



## On track for a fabulous 2023

Hello Forest Town & District u3a

What a year we have had! At the start of 2022, our future hung in the balance. It was a bumpy start for us all but, with a committee working well together and dedicated to making Forest Town & District u3a successful, week by week and month by month we have grown stronger. Today our u3a is the place to be, with plenty of organised trips, days out and parties along with opportunities to learn new skills and a really great sense of community.

Away from the u3a, the year has had its ups and downs.

Who would have thought that there would be a war in Europe with so many precious lives lost and for what, a piece of land. We have all lost family and friends so we feel their loss.

At home, number 10 Downing Street seems to have had an ever-revolving door, seeing three Prime Ministers in as many months and there's plenty of unrest across our country. Where are we going? When will we feel stable again?.

In September a family woke to hear that their mother, their grandmother had passed away. So many across the world mourned the loss of our Queen.

As a u3a we had celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in June, and held our flags high singing God Save The Queen. Now we are getting used to singing God Save The King and in May 2023 we will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. Life has to go on.

The future for Forest Town and District has never looked so bright. We have formed a social committee of volunteers led by Angelina Taylor. Along with Ann Stanford, our National Trust group leader, they have put together a calendar for 2023, see page 2.

### November remembered



Kath & Geoff Deighton, also known as 'Penny Bun', entertained us well at the November General Meeting with their World War sing-a-long, poetry and chat.

We have joined together with Mansfield and Dukeries u3a to plan and organise trips and days out. This to me is what u3a is all about, sharing and helping each other.

Our gardening group has been busy planting bulbs, flowers and shrubs at Stuart Avenue to say thank you for letting us have this facility for free.

Our Vice chair Mike Lyall started a 'Clean up Forest Town group' which has become very popular.

Your u3a really is going from strength to strength.

It only remains for me on behalf of your committee to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

**Irene Brooks**

## It's Christmas!!



Are you ready for our Christmas Get-together on, Friday 2 December? Doors open at 10.00.

There will be raffle tickets on sale at £1.00 per strip, two challenges to have a go at – *Guess the Weight of the Cake* and *How Many Sweets in the Jar*, plus a prize draw of all numbered tickets sold. And, for those who want to join in, don't forget your Secret Santa gift to the value of £2.

Yes, it's time to dig out your Christmas jumper and start the season with a glass of sparkling juice while you sit back and enjoy Well Versed with their version of Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

Sorry this event is SOLD OUT and entrance is by TICKET ONLY.



## Event Diary

January	February
<b>FISH &amp; CHIP LUNCH</b> Wednesday 25th from 12 midday to 2pm at St Lawrence Church Hall – Mansfield Cost £10 to be paid asap.	<b>OSWALDTWISTLE MILLS in LANCASHIRE</b> Monday 27th – day trip with lunch Deposits asap with balance no later than January general meeting.
March	April
<b>SCOTLAND BREAK with Blue Pigeon Travel</b> Tuesday 7th to Saturday 11th. Includes evening meals with entertainment plus day trips.  Cost £409. Deposit of £50 due now, balance by February general meeting.  This trip is now fully booked but cancellation/reserve names are being taken.	<b>NEWSTEAD ABBEY</b> Thursday 6th (to be confirmed) Tour of the house with afternoon tea. Cost to be confirmed  <b>NATIONAL TRUST SUDBURY</b> Saturday 22nd Cost £9.50. Contact Ann Stanford for travel details.

## Love theatre?



Everyone who went enjoyed the trip to see *The Producers* at Mansfield's Palace Theatre in November.

Now, to keep things going we need someone who loves theatre to step up to run a Forest Town & District u3a theatre group.

If you enjoy theatre and are happy to suggest productions the group could see then that could be you. Make yourself known – email our Group Co-ordinator, Marilyn Redfern [mjrfern@gmail.com](mailto:mjrfern@gmail.com)

## Birthday bash goes with a bang

What an incredible morning we had on 7th November with so many cakes made by our talented bakers! A massive thank you to everyone who baked or donated cakes. We couldn't have had our party without them.

Bob Hunt, who has been a member from the start, was asked to cut the cake.

Kathryn and Kevin did a great job with the quiz, tombola and bingo and rounded off the morning with a fun game of Scattergories. There was a great atmosphere. All in all we had a brilliant morning celebrating Forest Town & District u3a's 7th birthday.





## Plenty of history for November's ramblers

Georganne from Ashfield u3a led our first walk in November which she called Holmesfield – History and Halls. The walk lived up to its billing as we came across seven halls. Georganne gave us a potted history of each one as we passed by.

We received a very warm welcome at Woodthorpe Hall where the resident golden retriever insisted on greeting each one of us. From then on, the halls kept coming thick and fast.

In between we were treated to varied countryside with fine views from the tops of hills, beautiful valleys and woods displaying their autumn colours until we reached Cartledge Hall, the seventh and last hall.

Georganne is the oldest member of our walking group, having celebrated her 80th birthday earlier this year. She's a great example to us all.

Carol led our second walk in November. We set out from Belper's vast East Mill and passed close by the rushing weir on the River Derwent. It was a cold grey morning with drizzle in the air.

Initially following the river, we soon climbed onto a ridge and followed the Mid Shires Way with views across the Derwent Valley passing through the village of Blackbrook.

We came across a 5 metre high gritstone wall, pockmarked by musket shot. The wall marked the end of a firing range built in 1800 to train militia during the Napoleonic wars.

By the time we dropped down into Millford, the sun was out and it was pleasantly warm as we followed the River Derwent back to Belper. There, we admired the lovely Riverside Gardens as we wandered through to the café.

### Our next rambles:

7 December: Shorter walk from Teveral Country Park followed by Christmas lunch. 21 December: Carlton Lees, Swiss Cottage, Hunting Tower, Chatsworth Park (7 miles). **New members welcome.**



Ramblers Group Leader: **Andrew Riby**.  
Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles.  
Meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.  
Contact Andrew on: 01623 656958  
Mobile: 07833 543705  
Email: [ribya@imcgroup.co.uk](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)

## A great night at the dogs

What a great night we had, putting on our bets and willing our dogs to win.

Jen Phillips and Alan Taylor were the first to record a win and were followed by many more. We didn't look at the



form of the dogs, we just went with the name and whether or not we liked it! Hello Mary Lou was a favourite. The last bet of the day was Olive and I won £14.20.

We are booking for next year!

**Irene Brooks**



## New Forest Town book out now



A Forest Town u3a member's latest book on Forest Town, is now on sale at £10 each. She will be selling them at the Thursday coffee mornings in St Alban's Church 10– 12 noon.

Or you can contact Pauline Marples on 01623 431783, or text her on mobile 07376 161737.

# Dressed to kill!

A big thank you to Irene, our chair, for organising the Halloween event at Clipstone Welfare on Friday 28 October. It was great to see so many had dressed for the occasion. The entertainment from the Moonshiners was definitely not a 'Trick' but an absolute 'Treat'.

Members from Mansfield & District u3a and the Dukeries u3a attended and had a great time.

The pie and pea supper was delicious.



Irene Brooks with fancy dress winner Ed Tozer



Thanks to Kathryn Cope & Irene Brooks for words and pictures.

## Last NT trip but not the least

Our National Trust visit for October was to Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire, a beautiful Robert Adam's house overlooking landscaped parkland divided by the river, Markeaton Brook, a tributary of the Derwent.

A guide greeted our bus party, advising us of everything available and offering members the opportunity to book a timed visit to the private museum of objet d'art collated by 1st Marquess of Kedleston during his time in Asia.

Sir Nathaniel Curzon commissioned architect Robert Adam to build a show piece 'temple of the art' to rival Chatsworth House. Unfortunately the medieval Kedleston village was demolished in 1759 to make way for the Hall which was built in 1765, leaving All Saints Church intact. Some members stepped inside the ancient church with numerous grand memorials to former Curzon forebears.

The tour of the Hall gave us an insight into the lavish lifestyle of the 18th Century with sprung dance floor, grand entrance hall, dining room with

a wine cooler the size of a small bath (no wine unfortunately) and a bedroom with a bed you'd need a ladder to get into.

We later discovered that the Curzon family still occupy a private wing.

A welcome refreshment break was available at the café, formerly the Hall's Great Kitchen where servants would have prepared food for fabulous banquets and entertaining. If only walls could talk! It would be fascinating to know how the servants coped without our modern appliances.

A gift shop and a pre-loved book shop in the stables provided us with retail therapy and outdoor seating/refreshments too.

Group members enjoyed the fine



weather to walk along the riverside and grounds taking in the glorious vistas.



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



## Photographers remember

At our meeting in November our theme was Remembrance.

We each displayed our photos and, as usual, we chose a winner. This time, I am pleased to say it was my photograph that was judged to be the best.

After our competition those who wanted to get a better insight into the use of their cameras and phones were given some instructions by one of our team, Arthur who has a lot of photography knowledge.

We found it very helpful as some of the cameras around nowadays can be rather difficult to understand.

We have decided that our December meeting will not go ahead as it falls on the same day as the Chatsworth visit, so the next meeting will be on 10 January. Our theme will be history.

That's all for now. Happy Christmas to you all from The Photography Group.



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



## Book club news

There will be no Book Group meeting in January 2023. The first meeting in the new year will be Monday 6 February at Forest Town Library, 10-30am.



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

## Gardeners get stuck in



Twelve members of our gardening group gathered for our November meeting and separated for different activities. Most made seasonal table decorations, using evergreens chosen from the garden. And splendid they looked at the end of the morning.

Work also started on clearing and planting up the patch of ground in front of the Sherwood Community Centre, that has been neglected over the years.

Permission was first obtained, of course, from the local authority (thank you, Jane) and the morning of our meeting was spent in weeding, breaking up the soil, and putting in a few plants brought from home.

More have since been added and the area promises to be colourful and attractive in the months to come. It is hoped that a sign can be put in place, mentioning the u3a's involvement. Our "before" and "after" photos illustrate the work that has been done so far.



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



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

## General Meeting diary dates

### ◆ 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.

### ◆ Friday 3 February 2023 Bygones

Andy Smart, a journalist with 40 years' experience will relate some of the many amusing stories from his career in regional and local newspapers and radio.

**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	TBA	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	10.00	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	1st 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 is in Feb

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 22 January 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417