



# Loads to report!

Hello Forest Town U3A,

There's a lot going on so I thought I'd bring you up-to-date with some of the fabulous social activities that are coming up:

**22 July 2022**

We are going on a three hour cruise on *The Princess River*. This includes a two course meal – traditional roast and chocolate gateau plus complimentary coffee and tea. Vegetarian options also available. It's £35 all in. The bus will pick us up at the Arena. Unfortunately this Cruise is not suitable for people in wheelchairs. Just 40 places available and a deposit of £10 must be paid at the July meeting.

**18 August 2022**

A visit to The Blue John Cavern. Pick up at the Arena. We are booked in at the Cavern at 11am leaving at 2pm. Deposit of £10 required.

**16 September 2022**

I have 30 tickets for the u3a 40th Anniversary Dinner & Dance at The John Fretwell Centre, 7pm till late. These will be on sale at the July meeting. Price £25 each.

**23 September 2022**

Party time at The Clipstone Miners Welfare with Axminster Blurr and the Rug Cutters. Fantastic seven-piece band with two great saxophonists. Forest Town u3a members £3 including buffet; £7 for non-members.

**28 October 2022**

Halloween Costume Party. Dress to kill!!! We will dance the night away to the *Moon Shiners*.

**7 December 2022**

We have booked the Hostess for lunch for 88 people. Three course meal with mince pie, coffee or tea and entertainment. Starts at 12.30.

*Irene Brooks*

## July meeting



◆ **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 and talking, nor would she have brought home Para Dressage gold from World and European Championships.

## Your current u3a committee



The current Forest Town & District u3a Committee. From left: Sue Robinson, Irene Brooks, Winston Wall, Janis Bye, Andrew Riby, Sue Buchanan, Kay Toy, Kathryn Cope, Mike Lyall, Halina Gaskell and Marilyn Redfern. Jenny Vernalls missed the photo call!!



Forest Town & District u3a celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style. Turn to page 2 for our photo review.

# Queen's jubilee celebrated in style

What an incredible morning we had at our Jubilee party on 10 June. Thank you for coming and making it so memorable. Thank you to all the volunteers, in particular Kathryn for putting everything together and my sister, Sandra, who has worked tirelessly helping me sort out the raffle prizes and the bring-and-buy. We made nearly £300 on the raffle and £600 on the bring-and-buy. What will we spend that money on? That's why we have the suggestion book. Looking forward to your suggestions.

**Irene Brooks**



# Gardeners' Delight

The Gardening group had two separate meetings this month!

**First meeting:** Off we went, 14 of us in the minibus driven by our trusty drivers, Kate on the way there and Phil on the return journey. Our destination: Springfields garden centre and shopping complex, with adjacent formal gardens (situated not far from Spalding, Lincs).

The day was sunny and bright and the gardens were beautifully laid out and kept, showing magnificent trees, flower beds and paths that led to seating areas in quiet corners; and fountains and ponds with resident ducks and their offspring. Some folk shopped and some folk sat and chatted, but it was a jolly good day for all of us, as we trooped back to the bus with our purchases.

**Second meeting:** Angelina and Alan kindly hosted the meeting at their house, and what a treat we had: home-made scones and cakes (thank you, Angelina), served with tea and coffee; the day was warm and sunny and the garden looked a picture! I should add that we were pleased to welcome a new member. Also, thanks to Chris, who brought a good selection of plants he had grown, for us to take home. Finally, many thanks to Angelina and Alan for a lovely morning.



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

## Lunch at the Red Gate



Luncheon Club Group Leader:  
**Irene Brooks**

## Treasure hunt

Starts from  
**FOREST TOWN ARENA**

5pm on Tuesday,  
9 August 2022

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

All welcome.



## Sue's a winner!



Taking the opportunity for some retail therapy during the gardeners' visit to Springfield, Sue Rathborne was bowled over to find that, as the 100th shopper in the M&S Outlet store, all her purchases were free!

Sue had selected goods to the value of £30, including this T-shirt. Bet she wished she'd bought more now!!

## Cannons Ashby cancelled

Unfortunately the planned visit to Cannons Abbey in August has had to be postponed until another time. As it is a small site the National Trust has informed us that it cannot accept group bookings during school holidays.

National Trust Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**. Contact Ann on: 01623 641864 Email: [annstanford1@sky.com](mailto:annstanford1@sky.com)

# Bridging the gap

Before providing the Photography Group report I would just like to say how much we all enjoyed the Queen's jubilee party and thank you to all those who made it such a wonderful day.

At this month's meeting we all displayed our photos of bridges. There were lots of different types. The winner was Arthur with a photo from Vicar Water. He took the photo in black and white which made it look very old. The photo, pictured right, will be among those that will be displayed at the July general meeting. We will be displaying an assortment of photos from when we started the group



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

# Persistence pays off

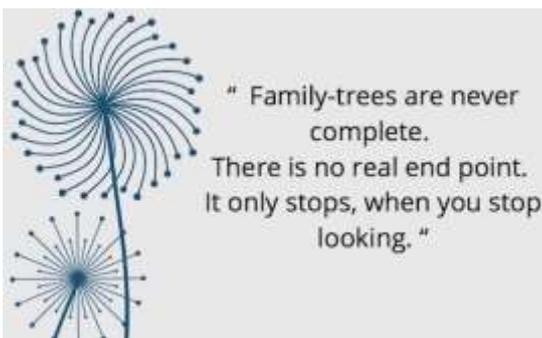
Our Family History session this month, was certainly 'full on'.

We tried to strike a balance: looking at ideas and materials to support new members and then turning our attention to a storyline posted on a genealogy forum recently to give fresh ideas and impetus to help us get past those brick walls which many of us are experiencing in our family history research.

## Getting started

In our initial brainstorming exercise was 'Getting started on your family tree'. We mapped out the many ideas contributed. These are shown in the illustration right.

The exercise served to remind us all of the vast array of material and avenues to explore in finding out about our ancestors. As stated on the Project Ancestry website:

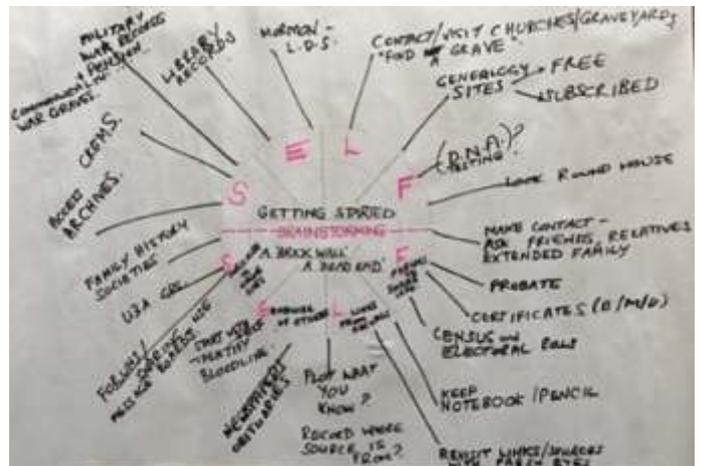


Many in the group could identify with that website article:

"We all go into creating our family trees with such inspired enthusiasm! Filling in the first few generations of names and dates can happen quickly. It's intoxicating and addictive from day one. You sit down for 'just an hour' and the next thing you know it's hitting midnight...

"But then, somewhere along the journey, the Brick Walls and Dead Ends hit!"

"All that momentum comes to a grinding halt and you realise that this family history 'thing' is much more



involved than first thought! It's once those first generations are completed on the tree when the first dead-end hits. That can be where many people just stop. The fun of looking for family ancestors may temporarily disappear. But it shouldn't mean you give up. The next burst of inspiration is usually just around the corner."

So, in the 2nd part of our Family History session, we spent time looking at a blog suggesting: 'Ideas To Get Past A Genealogy Brick Wall'. Ideas that might help us get that momentum back into our research.

We budding genealogists appreciate those moments when we suddenly get a breakthrough and are able to fill in a missing part of the jigsaw. And that's when we feel rewarded for all the hours spent looking.

To finish our session, we discussed what we would like to share at the forthcoming 'Show and Tell' group session.

We also acknowledged the work that Jenny had done to support a member who was getting started on her Family History journey. Jenny has certainly fired up her enthusiasm to get researching!

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

# Our holiday at the amazing Potters Resort

Kelvin and I have recently returned from a four night stay with the u3a at Potters Resort, Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk.

This was our very first visit to Potters and it is not difficult to see why our members want to go back year after year. Everyone enjoyed first class accommodation on an all-inclusive basis organised by our Social Group Leader, Denise Whitsed.

Potters Resort offers 'something for everyone' with spectacular activities and entertainment organised throughout the day and evening. Denise and her team should be applauded for their hard work, dedication and attention to detail in arranging this and many other holidays and excursions.

We will definitely be returning to Potters!



Report by: **Linda Shutt**  
Social Group Leader:  
**Denise Whitsed**

## Rewarding climbs

Our first walk in June, led by Neil, started from the quiet village of Tideswell, newly decorated with Jubilee flags and bunting. Climbing a steep hill gave us beautiful views back over the village and its church, known as 'The Cathedral of the Peak'. Having ambled through Litton Dale, we clambered over a very high stile on the path towards Tansley Dale and Cressbrook Dale with steep and craggy ascents and descents along the way. After passing Cressbrook Hall, lunch was taken sheltering under an arch as the heavens opened. The path then followed the River Wye towards Millers Dale where we spotted two baby coots and a pair of Mandarin ducks as we passed by the weirs. Finally, Tideswell Dale led us back to our starting point for

well-earned refreshments and cakes.

Unusually our second walk was in Leicestershire. On a hot sunny day, we set out from the curiously named village of Croxton Kerrial and were soon afforded views of Belvoir Castle on the horizon.

We ambled along little-walked paths through wonderful wild flower meadows in pleasant rolling countryside. A steep climb up Windmill Hill gave us views over the remainder of our walk, taking in the quiet, sleepy villages of Branston and Eaton. Eaton is famed for the legend of a 'phantom cat', said to be a black panther. Over 300 recorded sightings of the cat were recorded in 2001-2002. Thankfully we weren't troubled by it.



**Our next rambles:** 6 July: Hope station to Hathersage via Abney Moor, Stoke Ford and Highlow Hall (7.8 miles) 20 July: Stanage Edge, Hathersage and Higgor Tor (8 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 on: 01623 656958  
Mobile: 07833 543705  
Email: [ribya@imcgroup.co.uk](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)

For Group Leader contact details please email our Group Coordinator Marilyn Redfern: [mjrfern@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfern@gmail.com)

## General Meeting diary dates

### ◆ Friday 5 August 2022 *'What's In The Name'*

Paul Cullen will be talking about how and where we get our Nottinghamshire surnames and the stories behind them.

### ◆ Friday 2 September *'How to protect yourself when out and about'*

Phil James will give advice and reassurance for when we are out and about and the things we can and cannot do to legally protect ourselves.

## 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 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), Jenny Vernalls (Assistant Treasurer) Janis Bye & Kay Toy (joint Business Secretaries), Kathryn Cope (Membership Secretary & Speaker Seeker), Halina Gaskell (Assistant Membership Secretary), Marilyn Redfern (Groups' Coordinator), Sue Buchanan (Assistant Groups' Coordinator), Sue Robinson and Winston Wall.

Winston Wall is the Welfare Officer. If you have any concerns then please call him on 01623 640037. 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](mailto:ftu3anews@gmail.com) or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW **by midnight on Sunday 21 August 2022.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417