



Let's not forget!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As Armistice Day approaches it feels appropriate to reflect on the sacrifices so many have made in the defence of our democracy and to give thanks to the fact that so few of us have any first-hand experience of war.

This is the face of Raymond Whitwell, now aged 103; a WWII veteran who served with The Royal Army Service Corps. In September 1944 Ray flew over to The Netherlands in a glider carrying a jeep and a trailer packed with ammunition and hand grenades as part of Operation Market Garden. He took part in the fierce battle to capture the Bridge at Arnhem.

Despite his age, Ray, from Malton in North Yorkshire, is a regular on the Taxi Charity trips to remember those who did not return.

In late September this year he joined a group of volunteer cab drivers and veterans to travel to The Netherlands for the Operation Market Garden commemorations.

Ray says of his time in The Netherlands in 1944: "We went nine days without food and then snipers shot holes in the bucket we were collecting water in."

He evaded capture and escaped back over the Rhine to British lines.

The poem, reproduced right, is as relevant today as it was in WW11.

Remembrance Sunday 2022 is on Sunday 13 November. The Forest Town parade will assemble in the Forest Town Arena car park from 10.15am. The route will be along the 1st Avenue onto Queensway where it will turn left onto Clipstone Road West and then right onto George Street to follow the same route as last year around the Village to Saint Albans Church. A Church Service will be held after Wreaths have been laid at the War Memorial.

Irene Brooks



Penny Bun return

The General Meeting on Friday 4 November will see the return of Kath & Geoff Deighton, also known as 'Penny Bun'.

Following their reminiscences about the London Palladium at our September 2021 meeting, Kath and Geoff will entertain us with a World War sing-a-long, poetry and chat.

A Wish by Maxine Kendall

Maybe it is pointless
To wish for lasting peace
For all mankind to lay
down arms
For all fighting to cease

I could despair of seeing
Peace throughout the land
No longer hearing talk of war
Blood mixed with desert sand

We do not have the tolerance
For cultures not our own
Seeds fly on an ill wind
From beds where they
are sown

Hope lies in a child's heart
Not yet turned to stone
A mind free of prejudice
A child not alone

If all children of the world
Held each others hand
They could do what we
could not
Make a Brotherhood of Man.

October speaker makes us all smile!



The Reverend Canon Alan Haydock entertained us royally at the October meeting, raising much laughter and so achieving one of the u3a's prime objectives - learn, laugh, live.

For those who couldn't make it, his first anecdote gives you a flavour of how the morning went!

He said: "It's a pleasure to be here but I am rather embarrassed as I have a sore throat, headache and a bit of an upset stomach. It's all self-inflicted as last night I was at a family party celebrating my father-in-law's 104th birthday. Mind you he died in his 60s!"

Two fabulous new interest groups

Zumba is the latest Interest group to be added to the Forest Town & District u3a repertoire. The first session was held on Monday 24 October at St Lawrence Church Hall, Sandy Lane. Sessions will be held on alternate Mondays from 11.30–12.15. new members welcome.

A Crochet Group will be starting in January. It will meet monthly on 2nd Mondays at the Sherwood Centre from 10am.



Zumba Group Leader: **Marilyn Redfern**
Meet alternate Mondays

Keep dancing!

Sixteen country dancers followed Pam Lander and caller Janice's instructions, nearly getting it right for most of the time at our October gathering

Our next meeting is Tuesday 8 November, 2–4pm at Flint Avenue. There is plenty of room if you would like to join us.

Country Dancing Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**
Meet on 2nd Tuesdays



Pickers at the ready



Report by **Susan Wright**
Litter-pickers Leader: **Mike Lyall**
Meet on 4th Tuesdays

Can't stand the sight of litter in the street, along the verges, in the hedges? No? Then why not join the Forest Town and District u3a litter picking group, led by Mike Lyall.

How do you join?

Just turn up at The Arena on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.00am. Pop on a high-vis vest, pick up a litter-picker and bin bag. Easy. The group selects an area central to Forest Town and heads off to litter pick.

It's surprising how much litter you can pick up in just over an hour. Plus, it makes a difference not only for our community but also the environment.

Next litter picking session: Tuesday 22 November, 10.00am.

Meet at the Arena.

Nottinghamshire Mining Museum needs you

I was in Mansfield the other week and came across a lady giving out leaflets for the Nottinghamshire Mining Museum. Turns out this is housed in the East Unit at Mansfield railway station (the ticket office side, opposite the Midland Hotel) and it's well worth a visit. It is small but currently there is a special exhibition of Banners and Bands. Entry is free and the museum is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 3pm until Christmas. After that they will be reviewing opening times depending on costs for heating etc.

Pat Smedley

Finding the skeletons!

Nine members met for the Trace Your Family History meeting on 18 October. The first half of the session was taken up with discussions of what everyone had been doing towards their family history since we last met. Some internet research had taken place and some interesting facts and information had been discovered.

One member had found an ancestor who escaped a potential bigamist marriage. Another had discovered an ancestor who had had several marriages with their first divorce making the newspapers. It can definitely be a case of being careful of what you may find hiding in the past.

There were also discussions on how some facts may have been twisted by our ancestors such that the truth was amended, slightly, to give a better impression to outsiders.

The example we discussed was a

case where the records showed a baptism of a child which appeared to have taken place before the birth.

The reason for this happening could have been that the registration of the birth had been delayed for some reason and therefore took place after the baptism and in order to make the facts fit, the birth had been recorded as happening at a later date.

We also discussed how sometimes pieces of historical family information can be hiding in plain sight. One member had discovered a certificate of merit hiding behind a photograph in a frame. It had been awarded to her



grandmother for a piece of embroidery displayed at the Popular Handicrafts Magazine National Competition at Olympia in 1953.

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

Strollers get lucky with the weather

On Friday 21 October 10 of us met at Pleasley Pit Country Park. After Thursday's horrendously rainy day we weren't sure what conditions we might meet, but we were so lucky the weather was fine and the ground not bad at all.

Just after we set off round the first pond, it was good to see ducks, swans and a heron. We then just pootled along at our own pace and ended up in the cafe, where we had coffee and sausage or bacon rolls. Fabulous.

As there is to be a U3A celebration next month our stroll will not take place so the next Strollers meet will be on Friday 20th January 2023 at Kings Mill Reservoir.

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



Ladies (& Gents) who lunch

The October Lunch Club Group are pictured at The Carnarvon Arms in Teversal. The next outing is on 16 November when lunch will be at The Countryman in Kirkby in Ashfield.

Photo by **Sue Sharpe**
Luncheon Club Group Leader:
Irene Brooks

Xmas gathering

Once again we will be having a get together for Christmas. This year it is on Friday 2 December, 10.30 – 12.30pm. We will be entertained by Well Versed, a five-piece group with their version of 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas'.

There will be a raffle with fabulous prizes and, once again, a Secret Santa with a suggested price of £2 each gift if you would like to take part.

Come and enjoy a mince pie, pull your cracker, sit back and be entertained.

Don't forget your ticket as this is going into a prize draw.

All tickets have been sold for this event and regretfully we will have to ask you to leave if you don't have a ticket. We have had to put a limit on tickets because of safety-capacity in the Arena.

If anyone can't make the Get Together please return your ticket and let me know as I have a waiting list. Mince pies will be provided so please also let me know of any special dietary requirements.

Many thanks

Kathryn Cope

Birthday Bash

November will see the 7th anniversary of Forest Town & District u3a and we will be celebrating by having a Birthday Bash at Forest Town Arena on Friday 18 November from 10.00 till 12.00 midday.

Eyes down for a game of Bingo, try your luck with the Tombola and test your knowledge with our Quiz and a game of Scattergories. There will also be a cake sale.

Entry is £3 for tea/coffee and cake with a free refill. Extra cake will be on sale along with bingo tickets at 50p each. Don't forget your pen. Come along and join in the fun.

Kathryn Cope



Shooting windows

The October photography group meeting saw a good turn out with two new members

Our theme for the month was stained glass windows. We had some very good photos and it was a hard to choose a winner but we finally agreed that Arthur Williams' brilliant photograph of a window at Newstead Abbey was the best.



Also, this month Arthur gave us a talk on how to use different settings on our cameras and mobile phones. We have decided that for the next meeting we will all take along our cameras and phones to practice different photography settings.

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

Music group draws a good crowd

We had a great music group meeting in October, recording the best attendance ever. We were joined by members from Mansfield u3a and Dukeries u3a for a great afternoon at the Forest Town Arena.



Music Group Leaders: **Win Wall & Irene Brooks**
Meet on 2nd Fridays

Halloween delights

The gardening craft group had a ghoulie Halloween morning when we met for our October meeting. Spiders, cobwebs and autumn colours were our inspiration and we all enjoyed it.

I think some lucky grandchildren will be amazed at their talented grandparents.

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



Intrepid ramblers carry on regardless

The rambling group has enjoyed months of walking in the beautiful weather this summer. Well, it had to end sometime!

Our 5 October outing exploring the delightful Nottinghamshire villages of Cropwell Bishop, Kinoulton and Colston Bassett started in intermittent light rain which turned into a sustained deluge driven by a strong wind by late morning.

We ate our packed lunches in a soggy and bedraggled state huddled in a rather splendid bus shelter. Were we downhearted? A bit, but we'd seen the strange sight of the Grantham canal without water due to leaks, a rare example of an 18th century brick-built church in Kinoulton, admired posh houses and the autumn tints in trees, and explored the ruins of an abandoned church. But there's nothing better to restore spirits than coffee and cake in a warm café at the end of the walk.

The weather for our second walk was chilly but dry thankfully.

Setting out from the village of Bonsall near Cromford, we immediately faced a long steady climb up Masson Hill which required frequent stops to catch our breath while admiring the view back over Bonsall Dale.



A very soggy set of ramblers take their lunch

The ridge at the top of the hill gave us views over the Derwent Valley in its Autumn finery from Riber Castle to Matlock and beyond. A steep rough descent into Snitterton claimed a casualty as one of our group slipped and sat in a fresh cow pat, much to the hilarity of everyone but the victim.

There was barely a level section on this walk as we progressed up hill and down dale through Oker and Wensley

negotiating countless squeeze stiles which proved awkward for those of us with larger feet and bottoms. This proved to be a tough but very rewarding walk.

Our next rambles: 2 November: Holmesfield – History and the Halls walk (7.3 miles). 16 November: Belper, Milford and Blackbrook (8.1 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



Back to Bonsall after a tough walk

Blue John Caverns explored

Some 15 u3a members set off to the world famous Blue John Caverns near Castleton. Unfortunately four people could not cope with the descent as it was very steep and consisted of over 200 steps.

Our guide was excellent and very knowledgeable about the site's history. The mine was poorly lit so we were limited to the photos we could take. The afternoon was spent browsing the shops in Castleton followed by afternoon tea and snacks. All in all a very enjoyable day but also quite tiring.

Sandra and Peter Boulton



Christmas at Chatsworth

Final balance for the Christmas at Chatsworth trip on 13 December needs to be paid at the November General Meeting so that Chatsworth can send out our tickets.

Chatsworth-£19.50;
Coach-£10.00.

Our house entry time slot is 12.30pm. As soon as I have confirmation time for the coach to leave the Arena I will let you know. Many thanks.

Kathryn Cope

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

General Meeting diary dates

◆ Friday 2 December Christmas Get Together 2022.

Another bumper event, with raffles, quiz, secret Santa and mince pies. Entertainment by *Well Versed*, a five piece comedy variety act.

◆ Friday 6 January 2023 Footprints 2

By popular demand, local photographer Neil Pledger is back. Using digital photography techniques Neil superimposes current day views of Mansfield onto much older scenes revealing what's changed and what's remained the same.

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
Crochet	2nd Mondays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	TBA
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	Angelina Taylor
Evening Dinner Out	4th Thursdays	Various	18.30	Marilyn Redfern
Gardening Crafts	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Angelina Taylor & Irene Brooks
Litter Pick	4th Tuesdays	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
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
Zumba	Alternate Mondays	St Lawrence Church Hall	11.30-12.15	Marilyn Redfern

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 or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW **by midnight on Sunday 20 November 2022.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417