



What a send off!

What an amazing send off for our gracious Queen.

These eight lads, one of whom was from Nottinghamshire, didn't put a foot wrong. From start to finish the whole funeral was a spectacular affair that only us Brits could pull off.

The funeral was watched by billions world wide to say goodbye to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

When she was 21 she pledged her life to her people and kept that promise up until the end.

Most of us have grown up with her as Queen. It now remains to see what kind of King Charles will be.

God Save The King.

Irene Brooks



Confessions of a Country Vicar

The speaker at the General Meeting on Friday 7 October will be the Reverend Canon Alan Haydock. He will be sharing anecdotes from his life as a country vicar.

He is described as an outstanding speaker, stand-up comedian and ambassador of the Church of England. His great charm, warm-heartedness, funny stories and quick wit make him a sought-after entertainer. His 'Confessions of a Country Vicar' talks have raised more than £100,000 for charity over the past 32 years.

Some simple ways to stay safe



Stay alert, so don't look at your phone when out, keep your distance, avoid trouble, anticipate, reverse park so you can get away fast if needs be. These were some of the tips our September speaker, Phil James, gave us. Phil, who has plenty of security service expertise, including looking after the Royal Family, also emphasised how unlikely it is that any of us would be faced with a threatening situation. He explained what defines an offensive weapon and recommended carrying a Criminal Identifier spray which is 100% legal, non toxic, non irritant and a great distraction tool. Buy on Amazon.



Coming up in October

October 25th – A Night at the Dogs

The balance of £22 is due at the October meeting, cheques made out to Blue Pigeon Travel, please.

October 28th – Halloween Party

Tickets are still available for the Halloween get together – fancy dress optional – at Clipstone Welfare. It's just £3 a ticket for Forest Town & District u3a members; £7 for friends and family. Price includes a pie and pea supper. *The Moon Shiners* are our entertainment for the evening. Doors open at 7pm with last orders at the bar at 11pm.



Why be a group leader?

Learning new skills, sharing knowledge and engaging with others is enormously beneficial as we age.

Leaving the world of work and/or raising a family doesn't mean we have to become invisible or without value in our community.

Our u3a gives us the opportunity to try something different, to reach outside our comfort zone and help others whilst we help ourselves. Keeping as mentally and physically active as we are able is crucial to our well being.

Forest Town & District u3a already offers a variety of interest groups but there is scope for so much more.

It really is not that difficult to start a new group – honestly. All you need is an interest you have or one you would like to develop and share or learn with others.

Have a look at what some of our current group leaders say:

"There is a sense of personal satisfaction in being able to bring together like-minded people and share an interest. As such, the rewards outweigh the responsibilities and duties involved (which are fairly light).

"These rewards come, for instance, when a member of the group says that they "really enjoyed the session" or when I see that the session has gone well. Laughter and companionship make the world go round and the delight

experienced by us all when we solve a sticky crossword clue make it worthwhile. Leading the group gives me a sense of purpose and focus, so necessary in our mature years."

Kay Toy
Cryptic Crosswords

"Being nominated group leader of the Family History group, I feel neither overwhelmed nor anxious.

The reason being is because our members share in the running of each session. We respect and share each other's ideas and have fun too. I look forward to our monthly meeting and always come away having learned something new to help in my personal research."

Julie Rowbottom
Trace Your Family Tree



"My thoughts on running a group are as follows:

- ◆ Minimum time commitment
- ◆ The pleasurable meetings when a group of open minded, friendly members have lively and wide ranging discussions.
- ◆ Convenient venue at Flint Ave, where we enjoy coffee and nibbles."

Mike King
Current Affairs.

I hope these comments encourage you to have a go yourself and ensure our u3a continues to provide interest, stimulation and, of course, fun.

Remember that, if needed, you will have support to set up and maintain your group.

Marilyn Redfern,
Group Co-ordinator

Sue Buchanan,
Assistant Group Co-ordinator.

Summertime photography winner



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

It was a small group that met in September but we had a good get-together and a good chat.

Our photo theme was Summertime and we displayed nine photos. The winner this month was Ian Thomson.

At our October meeting Arthur has offered to show the group how to take some different types of photos such as close-ups and blurred background. It should be very interesting especially for those in our group who are unsure about what the features on their cameras and mobile phones can achieve.

That's all for now.

Litter-picking

Three of us in this volunteer group spent an hour and a half collecting roadside rubbish one morning in August. There we were, in our high-vis u3a jackets, making our way down the pavement in Pump Hollow Road and wielding our 'grabbers', to find every bit of detritus we could! Two full black sacks were collected.

Pleasing or disheartening?

A good feeling to have cleaned up the area, but sad that we had to do so. Anyway, undaunted, we'll be back...! Plenty more to do.

Report by **Kay Toy**
Litter-pickers Leader: **Mike Lyall**
Next litter-pick Tuesday 25 October
Meet at 10am, Forest Town Arena

Birmingham's *Back to Backs* bring history alive

September's National Trust visit was to Birmingham's Back to Backs. The Back to Backs are preserved as examples of the thousands of similar houses that were built around shared courtyards to accommodate workers in Britain's expanding industrial towns in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The properties were built quickly and cheaply, one room deep and with one brick built rear wall between two houses. One house faced the street and one the courtyard. For 60 or more people there was one wash

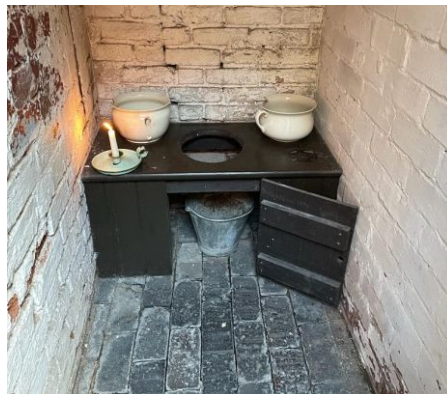


house and just four privies. Water was fetched in buckets from a well nearby.

Mains water and sewers were installed in the 20th century but this type of buildings was condemned in the 1930s, although some were still used until 1960.

Despite the unsanitary conditions, a breeding place for disease, bed bugs, cockroaches and fleas, the camaraderie spirit of these courtyards helped the inhabitants bear their impoverished lives.

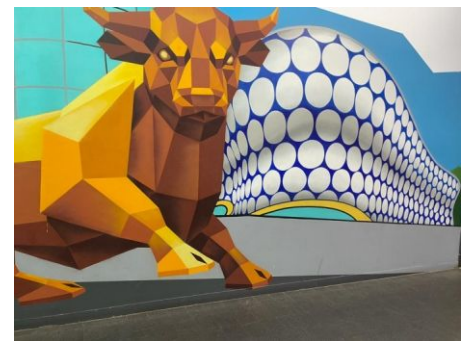
There was also an informative exhibition on the children transported to Canada, then to Australia, in the hope of them escaping poverty, drugs and crime. We now know more about what happened to these children and far from escaping such detrimental factors of life many were embroiled in



similar situations just in a different country.

Some of the group saw the awesome mechanical bull that featured in the recent Commonwealth Games.

Birmingham has so much to see that we wished we could have explored Britain's second largest city with a few more hours....or days!



Ladies (& Gents) who lunch

The September Lunch Club Group are pictured at The Griffin's Head, Papplewick. The next outing on 19 October is to The Canarvon Arms in Teversal followed on 16 November with lunch at The Countryman in Kirkby in Ashfield. Anyone wishing to go to one or both of these lunches needs to pay a £5 deposit asap. The Group's December outing will be to The Refined Dining Restaurant at West Notts College.



Luncheon Club Group Leader:
Irene Brooks

National Trust Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**. Contact Ann on: 01623 641864 Email: annstanford1@sky.com

Strolling on...

Thirteen of us met up in the car park at Brierley Park, Huthwaite, on 16 September. (Personally I was extremely pleased to have arrived at the right car park for the first time).

It was a lovely morning and our stroll was enjoyed by all. It was great to see the park being used by all ages. As usual we ended with a great-tasting coffee at the café.

Our next meeting is on Friday 21 October at Pleasley Pit Country Park.

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

Windchimes for the garden

At the September meeting our group enjoyed making wind chimes to hang up in the garden. We were a small number as several of the group were away on holiday.

We had fun struggling with nylon thread, thin cord, beads and tiny bells, after Alan had kindly drilled holes in the piece of wood we had each brought with us (in my case, a pruning from the garden). The accompanying photo shows the attractive results.

Next month: Hallowe'en wreaths for the front door.



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

Uphill and down dale for the ramblers

We set out from Youlgreave in Derbyshire for our first outing in September, admiring the olde worlde charm of its 17th Century buildings as we walked through to access the moorland above.

Soon we had fine views over the village and Bradford Dale below it. On reaching the top of the moor we then enjoyed views over Lathkill Dale, before dropping steeply down into the dale.

A pleasant stroll up Lathkill Dale took us below towering limestone cliffs until we branched off into the densely wooded Cales Dale. The 173 steep steps out of the dale had us gasping for breath, so it was a relief to stop for lunch at the top, admiring the view back down the dale.

After crossing Low Moor, we dropped down into Bradford Dale following the river back to Youlgreave and a welcome café.

Georganne led our second walk in the month, starting from the Mam Nick car park below the summit of Mam Tor near Castleton.

The weather was perfect for walking – sunny, but not too hot with good visibility. We were soon striding out along farm tracks with wide views, catching up with what we'd all been up to since our last walk. Descending into the village of Peak Forest we walked a quiet country lane through Perry Dale, stopping to look at llamas and to admire the flowers and vegetables being grown in road side allotments.

We were then faced with the long climb past Rushup Hall up Rushup Edge. The views from the top of the barrow on Lord's Seat over the Hope Valley and along the Great Ridge from Mam Tor to Lose Hill were well worth the effort. Coffee and cakes in a Castleton tea room capped off a lovely day.



Country dancing is back

Hip hip hooray!

Country Dancing IS back!

We are trialling Flint Avenue. Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month 2-4pm initially.

First date 11th October. So looking forward to starting back.

Bookstall plea

A big thank you to all those who donate books to the general meeting bookstall, **BUT** please going forward can you all stick with bringing paperbacks. Those glossy hardbacks will need to find another home. They are just too heavy and bulky to keep transporting back and forth.

Thank you.

Our next rambles: 5 October: Cropwell Bishop, Colston Bassett & the Grantham Canal (8.1 miles).
19 October: Bonsall, Wensley Dale and Bonsall Moor (8.5 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

Party time

It's Forest Town & District u3a's 7th birthday in November so we are having a Party Bash.

Where? At the Forest Town Arena

When? Friday 18 November 10 am to 12 noon

Coffee and cake sale, bottle drive,



raffle, bingo, quiz and scattergories. (Editor's note; For those like me who hadn't heard of it, Wikipedia says Scattergories is a creative-thinking category-based party game!) Come and join us.



Members were well entertained by Axminster Burnes and the Rug Cutters on Friday 23 September at Clipstone Welfare. The buffet went down well too.

Treasure hunt win



A team from Forest Town & District u3a was runner-up in the Treasure Hunt organised jointly with Sherwood u3a in August.

No expense was spared and the prize, a pack of Mars bars was presented by Liz Wilson (right) at the September general meeting.

Chateaux of the Loire holiday

Fancy an overseas holiday in 2023? Your u3a has the answer with this Skills holiday next July.

From 8 to 15 July this holiday visits all the major chateaux of the Loire as well as some stunning gardens and the Palace of Versailles.

Price £1,389 with places secured for a £100 deposit. You can sign up from the October meeting onwards. No singles supplement. Chateau entrance fees, dinner and breakfast included.



The C word!

Yes it's coming - the big C - Christmas! Kathryn and her team are already working hard organising the Christmas general meeting get together which will be at the Forest Town Arena on Friday 2 December.

This event is extremely popular and numbers are limited to 144 by the capacity of the function room. For this reason there can be no entry without a ticket. As your newsletter was finalised there were only six tickets left. so, if you have a ticket but find that you are unable to attend then please return it to Kathryn so she can pass on to someone else.

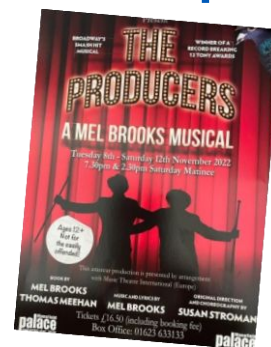
Also if anyone would like to donate something for the raffle, bottles, chocolate, biscuits etc anything that can be put into a hamper please bring it along to the meetings in October and/or November.

Christmas at Chatsworth

Kathryn will also be collecting the final balance for the Christmas at Chatsworth trip at the October and November meetings. The balance is £29.50 including the coach fare. If you are paying by cheque please make it out to Forest Town & District u3a.

She will let those on the trip know the departure from the Arena time once it has been confirmed by the coach company.

Theatre trip



The excellent local group, Masque Productions, is presenting Mel Brooks' *The Producers* at The Palace Theatre, Mansfield. We have the opportunity to see the production on Saturday 12 November at 2.30pm.

Tickets are £16.50 each and can be ordered from the September general meeting.

Ann Stanford

For Group Leader contact details please email our Group Coordinator Marilyn Redfern: mjrfern@gmail.com

General Meeting diary dates

◆ Friday 4 November **Kath & Geoff Deighton also known as 'Penny Bun' will return.**

Following their reminiscences on the London Palladium last September Kath and Geoff will entertain us with a World War sing-a-long, poetry and chat.

◆ Friday 2 December **Christmas Get Together 2022.**

Kathryn and her team are busy organising another bumper event, with raffles, quiz, secret Santa and mince pies. Entertainment by *Well Versed*, a five piece comedy variety act.

General meetings all held at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30 start.

What's on and when

Group	Day	Where	Time	Leader
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	2nd Tuesdays	Flint Ave Centre	14.00-16.00	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 Whitsted
Evening Dinner Out	4th Thursdays	Various	18.30	Marilyn Redfern
Gardening	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Angelina Taylor & Irene Brooks
Litter Pick	Various	Meet at Forest town Arena	10.30	Mike Lyall
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
Photography	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Alan Taylor
Poetry & Play Reading	2nd Mondays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	TBA
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: fu3anews@gmail.com or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW **by midnight on Sunday 23 October 2022.**

For latest news visit:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town/>

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417