



A good start to 2023

Hello Forest Town & District u3a and a belated Happy New Year to all our newsletter readers.

January kicked off in style on Friday 6 with our first speaker of the New Year, Neil Pledger and his fabulous photos. This was followed by our first fish and chip quiz on January 25.

And there's lots to look forward to for the rest of 2023 as your social group has been hard at work putting together a fun filled year.

February 27 is the Oswaldtwistle Mills outing and in March it's our Scotland trip.

In a change to our normal pattern, April's meeting will be on the second Friday of the month (Friday 14 April) at 12 midday until 2pm. Get creative as we're having an Easter Bonnet competition followed by soup and a roll. *Turn back Time* will be playing some oldies but goodies.

Volunteer needed

On a more serious note, our treasurer Andy Riby will be hanging up his treasury hat this year, so we will be looking for someone to take over this position. If you would like to know more about this please contact us.

Andy has been an invaluable member of our committee and will be there to help his successor in any way he can.

Looking forward to a great year.

Irene Brooks

February speaker has 'Bygones' theme



Our speaker at the General Meeting on Friday 3 February (10.00 for 10.30 at Forest Town Arena) will be Andy Smart and his subject: **Bygones**.

Andy is a journalist with 40 years' experience. He will relate some of the many amusing stories from his career in regional and local newspapers and on local radio, including from his time at the Nottinghamshire *Bygones* magazine.

Take a look at our new regular Events Diary on page 5 for a summary of all upcoming events.

Time to renew your membership

The Executive Committee has reviewed the budget for the next financial year and has set the annual membership renewal fee at £19.00. Associate members, those who are already members of another branch of the u3a, can renew for £15.00.

An increase in fees is regrettable but necessary. The Third Age Trust, the national body which oversees all UK u3a branches, will charge around £9 for each member. For this, our u3a gets insurance cover for our activities, use of the membership database, distribution of the Third Age Matters magazine, access to training material and technical support for any problems we encounter.

That leaves us just £10 per member to pay for the 12 monthly general meetings and the administration of your u3a.

There are three ways of paying your membership fee:

◆ Bank transfer.

Account name FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A, sort code 30-90-89, account number 53978960. This

is classed as a business bank account. **Note, it is a different bank account to the one you pay your trip money into.**

PLEASE ENSURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME AND/OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS THE REFERENCE.

◆ Cheque.

These should be made out to **FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A**, with **your membership number on the reverse**. Bring your cheque along to the meetings in February/March or post to K Cope, 97 Lingforest Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 3NQ.

- ◆ If you are unable to pay by bank transfer or cheque then **you can pay in cash** at the next two monthly meetings on 3rd February 2023 and 3rd March 2023. **PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.**

The **closing date** for renewals is **Friday 12 May 2023**.

Kathryn Cope

Christmas 2022 remembered!



Raffle prize winners and losers and our Guess the Number of Sweets winner



Christmas party at The Hostess



Nordic Christmas at Chatsworth trip



Research goes on

The ten members attending the Trace Your Family Tree Group's January meeting reflected on what they had done, or had not done with their research over the Christmas period.

Ann explained that she had found looking at American obituaries on the web more informative than the UK ones. Chris had rediscovered his father's driving licences in a box. These gave the various addresses his father had lived at. Unlike today, when one license lasts for a number of years, back in time a new one was issued each year.

Pauline had renewed her subscription



to the British newspaper archive and within half an hour found a report on her grandparents' Golden Wedding in

1958. How lucky was that! Malcolm had sorted out a mix up with his Stringers (or was it Adams?) family.

Sheila had found the birth dates of some of her family that had previously eluded her.

After tea/coffee we had a good session on looking at the value of using the free web site *Family Search*. Andy with the use of his computer and the wall screen was able to demonstrate the various aspects of this. Malcolm, Julie and Andy have all used this website and were able to tell of their experiences. We were all encouraged to go away and use this, especially as it's free!

New crochet group gets started



The Crochet Group held its first meeting on Thursday 19 January at The Sherwood Centre. Future gatherings will be on the third Thursday in the month.

Crochet Group Leader: **Volunteer needed**
Meet on 3rd Thursdays

Report by **Pauline Marples**

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

Neil entertains January meeting

Once again local photographer, Neil Pledger, presented an interesting and amusing look at the structural changes in and around Mansfield. He began his presentation with an amazing photo of Clipstone headstocks then views of a tunnel at Clipstone firstly from below and then from above.

It was also very interesting to see a photo at Rufford Abbey with his granddaughter on the steps overlaid with a group of Victorian people standing in exactly the same place. It does make you think who has passed by before.

His interactive talk was well received by members as we remembered how we had played on parks as children with mountain slides and bobbies' helmets which now would not pass safety rules.

His photography is truly amazing and we wish him well with the projects he is working on.

Kathryn Cope



Frosty strollers

The Strollers Group met on a cold and frosty Friday 20 January and 13 of us wandered round King's Mill water park.

Although rather chilly, there were quite a few other people around and the ducks, geese swans etc. were all hugging the bank side hoping for food. I don't remember seeing so many of them congregated around before.

Our next meeting is on Friday 17 February at Brierley Park, Huthwaite end car park at 10.30.

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

The ups and downs of winter walking

Our first walk of the New Year was from Gedling Country Park led by Steve. We started out on firm tracks visiting the viewing platforms from the top of the former spoil heaps. Lincoln cathedral is just one of many landmarks that can be seen on a clear day, but it was too hazy to see any of them.

We were soon cursing global warming as paths that should have been hard with frost were a never-ending quagmire of mud. Concentrating on not slipping and falling into the mire, we noticed little of the countryside around Woodborough and Lambley. It was quite a relief to finish the walk safely, caked in mud but without any serious falls, and enjoy a hot drink in the visitor centre café.

Contrast this with our bitterly cold and icy walk from Southwell led by Georganne on a proper winter's day in full sun under a cloudless blue sky with the ground as hard as iron. Winter walking at its best!

We passed through the campus of Brackenhurst agricultural college, through rolling countryside to the lovely villages of Goverton and Bleasby.

Lunch was taken watching a solo Red Arrows jet practising its display routine in front of us; a couple of times passing right over our heads at low level.

Magnificent views of Southwell Minster and a hot drink in the minster cafe rounded off a really enjoyable day.

Back to December we enjoyed a short walk in Teversal Country Park before our excellent Christmas lunch in the fabulous Ship Room at The Carnarvon. Our walk in Christmas week was in the familiar territory of Chatsworth Park with free



A proper winter walk and great views of Southwell Minster



Mud, mud and more mud on the Gedling walk

parking at Carlton Lees as all Chatsworth staff were fully occupied up at the big house marshalling visitors to the Nordic Christmas display.

Our next rambles:

1 February: Idle Valley nature reserve (8 miles). 15 February: Cresswell Crags, Belf & Welbeck Abbey (8.2 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



Lunch club eat well



The Lunch Group had a great time at West Notts College on 15 December. Food and service was excellent.

Luncheon Club Group Leader: **Irene Brooks**

Gardeners gather

Some of us in the Gardening Group had hoped to plant a few more things in the plot outside the Community Centre. However, the heavy rain made it impossible. Instead, we had a cosy time indoors and talked about what we could do in the months ahead. It was decided that in February we could do some more work on the garden (weather permitting), plant up a decorative bowl with bulbs for an indoor display and, perhaps, have a gardening quiz. In March we decided to have another trip to Springfield Garden Centre, using a 14-seater hired bus. Names were taken.

Angelina gave us some phormium seeds from her garden and these were gratefully received. Tea and coffee warmed us up and biscuits cheered us up. Under instruction from Angelina, we practised our macramé skills once more completing the small project of making a

Event Diary

February

OSWALDTWISTLE MILLS in LANCASHIRE

Monday 27 March

Day trip with lunch.

March

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 3 March

Mind Your Motoring Manners

A talk by Paula Cornell in the guise of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce. Do you have the perfect driving temperament for 1920's motoring? An upbeat and interactive talk based on the writings of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce.

SCOTLAND BREAK with Blue Pigeon Travel

Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 March

Includes evening meals with entertainment plus day trips.

Cost £409. **Balance due at February general meeting.**

April

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 April at 12 midday

Forest Town Arena

Lunch & Easter Bonnet Parade

A short meeting then a light lunch of soup and a roll. Plus Easter Bonnet Parade and entertainment from our music group *Turn Back Time*. More details opposite.

Price: £5 each.

NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Tuesday 18 April

Tour of the house with afternoon tea. See opposite details.
Price: Tour £12; Afternoon tea £15.

NATIONAL TRUST SUDBURY

Saturday 22nd April

Price: £9.50.

Full details opposite.

May

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 5 May 10.30

at Forest Town Arena

Coronation Celebrations

More details in our next issue.

April events in detail

April general meeting new date

Because our general meeting in April falls on Good Friday we will be celebrating Easter on the following Friday, 14 April commencing at 12 midday. We will have a bottle drive, soup and roll with tea or coffee, Easter Bonnet competition and entertainment from our very own *Turn Back Time*. So, get busy with your creativity and let's see some fabulous bonnets!

Donations for the bottle drive of absolutely anything in a plastic or glass bottle will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them along to the February or March general meetings. **Booking for this event** will be available at our February and March meetings at a price of £5 each.

Newstead Abbey Afternoon Tea and Tour of the House

On Tuesday 18 April there will be a tour of the house at Newstead followed by afternoon tea in the Victorian Kitchen and, if the weather is kind, a stroll in the gardens. Tour begins at 11.00 with afternoon tea at 12.15.

Unfortunately there is no lift to the first floor so if you struggle with stairs you won't be able to take the tour but you are welcome to come along and enjoy the afternoon tea.

Guided tour approx 1 hour – £12.00. Afternoon Tea – £15.00

To get there we can car share and the Abbey have kindly agreed to include parking with the price for the afternoon tea. To book your place a £5.00 deposit is required with the final balance paid by 4 April. Book at our February and March general meetings or contact me on 07711 128897.

Kathryn Cope

Sudbury is 1st NT trip of 2023

Thank you to all the members that have signed up for the first National Trust visit on Saturday 22 April to Sudbury. We have 2 buses booked with Ravenshead Community Transport for that day. Alternatively, a bus could be hired for a weekday as well as a Saturday. If this is an option please talk to Ann Stanford at the February meeting. Many of the properties that we are visiting this year are open from Thursday to Sunday.

The £9.50 payment for Sudbury is due at the February or March general meetings. Please make cheques payable to Forest Town & District u3a .

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

Fishy quiz goes down well

What a great afternoon we had at our first fish and chip quiz. Kathryn Cope with the help of Marilyn Redfern (and I'm sure Kevin Cope) had a hand in it and what a fantastic job they did putting the whole thing together.

The fish and chips from the local fish shop (Sue's on Pecks Hill) were lovely and everyone looked to have had a great time. The quiz winners were *The Golden Girls* with 50 points followed closely by *The Brain Fog Bunch* with 49 points out of 70.

Irene Brooks



Country dancers dates announced

The dates for Country Dancing at Flint Avenue, 2pm to 4pm, through till June have been set as: 14 February, 14 March, **NO meeting in April**, 9 May, and 13 June.

We had a lovely time ending 2022 with more eating than dancing! Everyone welcome. Just drop in!

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

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 Avenue Centre	14.00-16.00	Ann Stanford
Crochet	3rd Thursdays	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	Various	Various	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 Avenue Centre	14.00-16.00	Andrew & Julie Rowbottom
Zumba	1st Mondays	St Lawrence Church Hall	11.30-12.15	Marilyn Redfern

General meetings are held on the first Friday in the month at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30 start.

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

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 19 February 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417