



'MIKES MUSINGS'

Welcome to this issue of our Newsletter and particularly to the new members who joined us last month. I hope you have been able to enjoy the Easter Celebrations and now that Spring has officially started maybe we can look forward to some warmer weather.

Membership

We had a good take up of membership renewals at the March meeting and for those of you who were unable to attend that meeting we will be taking renewal membership again at the April meeting, (as well of course any new members), **don't miss out.** I am aware that there might be good reasons why you will not have been able to attend either monthly meeting, in those exceptional circumstances please contact Kath Wolstonholme the Membership Secretary or me and we will do our best to make arrangements for you.

Annual General Meeting

Our meeting on the 2nd June will also be our first AGM; in addition to confirming our Constitution and approving our Financial Accounts there is the opportunity for members to put themselves forward to join the new committee. The existing committee was set up as a Steering Committee to establish Forest Town & District U3A and all present members will stand down, however most of the existing committee have indicated that they will put themselves forward for the new Executive Committee. Ideally we would like a committee of 12 members and there will be vacancies, we will make available forms for you to put you name forward that will need to be Proposed and a Seconded. **Please consider if this is something you would like to do,** we are a friendly bunch!

Royal Revelry

Together with Jenny Wright I attended the recent meeting of the North Notts. Group when we put together the plan for an event to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday and her majesty being the longest reigning monarch. This will be a free event on Tuesday June 7th, to be held at the John Fretwell Sports Centre with a variety of displays, musical performances and out door events; we should have a full programme to provide for you at our May Meeting. There will also be the opportunity to enjoy a 'cream tea'; this will by ticket only at a cost of £8. Each U3A in the North Notts. Group have 25 tickets (the venue can seat 250 people), tickets can be purchased at the April meeting from Jenny Wright our Business Secretary.

Mike King- Chairman

OUR APRIL MEETING FORMAT

To be held Thursday 7th in St Alban's Church

- 1:45 sign in
- 1:55 Chairman's Welcome and introduction of our speaker Kris who will talk about

'SAMARITANS

Supporting the community Since 1971'

This looks at the background of the Samaritan organisation, the services and roles available, what they do, types of contact, expectations and the pathway to becoming one.

This will be followed by

- time for refreshments,
- chatting
- looking at the various group activities
- talking to Group leaders or committee members
- Renewing subscriptions or joining for the first time.
- notices regarding our own U3A and activities relating to other U3A groups.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Our Newsletter is sent prior to our main meeting to every member with an email address. This is done to save postage costs and to help the environment.

For members not on email paper copies are available at the main meeting.

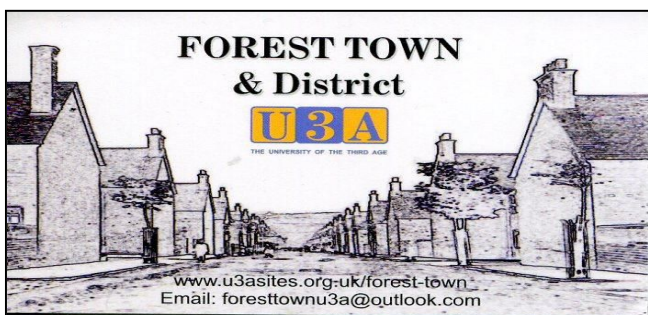
OUR U3A WEB SITE

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

Do take a look for up to-date information, photos etc.

RENEWING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

Membership fees of £18 for the 2016/17 year are now due for payment as our membership year is from the 1st April to the 31st March. If you have not already done so please renew at the April meeting. As you can see our friendly team will be happy to give you one of our super duper membership cards (printed by J B Foil & Print of Forest Town) in return for your money.



Members queuing up to renew their subscription

LOOKING BACK

Barry Davies was our speaker in March, when to start with we all learnt that he was a member of the U3A. He then told us about some of the Nottinghamshire branches before moving on to his chosen topic of Saints and Sinners in the Classroom. He spoke of his early life in Wales and teaching experiences and how many years later he learnt more of one of the pupils who was etched on his memory.

LOOKING FORWARD

On Thursday May 5th Pauline Marples assisted by her husband Malcolm, working the lap top and projector will give an illustrated talk on:

Forest Town

The Village That Grew Out of Coal

Discover how and why Forest Town was developed, some of the early inhabitants, how a Royal visit made headline news and a singing miner who made his American debut in New York

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

MAIN MEETINGS

- Thursday 7th Apr - Speaker - *The Samaritans*
- Thursday 5th May - Speaker - *Forest Town The Village That Grew Out of Coal*
- Thursday 2nd Jun - AGM & Speaker - *Bluebell Wood Hospice, also craft and other displays.*
- Thursday 7th Jul - Speaker - *Old and Curious Occupations*
- Thursday 4th Aug - Speaker - *Gardens of Carmarthen Sth Wales*
- Thursday 1st Sep - Speaker - *Veolia Waste Recycle*
- Thursday 6th Oct - Speaker - *Action For Hearing Loss*
- Thursday 3rd Nov - Speaker - *Mansfield Area in WW1*
- Thursday 1st Dec - Christmas event

Royal Revelry

- Tuesday 7th June - Day event at the John Fretwell Centre, Sookholme.

NEWSLETTER - DEADLINE

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk by the **23rd April** – sooner if possible.

THANK YOU



To Cllr Mick Barton
who has kindly donated
£150
towards the work of our U3A,
this is much appreciated.

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

Bird Watching

Group Leader: **Lynne Cooper**

2nd Thursday 10am

This month [March] we visited Kings Mill reservoir to see if we could add any more species to our list. The day started off with a light drizzle which had stopped by the time we were on our way back towards the café. The highlights of our visit were a total of 7 Shoveller ducks and seeing the Heron colony. In all we saw a total of 31 species of which we added 3 more to our list.

Next month we are returning to Sherwood Forest at Edwinstowe which should be very interesting as the majority of the summer migrants should have returned. Lynne Cooper the group leader is unable to be with us so if any newcomers care to join us would you please contact Keith Bancroft

The date of the next birdwatch is Thursday 14th April and we meet in the visitor centre car park at 10 a.m.

Bridge for Beginners

Group Leader: **Steve Evans**

Meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
10 am - 12 noon at the Forest Town Arena.

Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: **Bob Hunt**

4/5 people per session



Four members of **Computer group 1** met at the Prince Charles Public House, Forest Town on Tuesday the 1st. March, a new member to our group, Marlene, was undecided whether a laptop or tablet would best suit her needs, we discussed both options and I hope we helped her to decide which to buy. Pauline continued with her quest to sort her many photographs into order, we looked at creating new

folders and transferring photographs from one folder to another and renaming the folders and photos, a time consuming task but well worth it when completed. We also looked at copying and pasting text from a document to an email or vice versa on the Apple ipad, this was something new for me with my recently acquired ipad and thanks to Google, trial and error, plus Anita and Maureen we worked it out and I am now a wiser man.

Computer Group 2.

Three members and myself met at the Prince Charles on Thursday 17th, March, we looked at downloading documents and printing them, the crucial part of this exercise is to make a note of the folder the computer downloads to (usually the downloads folder!) and making a note of the file name so we know what we are looking for, we also looked at transferring photos from a phone to a laptop.

One member wanted to know how to submit her gas and electricity meter readings online. We logged in to her energy suppliers website OK, filled in the online form with the meter readings, account number, name etc. all going fine until we came to the dreaded **CAPTCHA**, (*Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart*), usually this is a series of misshapen letters that you have to decipher and type into a box, this site used a block of 12 small photographs and we had to pick out all the photographs containing GRASS we failed miserably twice and lost the site, timed out or kicked out? we don't know. Anyone who has come up against this type of thing knows how frustrating it is.

Bob Hunt Group Leader

Craft

Group Leader: **Jane Freeman**

2nd Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena

Three new members were welcomed to the group, all of whom were brought up to speed with our activities, ideas and future plans for further items to be made for the Friends of King's Mill hospital and the Sir John Eastwood Hospice. They shared their skills and expertise with us, and agreed to join in with our on-going projects. Several different suggestions and ideas were discussed.

The coffee-break chat subjects ranged from Mr.Osborne's forthcoming budget, [all now history - Ed], low-paid workers, the state of Mansfield town centre; the need for more village events that people would be willing to join, and the advanced skills that are required to make the perfect pot of tea.

The finished batch of knee rugs, coat hangers, and “dammit dolls” were taken to the Sir John Eastwood hospice, and the twiddle muffs and baby garments to the Friends of KM; both consignments gratefully received.

We look forward to our recuperating ladies rejoining us as soon as they feel able we hear that they have not been idle in the meanwhile so we anticipate that they will bring an enormous batch of goodies with them!

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th April, at Forest Town Arena at 2.00pm.

[It is interesting that this group has discussions on current affairs, as I see Hucknall U3A has a specific Discussion Group where they discuss topics such as 'The Intervention of the NHS in our Daily Lives' and 'Has political Correctness Gone to Far' Who would be brave enough to start a similar group for us?-Ed]

Family History

Group Leader: Glynis Benford-Chapman

1st Tuesday 10am Meet - Forest Town Arena.

Gardening

Group Leader: Marian Story

Monthly, various dates

Last month a few of us enjoyed a very informative and interesting talk at Hollybecks Garden Centre given by Martin Fish, BBC Radio Presenter and former Rufford Abbey Head Gardener, which ended with a very good question and answer session.

The group next met at Reuben Shaw’s Garden Centre at Moorgreen ending with refreshments and collating a list of possible future visits too. On 14th April some of us are going to Sherwood U3A’s morning meeting where Martin Fish is giving another talk, this time it is about his own garden, and the day will be rounded off with a visit to a large private garden in Berry Hill.

Three of our group are off to the Harrogate Flower Show on 23rd April too. Our May trip is to see the bluebells at Hodstock Priory on Saturday 7th May.

A few freebie gardening magazines, seeds and bulbs / corms will be on our group’s table at the main U3A meetings – **do help yourselves.**

Film/Videos

Group Leader: Arline Littlewood

Temporarily Postponed

Local History

Group Leader: Pauline Marples

Normally 3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Members Home

No Meeting held in March. The next meeting is April 21st when members are invited to bring along old or new photographs to see how they relate to local history.

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm



This group has had its second meeting and as you can see from the photo we were entertained by a 'live' group (duo) - you would not be able to get better value for money at any concert venue! They were brilliant as they rekindled our memories of music from the sixties. Next month Keith (lead guitar and singer) and Chris (bass guitar) will be joined by their drummer. We also had great fun doing a quiz which no-one took seriously, thank goodness, but which helped us to dig deep into our fond memories.

Please note, that the next meeting will be on the second Friday of the month, 8th April.

Lynne Cooper

Photo Books

Group Leader: *Marian Batt*

Twice a month - Meet - Members Home

Rambling

Group Leader: *Alan Radford*

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

On 2nd March the group set off from Carsington village to encounter just about every type of weather in one day. After an initial steep climb in good weather in the direction of Harboro Rocks we looked forward to fine views from that elevated position. After crossing the High Peak Trail light snow descended; as we approached the highest point the snow came at us horizontally, the view obscured in a "white-out". Weather improving, we walked on to explore Brassington.

On route we paused to watch a mesmerising display by a male Rhea, a large flightless bird related to the Ostrich that raced around its mate at break-neck speed interspersed by bobbing and jumping.



View overlooking Brassington

On a bright sunny 16th March we parked in Monyash, a pleasant limestone village with a church founded in the 12th century, once the centre of lead mining in this locality and where the Barmote Court met to settle lead mining disputes. A walled track led up to pastureland and to the farm at One Ash Grange, once used by the monks of Roche Abbey. Here we passed by ancient pigsties and a cave, possibly once used for cold storage, before dropping down through Cales Dale into Lathkill Dale. This marvellous dale, initially with limestone cliffs, was continually changing character as we proceeded downstream for 2 miles, with crystal clear water and much evidence of lead mine workings in the dale. Further downstream we

passed stone columns crossing the dale, remains of an aqueduct which served an engine house beside the river.

We left the dale at Lathkill Lodge and climbed the lane to Over Haddon for lunch. Moving on, now on high pastureland and looking behind to admire the extensive views, we reached Magpie Mine, a former lead mine which closed in 1953. Everyone was rather surprised by the small size of the headstock – after all, we are all used to the Clipstone Colliery headstocks, monsters in comparison! After inspecting the ruins we set off on the return leg over the fields back to Monyash, to finish the day with a drink and/or cuppa at the Bulls Head in the village. What a lovely day out on a warmer day than of late.

Our next rambles will be Alstonefield, Wolfscote Dale & Hartington (Wed 6th April, 8¾ miles), followed by Bonsall, Wensley Dale & Bonsall Moor (Wed 20th April, 8½ miles), meeting up at Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. New members always welcome, if interested in rambling why not ask about them at the monthly meeting?

Alan Radford and James Parnham

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: *Celia Tassle*

3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena

Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marlene Mee*

**2nd Tuesday 10.30am.
Meet Various Locations**



On Tuesday 8th March at 10 30am, eight of us and one dog met at Mansfield Woodhouse Railway Station. I had not been well for the previous week and I asked a friend if he would lead the walk for me. John set off in front and lead us along a track past a pond, we walked up lanes and across muddy fields with good views of Pleasley Headstocks and returned via Woburn Road and the Cricket club.



our essential 'cuppas' we decided on visiting Newstead Abbey for our 15th April stroll, you are welcome to join us!

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF A NEW GROUP
Below are new groups where interest has been shown / is being offered / needs a leader.

Several commented that they had no idea such a good walk was so close to Mansfield Woodhouse. We had an enjoyable 4½ mile walk and credit to Maureen for her well behaved dog. Thanks to John for leading the walk and the photos. Thanks also to John and Alan for providing transport.

The next walk will be Tuesday 12th April meet at the Arena at 10 a.m. if anyone requires a lift, or Pleasley Vale Plant Nursery about a mille along Vale Road, Mansfield Woodhouse the walk starts at 10 30 am we can park in the Nursery car park and tea and cakes available afterwards at the nursery. A walk along the old railway track towards Pleasley and the Duck Pond and returning though Pleasley Vale past the Old Mills and post office.

Marlene.

Strollers

Group Leader: Denise Doud

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

The 18th March may have been a damp overcast day but it did not stop seven of us enjoying a lovely stroll around Rufford Abbey. Many still flourishing clumps of snowdrops and fresh daffodils brightened the trip. Overall we were blessed with the variety of small birds who enjoyed the seeds left out for them. Over

Forest Town U3A Steering Committee

Committee Position	Name
Chairman & Treas Asst	Mike King
V/Chair & Speaker Sec	Susan Wright
Business Secretary	Jennifer Wright
Treasurer	Lynne Cooper
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Doud
Asst Groups Co-ord.	Ann Stanford
Membership Sec	Kath Wolstonholme
Minutes Sec	Jill Gascoyne
Social Secretary	
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Marples
Website Editor	Bob Hunt

PETANQUE TASTER SESSION

Wednesday 27th April 2016

10am to 12am followed by refreshments.

Venue - Mansfield Petanque Club, Tichfield Park.

Come and have some fun completely free. Equipment provided. All are welcome but places are limited to 40 persons. Please sign up for the session by

contacting - Richard Batt

at the next monthly meeting on Thursday 7th April.

Following a number of taster sessions, if there is enough interest, we hope to start a regular U3A Petanque group.

READING

Starting 17th May 2pm Forest Town Library

GROUPS WAITING FOR A LEADER

Calligraphy, Drama,
 Painting & Drawing

SOCIAL SECRETARY NEEDED

To arrange Theatre Visits, Lunch Outings
 Please discuss with Mike King - Chairman,

