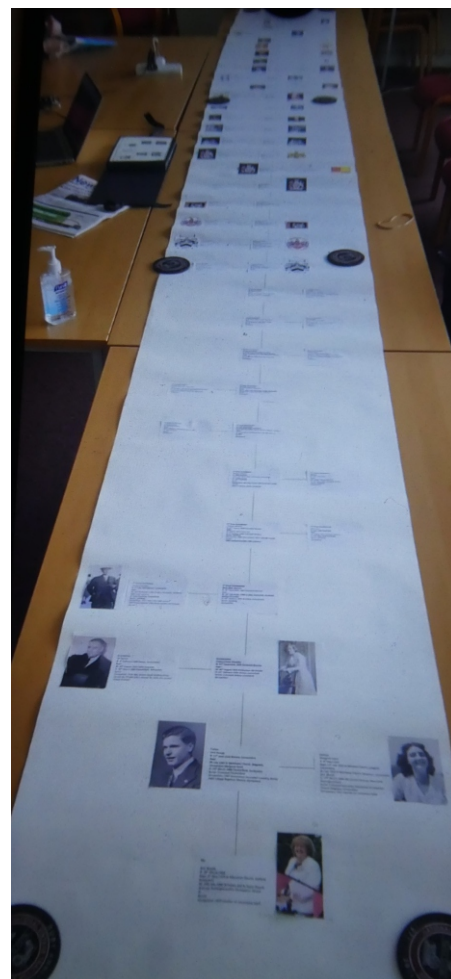
To trace her family history, Ann had also used Open links to Millennium Files and Netherlands Genealogy Online as well as Internet research, Wikipedia etc. Most of us had not heard of the two former sources and they were something else for us all to try.

Additional to this most intriguing family tree Ann had individual files for

each generation. At least six years of work had gone into all this.

Coming back to earth we had a new lady join us who would like to confirm the information she has been told that she is related to Sir Jesse Boot. Time was spent showing her how to go about this and where she can find information when she does not have a computer.

We recently heard a comment by someone thinking about joining the group that she thought we would all be tapping away on computers at the meeting. We realise this may be a misunderstanding that others also make. The fact is there is only one member who always bring his computer (I think its fastened to his wrist!). You don't need a computer to start your family history, just a notebook and pencil and your glasses!!



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

Renew your membership today

Don't forget to renew your membership. It's just £16.00 for full members and associate members can join for £12.50. There are three ways to pay:

- 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 meeting in 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 meeting on 1 April 2022.

PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.

The closing date for renewals is Friday 13 May 2022.

Kathryn Cope

Lunch club is back

The Luncheon Club is re-starting. Irene has been in touch with the College and booked for 20 people on Friday 22 April.

The price is £11.50 for a three course meal. Coffee, tea and drinks from the bar are extra and must be paid for at the time of ordering.

You can book your place and pay at the general meeting on 1 April when menus will be available.

Luncheon Club Group Leader:
Irene Brooks

A visit to Attenborough Nature Reserve

All the usuals plus a few

by Linda S Bancroft

Sunshine and windy but no rain
from the sky

Four of us travelled and one little dog.
Binoculars ready and eager
to get going.

A call of nature, then onwards we go.
The binoculars soon raised, what
have we seen?

A Rookery of Cormorants high
in the trees.

Approaching softly, down a long track,
We could hear the sweetest sound,
Dunnocks singing bravely, a chaffinch
and Robin too.

The Water Birds displayed their stuff.

Gadwalls, Goosanders, a Great Crested Grebe,
An Egyptian Goose, Lapwings and noisy Oyster Catchers too.

We stayed for a while, watching Great Tits and Blue,

Feasting on seed stacked up on a post,

Even a Reed Bunting not wanting to miss out,
Came to feast quickly then darted about.

A Greenfinch came and a lonely Sparrow,

Even another Robin came for a photo.

We travelled onwards to the Tall Hide, too many steps, I stayed below,

A shame as I missed a Goldeneye and a Heron too.

Time was fast approaching, when we must soon depart,

But a bonus to the day, was a Red Crested Pochard,

We had seen it before, when we last came,

But always good to see it again.

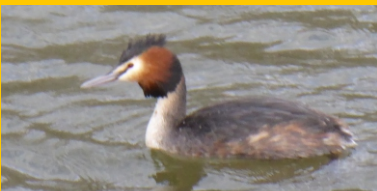
A relaxing day, a reminder that nature still journeys on,

Among this world of strife.

Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License: CC BY-SA 3.0



Red Crested Pochard



Great Crested Grebe

Two fabulous u3a holidays

Denise Whitsed and Liz Wilson have been working hard to organise holidays and days out for members.

In July there is an 8-day coach holiday to the Isle of Wight. The coach departs Saturday 23 July returning on Saturday 30 July. This half board holiday with coach travel, ferry and a full programme of excursions including Osborne House, Cowes, Carisbrook Castle, Alum Bay, Farringford House, Ventnor Botanical Gardens and Shanklin Old Village, costs from £769 per person.

In September North Wales is the destination for another 8-day, half board coach holiday, The Giants of North Wales. Staying at the White Heather Hotel in Llandudno and with a full excursion programme. Price from £779 for National Trust Members; £816 for non-members.

Sandra Musgrove

It is with regret that we announce the death of Sandra Musgrove. Sandra had been a member of our u3a for the past two years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sandra's family. Her funeral will be on 5 April at 11:15 in the Thoresby Chapel at Mansfield Crematorium. No flowers please.

Strollers en masse

21 strollers, including 4 new members, met up at Vicar Water, Clipstone, on Friday 18 March – an absolutely beautiful morning and a complete contrast to last month's washout at King's Mill Reservoir.

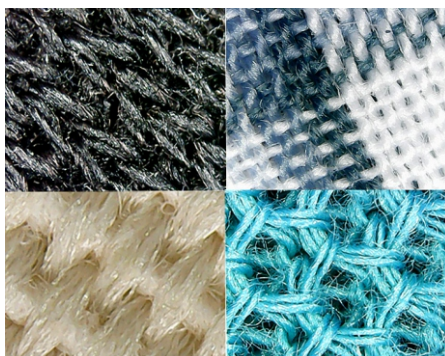
The group did a stroll round part of the lake. It was so nice to see so many people of all ages out and about in the park.

We meandered around and ultimately ended up in the coffee shop!

Our next meeting is on Friday 20 May at King's Mill Reservoir; there is no stroll in April as it is Good Friday.

Report by Group member, **Jen Lowe**
Strollers Group Leader: **Denise Doud**
Meet on 3rd Fridays

Photographers fabric shoot



The photography group is going well. At the March meeting we had a competition on the agreed theme of fabric, see examples above.

We are hoping to display some of our photos at monthly meetings.

Our next theme is vegetables.

Later in the year we will be going to an agreed destination to take an



assortment of photos. These also will be displayed at a future meeting, possibly on a larger scale.

Report by: **Steve Edis**
Photography Group Leader: **Alan Taylor**
Meet on 2nd Tuesdays

Walk on – whatever the weather!

The group's first walk in March set out from the Robin Hood Inn near Baslow in light rain. Low cloud obscured the views from the path under Birchen Edge, but we could make out Nelson's monument on the cliff above us.

We squelched through an area of springs coming down from the edge and were thankful for the firm track leading us to Wellington's monument marking the start of Baslow Edge. From there we could just about make out our next destination through the murk – Chatsworth House!

Walking through the Chatsworth estate from Baslow is always a delight, but we didn't linger over our lunch outside Chatsworth House in the steady drizzle. Thankfully visibility improved, despite the rain falling harder, so we were able to appreciate the views walking from the Hunting Tower along Dobb Edge.

Despite the trying conditions, this was a classic walk enjoyed by all.

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

We were promised an abundance of daffodils on our second walk from Alstonefield in Staffordshire. Unfortunately we arrived a couple of days too soon as they were only just coming into bloom. However, the beautiful scenery of Wolfscote Dale with the River Dove in full spate and dippers on the rocks more than compensated as we made our way to Hartington under a grey sky. As we sat down for lunch by the village green the heavens opened. The rain didn't relent for the rest of the walk as we trudged through Beresford Dale and a very muddy Narrowdale back to our cars.

Our next rambles:

6 April: Shillito Wood, Ramsley Moor, Unthank & Barlow Woodseats (7.8 miles)



20 April: Ashover, Northedge, Great Pond of Stubbin and Alton (8.4 miles). New members welcome.

Always plenty to discuss

Eight members attended the Current Affairs Group in March. Amongst the subjects discussed were:

Putin has been psychologically assessed to be a highly dominant introvert.

Putin shares the same traits as dictators from the past – dominant, ruthless, controlling and confidently assertive. They believe they can change the world.

GB has announced it has been as generous as possible allowing refugees into the country. However only 750 allowed into England versus 2000 into Ireland.

Urgent and immediate action is needed to increase visa application centre capacity. This will enable Ukrainian refugees to be processed quickly and allowed in.

Queen's decision to live at Windsor. Is it right Monarch does not reside at Buckingham Palace?

The group felt that this was not important. Buckingham Palace is more used as offices.

It's estimated that between 0.5% and 0.7% of UK population identify as transgender. Are the majority

being disadvantaged, accepting changes they are not comfortable with?

The number of unisex changing rooms and toilets are on the rise. Not altogether comfortable with this and felt it was a step too far.

In these times of austerity what tips for economising can be shared with us?

Recycle foil, re-use cling film and freezer bags. Dilute washing up liquid.

In view of the rumpus over Gavin Williamson being knighted, should the honours list be scrapped?

The group agreed Gavin Williamson did not deserve a Knighthood. These should be given to those who have provided exceptional service, going beyond expectations. Consider scrapping Honours List.

Report by: **Janis Bye**

Current Affairs Group Leader: **Michael King**

Meet on 2nd Wednesdays

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

Diary dates

- ◆ **Friday 6 May 2022**
general meeting at Forest Town Arena – Footprints
Local photographer, Neil Pledger, will be sharing fascinating photographs, drawing the observer into a place where lost Mansfield history connects with the modern world. Vivid reminders of past scenes will be set against the present day
- ◆ **Friday 27 May 2022**
Bring & Buy sale, Forest Town Arena 11.00 till 13.00
- ◆ **Annual General Meeting Friday 10 June 2022 at 11.00.**
After the AGM there will be a cream tea and entertainment by our very own **Turn Back Time** group.

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 |
| Luncheon club | Various | Various | Lunchtime | 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 |
| 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 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>

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 24 April 2022.

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

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417