



## Time to celebrate!

**Hello Forest Town U3A,**

Great news, our u3a is safe, for now, thanks to those members who have come forward to fill the vacant Committee positions. Without them we would have had to close at the AGM on 10 June. Thank you so much. And a special thanks to Andy who has agreed to stay on for an extra year as our Treasurer until his replacement is trained up.

### Full steam ahead...

Now we can go on to think about the future. This started with the Bring & Buy event on Friday 27 May. It was advertised on Radio Mansfield and fliers were sent out to neighbouring u3as. Friends and family worked hard to sort out some wonderful donations and there were cakes: lots of them! The result, a good turnout – see page 2.

I have booked a tour of Chatsworth house in December. A deposit of £10 has to be paid by the June meeting. Also planned is a party night in September and a Halloween party for October. The Hostess has been booked for a three course meal with entertainment in December. More details on all these to come.

We have also reinstated the suggestion book which will be at out at our next general meeting. Go ahead and add in your thoughts and ideas.

We are also starting a social committee to help plan future trips and activities. If you would like to be on this committee please let me know. This is your u3a you have a say in what we do and where we go.

Finally, Kathryn has been working hard on The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations at our next meeting on Friday 10 June. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Irene Brooks*

## Memories galore

*Footprints* was the title of the talk at the May meeting. Our speaker, local photographer, Neil Pledger, delighted his audience with some fascinating photographs. He has uncovered interesting pictures of Mansfield's past then brought them up to date with modern day images taken from the same angle. Bringing the two together with a bit of Photoshop magic he revealed how now lost Mansfield history connects to the modern world. Thank you Neil!



The audience was full of anticipation before local photographer Neil Pledger's talk at the May meeting



Our next meeting is on Friday 10 June at the Forest Town Arena. Starting at 10.30 with the Annual General Meeting, the main event will be our Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration.

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 **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*



Irene Brooks and Neil Pledger



# Members enjoy the Bring & Buy



## Lost property

A lady left her carrier bag behind at the Bring & Buy with a lot of items in it. I would like to reunite her with it. I would recognise her again but sadly I don't know her name. I will take the bag to the AGM on 10 June.

**Linda Shutt**



# It's the last dance for now

May's Country Dancing gathering said goodbye to Pam Lander, who has run the group for so long. There were plenty of well wishes for happiness in her new home. It was also the last time the group would meet in the Methodist church, as it is closing.

There was some negotiating with caller, Janice, and plenty of hope that she will visit us again at some point. We all enjoyed the dancing and the lovely cakes brought to mark the last dance and we left the Methodist Hall with sadness.

We are investigating the possibility of using Flint Avenue but this might not be in time for a June meeting.



Report by Anita Adlard & Ann Stanford  
Country Dancing Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**

## Strollers hunt the Gruffalo

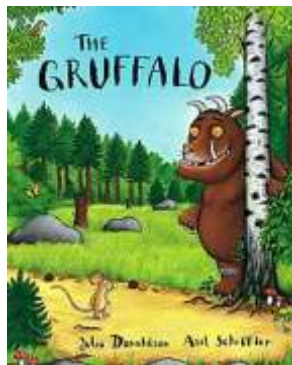


On Friday 20 May the Strollers Group met at King's Mill Reservoir, for our monthly walk. We were a little light on strollers with only ten members but nevertheless it was a very pleasant walk.

We met some nice folk along the way including a young lady from a daycare centre who had three little people with her, two of whom chatted away telling us what they'd seen, including a mouse running away from the Gruffalo. That made my day, as I also kept my eye open for the Gruffalo.

Our next meeting is at Rufford Park on the 17 June at 10.30am

As the car park is a bit more pricey, if anyone would like to car share please meet at the Arena car park at 10am so you can be at the meeting place for 10.30am.



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



## Keep on solving - it's good for you!

A small but convivial group, cogitating and solving (mostly!), with a certain amount of head-scratching and a few triumphs. Anagrams abounded and team-work assisted at times. Our "Coffee Break" crosswords are seldom that, but quite challenging and varying in difficulty (bit of a puzzler for two of us this month). Do-able in the time we have, though. As usual, we chatted about all sorts when not crosswording.

Keep up the good work, everyone!

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

## Read on...

The Book Group will be meeting at Forest Town Library at 10-30 on 6 June. The book that will be discussed is 'The Enchanted April'. This book was released as a drama/comedy film in 1992 so you may have seen it or perhaps you can find it online. If not, go along and find out what the book group members thought. At the same time you'll also find out what the next read is. Hope to see you there.

Book Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**  
Meet 1st Mondays

# Learning to use the *Family Search* website

We were a smaller group than usual this month, with four of our members unable to join us for various reasons. However the rest of us were soon involved in looking at how to use the free website *Family Search*, which is the Mormon site.

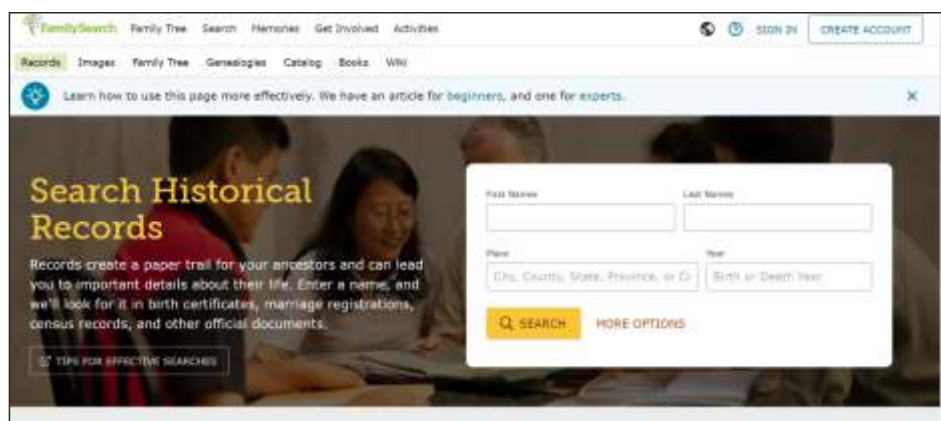
Julie and Andy had used this in the past but hadn't been on it for some time and had needed a refresher in navigating it, which they thought the rest of us might find useful.

Neither Pauline, Malcolm or myself had ever used this site, therefore we were interested in what it had to offer.

Julie started off by explaining that although she used *Ancestry* to build her trees, *Family Search* was useful as a research tool to check that the information she had found was correct.

It also has the added benefit that you can look at records from America and other places, enabling you to find out more about ancestors who had emigrated.

Although you can do this on both *Ancestry* and *Find my Past* it costs more for a worldwide membership, so unless you're prepared to cough up, your only other option is to visit the library as they do have worldwide



coverage of *Ancestry*.

Pauline asked if she would be able to find any information on one of her ancestors, Edward Rice, who she knew had emigrated to America with his family.

She had some basic details about him with her so Andy entered them on the site and we were soon looking at records about Edward. Pauline was able to add quite a lot of extra information about him and his family as well as confirming what she already knew.

We came away impressed with what *Family Search* has to offer as a research tool and are all intending to give it a go.

Oh, one other thing we learnt during the afternoon, don't drop the crockery at Flint Avenue, it explodes. But, if you do have an accident, the dustpan and brush is in the cupboard under the sink.



Report by: **Jenny Wright**  
Trace Your Family Tree Group Leaders:  
**Andrew & Julie Rowbottom**  
Meet on 3rd Tuesdays

## Crafty gardeners keep it up

We had a busy morning catching up with old friends. We carried on the theme of decorating items for the garden. The bird baths were painted. Some used beads and mosaics to great effect.



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

## Win is new Welfare Officer

A big thank you to Win Wall who has stepped up to be our new Welfare Officer.

If you have any issues you want to raise with Win then please call him on 01623 640037.





# An excellent tour round Kent

Around Rochester in Kent, is a landscape of rolling hills, woodlands, interesting properties and bespoke gardens. Therefore, as summer approached and the diary began to fill up, it was great to join the u3a holiday to the aptly named 'Garden of England'. Yet this holiday proved to offer so much more.

One particularly interesting visit was to Hever Castle, once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I. Panelled rooms, fine furniture and a collection of Tudor portraits resonated with history. All could have been lost to the nation had not William Waldorf Astor used his fortune to restore and extend the castle and enhance its delightful gardens.

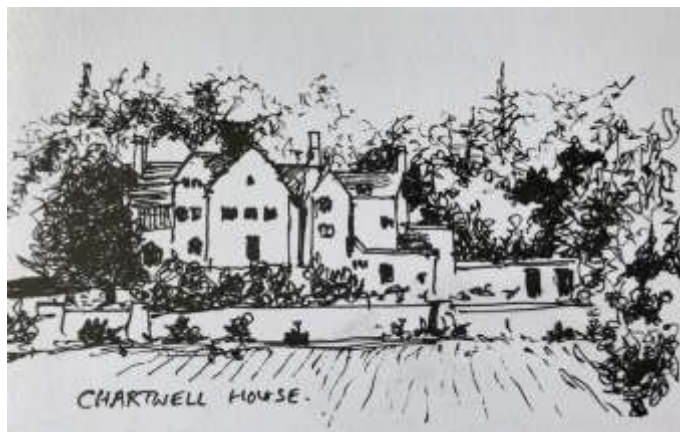
A later visit to Knole, originally an archbishop's palace, impressed everyone with its treasures such as the 3 magnificently ornate state beds, showrooms, elegant ballroom and long galleries which were in such a contrast to the more intimate Gatehouse Tower in one corner of the building. Here we learnt about the life and lovers of former resident Eddy Sackville-West, a well-known cultural figure in the 1930s and 40s, as we climbed the spiral staircase to enjoy the panoramic views of the countryside.

The lovely gardens and grounds of Chartwell House reinforced the beauty of Kent. Chartwell acted as a soothing family home for Winston Churchill. Atmospheric and redolent of Churchill's presence, it reflected his love of landscape and nature, much of which was shown in the largest collection of Churchill's paintings.

Good weather ensured that Emmett's Gardens and Pashley Manor Gardens were full of spring colour – bluebell drifts, cascading wisteria along with vibrant azaleas and rhododendrons. Yet it was the medieval moated Scotney Castle, that revealed the green-winged orchid within a most picturesque setting.

Free time in Tunbridge Wells and Broadstairs meant everyone could 'do their own thing', whether it was walking along the sands or visiting the shops or the towns' museums.

Kent provided a u3a holiday filled with great memories, interest and stimulation; our courteous, expert driver Winston ensured safe, relaxing travel. Yet special thanks must go to Liz Wilson and Denise Whitsed for their careful organisation, thoughtful planning, attention to detail and for leading such an excellent tour.



Chartwell



Pashley Manor Gardens



Knole Gatehouse



Scotney Castle

Report by: **Susan Wright**

Photos and drawing by: **Phil Wright**

## Doing/done anything to mark the jubilee?

Are you doing anything special to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? Or maybe you've already celebrated. Send in your photos and stories and we'll feature as many as possible in a future issue.

Send them by email to [ftu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:ftu3anews@gmail.com) or WhatsApp to 07939 205519.

**Helen Riby**, Newsletter editor



# National Trust Group visit Gunby Hall



Gunby Hall, Lincolnshire was the destination for our second monthly outing to a National Trust property.

It was delightful. Built by the Parliamentary Massingberd family in the 1700s, the rooms are very much the size found in houses today so you could imagine living there yourself.

Because of staff shortages the upstairs was closed to visitors but as a bonus there was a pianist in the music room. He played the piano beautifully in bright yellow crocs!

The 8-acre grounds were peaceful and relaxing with only birdsong to hear as we walked by the many plants and trees not found so much in gardens today including the snowball and laburnum.



## Upcoming visits

- ◆ 20 August – Cannons Abbey. £16
- ◆ 17 September – Birmingham Back to Backs and time to explore Birmingham Centre. The bus fare cost is £14 but because the venue is in the middle of the city we have to pay a congestion charge and parking fee. Will revise the cost accordingly.
- ◆ 15th October – Kedleston Hall. £8

That will conclude the 2022 National Trust visits. Hopefully we will be visiting more places next year!



National  
Trust

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

Contact Ann on: 01623 641864

Email: [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)

## Treasure hunt

**Starts from**

**FOREST TOWN ARENA**

**5pm on**

**Tuesday, 9 August 2022**

**Cost £7 – includes Burger,  
Hot Dog or Chip Cob.**

**All welcome.**



## Chatsworth visit

Our acting (soon to be real) chair Irene Brooks has been looking through an old suggestions book. She discovered that some members were keen to go to Chatsworth House for Christmas.

So she's provisionally booked us in for Tuesday 13 December. Price is £29.50. Deposits of £10 required at the next meeting on 10 June.

Minimum of 20 for it to go ahead.



# Ramblers get Giddy!

May is the month the rambling group looks for walks with bluebells, and our first walk from Cromford to Matlock didn't disappoint.

The steep climb from Cromford Meadows was through the woods to Hearthstone Lane had them in abundance along with red campion, stitchwort, celandine and wild garlic. A ridge walk provided spectacular views as we headed to Riber Castle, a dark semi-Gothic Victorian folly that dominates the skyline above Matlock. After a slippery steep descent with views over Matlock, we faced another stiff ascent up High Tor where we contemplated the sheer drop from Giddy Edge, one of the highest inland cliffs in England, with Matlock Bath in miniature 300 feet below.

A riverside walk to Hall Leys Park and Matlock town centre provided a huge contrast before yet another steep ascent to Shining Cliff woods which we wandered through back to Cromford passing underneath the Heights of Abraham cable car.

Setting out on our next walk in glorious sunshine from near the South Yorkshire village of Wortley, birthplace of the notorious highwayman Swift Nick, the Trans Pennine Trail soon gave us long views over rolling countryside and



Wortley Hall. The shade provided by our path through West Wood was welcome as was its fading display of bluebells. A fallen tree over the path made our exit from the wood challenging, especially for taller members.

We then followed the Barnsley Boundary Walk through pleasant open countryside before climbing steadily up to Hannah Moor, offering distant views eastward.

The climax of our walk was the path along the top of Wharnccliffe Crag, a gritstone edge with steep drops down to the River Don below and fine views westward over Stocksbridge along the Don Valley. Drinks and cakes overlooking the gardens of Wortley Hall capped a great day out.

**Our next rambles:** 1 June: Tideswell – a 5 dales walk (8 miles) 15 June: Croxton Kerrial, Branston & Eaton (8.4 miles). **New members welcome.**

## Photographers on location

For the May Photography Group we all met at the Sherwood Centre then moved on to Vicar Water to take an assortment of images. It was a smaller group this time due to holidays etc. The weather was very good so the photographs should have come out ok.

At the Jubilee meeting we plan to have a good display of our photos for all to see what we have taken since week 1.

We will be asking you all to choose what you think is the best photo on display.

Report by: **Steve Edis**

Photography Group Leader:

**Alan Taylor** Meet on 2nd Tuesdays

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](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)

## Warsop u3a invitation

Hello, I am Jen Thomson the social events organiser for Warsop and District u3a. We are going to Floral Media in Cauntton on Thursday 30 June. This is the beautiful garden belonging to horticulturists Steve and Paula Routledge. The cost is £25 and includes a two- course lunch. Self drive. Interested? Then contact Jen on 07762 476901 or email: [jennifer568@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer568@btinternet.com)

For Group Leader contact details please email our Group Coordinator Anita Adlard: [a.adlard@ntlworld.com](mailto:a.adlard@ntlworld.com)

## Diary dates

◆ **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
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
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.

Winston Wall is the Welfare Officer. If you have any concerns then please call him on 01623 640037.

## Next issue

Please send articles or ideas for the next issue to Helen Riby by email: [ftu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:ftu3anews@gmail.com) or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW **by midnight on Sunday 19 June 2022.**

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

Forest Town & District U3A is a Registered Charity Number 1186417