



Lots of good news BUT more volunteers needed to secure our future

I hope everyone had a great Easter and had a chance to spend time with friends and family, but not too much chocolate!

Thank you for the great response to my plea for Bring and Buy items. There's still plenty of time to donate more for the event on 27 May.

The relaunched lunch club went very well at Portland College with 30 members enjoying good value, excellent service and great company.

Kathryn has been working very hard planning our Queen's Jubilee celebration on Friday 10 June. If you haven't already put your name down to attend, please do so at our next general meeting on Friday 6 May so Kathryn will know how many to cater for. And a big thank you for all those who have volunteered to help, because we can't do things without you. See page 2 for more on the jubilee celebrations.



Vacant committee roles need filling

On a more serious note, we have **five places that need filling** on our committee:

- ◆ Business Secretary;
- ◆ Treasurer;
- ◆ Assistant Groups Coordinator;
- ◆ Assistant Treasurer;
- ◆ Assistant Membership Secretary;

So far I have received no nominations for any of these roles. Our u3a is a tremendously worthwhile charity providing companionship, entertainment and loads of activities, and I have plenty of ideas for making it even better.

However, without support from our members, it will be forced to close. At the very minimum, we need to appoint a new business secretary and treasurer. Without these, our u3a just cannot function.

The **business secretary**, in a nutshell, organises and attends monthly committee meetings, takes notes on decisions made and circulates these notes to committee members.

The main tasks of the **treasurer** are to record and bank receipts, pay bills and to keep the committee informed on what's being received and spent.

Neither the business secretary nor the treasurer roles require any previous experience. Lynne Cooper did a fine job as our first treasurer without knowing what she was taking on. What is important is that the candidates have access to email. Anyone taking on these roles will be given training and ongoing support, if required, so **please** think seriously about whether you can help.

Take care,
Irene

Irene Brooks

A glimpse of lost Mansfield

Footprints is the title of the talk for the May meeting on Friday 6 May at 10.30 when our speaker will be local photographer, Neil Pledger.

Neil will be sharing fascinating photographs, drawing the observer into a place where lost Mansfield history connects to the modern world.

Vivid reminders of past scenes will be set against the present day.

Kathryn Cope

Final call to renew

The deadline to renew your u3a membership – Friday 13 May – is fast approaching. It's just £16.00 for full members and associate members can join for £12.50.

There are three ways to pay:

- Bank transfer. Sort code 30-90-89, account number 53978960 **PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND/OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS THE REFERENCE.**
- Cheque. Made out to **FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A**, with your **membership number on the reverse**. Bring your cheque along to the meeting in May 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 6 May 2022.

PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.

Kathryn Cope

Our jubilee celebrations

Join us to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Friday 10 June at Forest Town Arena starting at 10.30.

With free entertainment from our very own Turn Back Time, a quiz, a raffle and a **free cream tea**, this is an event not to be missed.

BUT if you want to be there then you must pre-register. If you've not yet signed up then please sign the form at the meeting on 6 May or ring **Kathryn Cope on 07711 128897** to let us know you will be attending.

We need to know how many cream teas to provide. See you there!

Kathryn Cope



Turn Back Time will perform



The emblem design for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is based on an original illustration drawn by Edward Roberts, a 19-year-old student at the University of Leeds.

Young creatives were challenged to sum up The Queen's 70-year reign with their artistic skills. Edwards' simple platinum line design reflects The Queen's continuous service and was selected by a judging panel of design experts.

The emblem features a purple and platinum design. The continuous platinum line reveals a stylised St Edward's Crown, incorporating the number 70, on a round purple background, which is associated with royalty, and signifying a royal seal. The elegant font, Perpetua, meaning forever, is an acknowledgement to the first British Monarch ever to mark 70 years on the throne.



Please get involved in the Queen's Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. It invites people from across the UK to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. You can donate a tree to the Queens Green canopy at <https://shop.queensgreencanopy.org/>

Doing anything to mark the jubilee?

Are you doing anything special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Take a photo or two and send them in and we'll feature as many of your pictures as possible in a future issue.

Send them by email to ftu3anews@gmail.com or WhatsApp to 07939 205519.

Helen Riby, Newsletter editor

Kathryn & Kevin save the day



Unfortunately our April speaker, professional gardener, Rachel Barrowcliffe MCiHort, had to pull out at short notice due to illness. Kathryn Cope our Speaker Seeker and Membership Secretary spent a few frantic hours on the phone looking for a replacement, but to no avail.

Not to be defeated, she and husband, Kevin, devised an excellent quiz and ran a very professional bingo session. Members also had a bit more time to socialise over tea and coffee and the meeting was enjoyed by all.

Kathryn is pictured left in 'Bingo action' at the u3a Christmas event in December 2021.

What a difference a fortnight makes

Following the drenching we got on both our walks in March, we set off in good spirits on our first April walk from Shillito Woods on the moors near Barlow in Derbyshire in bright sunshine but with a biting cold strong wind. Within half an hour though, on reaching the 16th century Barlow Woodseats Hall, it had begun to drizzle.

We took our coffee break sheltering in woods, disappointed that the house in Unthank with a stall which sells slices of cake to passers-by via an honesty box had been empty. The rain became steadily heavier as we ascended through Smeekley Wood on an unpleasantly rough and muddy track. It was a relief to reach Big Moor where the rain stopped and the clouds lifted to give panoramic views for our lunch break. The views and fine weather continued as we descended from the moor via Ramsley Reservoir back to our cars.

Finally, we enjoyed the perfect Spring day for a walk on our second outing in April. Setting out from the lovely Derbyshire village of Ashover, we climbed steeply up a hill known locally as 'The Fabrick'. We took a leisurely coffee break on the village green in Alton, basking in the warm sunshine.

Having puzzled over why Billy Halford came to be buried on his own at the top of a hill near Bolehill Farm, we descended steeply from his gravestone to arrive at the Great Pond of Stubbin. With lots of hills and sunny cloudless skies, the extensive views on this walk were a delight. A perfect day was capped off sitting outside in warm sunshine eating delicious cakes at a farm shop in Kelstedge.

Our next rambles: 4 May: Cromford,

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

Hearthstone Lane, Giddy Ledge, Matlock & Scarthin (7.8 miles) 18 May: Wortley and Wharncliffe Crag (8.5 miles).
New members welcome.



All wrapped up against the wind and the rain



Topping up the rays on the second walk in April

Keep on dancing

Having missed a month over the Easter break, the Country Dancing Group will meet on 17 May from 2pm till 4pm. This will be the last meeting at Forest Town Methodist Hall; a tea dance, price is £2. Janice will be calling out the dances before our tea soirée! Hoping to announce a new venue soon. All welcome.

Country Dancing Group Leaders:
Pam Lander & Ann Stanford



National Trust upcoming visits

The second monthly outing to a National Trust property is on May 21 to Gunby Estate, Hall, Gardens and Chapel. The cost is £14, payable at the main meeting in May. We leave The Arena at 10am and start back around 4pm. There are eight seats available. Set in the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds, Gunby Hall has magnificent gardens and there's a lovely walk to the chapel built in 1701 to look like a barn.

25 June is to Shugborough Estate, cost £13. This is a Georgian mansion where you can experience life below stairs and then enter a world of glamour and royalty in the



apartment of Patrick Lichfield, 5th Earl and fashion photographer. There are formal gardens and parkland to wander around too!

National Trust Group Leader: **Ann Stanford.**

Contact Ann on: 01623 641864

Email: annstanford1@sky.com

Trace Your Family Tree Group meet

The meeting of the Trace Your Family Tree interest group on 19 April was a pleasant couple of hours of natter between the nine members. We began by welcoming another new member to the group, Sheila (2) after welcoming Sheila (1) last month.

There was a discussion of various themes as we went round the table saying what we had discovered or done in the last month.

Pauline told us about a new use for an old telephone box in Scarborough, which had been recycled with a display of interesting snippets about the history of the town.

The latest DNA story on ITV brought up the unlikely close connections between Rula Lenska (descended from a Count and Countess in Eastern Europe) and Maureen Lipman (Hull through and through) who discovered that their respective families, a count and a shoemaker were both from the same town in modern day Poland. Truly only six degrees of separation.

This was matched by Ann who, through research of her maternal and paternal family trees on Ancestry, had found that there is another family tree researcher looking at both her close maternal ancestors and more distant paternal ancestors. A small world.

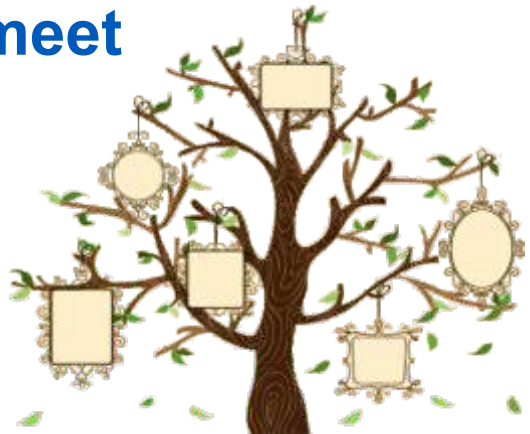
Andy and Jenny had done some research for Sheila (1) trying to find her link to Jessie Boot. They had followed her tree back and with one or two hiccups had traced her direct family, but the Jessie Boot link is still to be widened out through the family.

Julie had found some information about the use of school log books and admission registers, which are now being made available through National Archives to track families. Some children would be removed from admission

registers at certain times of the year linked to the agricultural cycles, as they were needed to help on the farm at harvest or for potato picking. It appeared

better to remove them from the register for a period of time rather than list them as absent.

Sheila (2) told us about her missing uncles. She grew up knowing nothing of their existence and had certainly never met them. Then she had a chance conversation with an elderly cousin, who mentioned that her father had had two brothers. Sheila had brought with her a short family tree with names and some brief details which Andy began researching through Ancestry to see if he could add any more information. A work in progress for Sheila and we suggested that she perhaps went to the library to continue with some Ancestry research. It certainly created a discussion on the possible reasons why these two uncles were not known to Sheila. A mystery that may never be solved.



Report by: **Ann Alcock**

Trace Your Family Tree Group Leaders:

Andrew & Julie Rowbottom

Meet on 3rd Tuesdays

Five a day for the photo group!

At our April meeting we displayed our photos on the theme of Vegetables. We chose one from the eight photos shown and declared Cindy Bentley the winner. (See the attached photo).

For our next meeting we will meet at the Sherwood Centre as normal but will then move on to Vicar Water for our first outdoor photo shoot. The theme for May meeting will be *Bridges*.

There will be a small display board at the May general meeting showing some of our Vegetable pictures. As time goes on we are hoping to display more photos at the general meetings.

Report by: **Steve Edis**

Photography Group Leader:

Alan Taylor Meet on 2nd Tuesdays



Book club date

Our usual meeting was cancelled as it fell on the May Day holiday. The next Book Club meeting will be on Monday, 6 June at Forest Town Library, starting at 10.30 am. See you there.

Book Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**

Meet 1st Mondays

u3a holidays

♦ **July – 8-day coach holiday to the Isle of Wight.** Coach departs Saturday 23 July returning Saturday 30 July. 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.

♦ **September – 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.

Contact Denise Whitsed:
deewhits@aol.com or 07791 941502

Painted pots!



A few of us had a relaxing morning, decorating (with acrylic paints) a flowerpot provided by Angelina. Each pot had a high-relief image of a lighthouse, and so a seascape was called for (except for the artistically challenged writer of this piece, who could only come up with a colourful pattern!).

The accompanying photo shows the attractive results. A coat of varnish would be required later for pots living outside.

Pleasant chat helped the work along, as did tea, coffee, and biscuits.

Next month we'll be decorating a large plastic 'saucer' that can be used as a bird bath/bird food station/garden artwork. Paints (as above), broken tiles, flat glass beads, and suchlike should be brought along. Aprons too!

Report by Group member, **Kay Toy**

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

Carry on Solving!

A small, but keen, group of crossworders this month.

Some progress and success, with ideas shared. Tea, coffee, and shortbread (not homemade, I hasten to add!) helped us along, as did general chat when concentration got too much.

To all members: Carry On Solving!

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 dates

- ◆ **Friday 27 May 2022**
Bring & Buy sale, Forest Town Arena 11.00 till 13.00
- ◆ **Annual General Meeting & Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Friday 10 June 2022 at 10.30.**
After the AGM there will be a cream tea and entertainment by our very own **Turn Back Time** group.
- ◆ **Friday 1 July 2022**
Para Dressage Equestrian and Motivational Speaker, Emma Sheardown, will talk on the theme of *There's No Such Word As Can't*.
Emma will explain how, if she'd said: "I can't", she wouldn't be walking, talking nor would she have brought home Para Dressage gold from World and European Championships.

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 & acting 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 22 May 2022.**

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

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417