



Our u3a, the place to be in 2023

I have been asked by a lot of members: "What's your background?". For those of you would like to know more here goes, but I will keep it short as I don't want you to die of boredom!

I'm a Mansfield lass, youngest of four and went to St John's Church of England school. I lived on Pembroke Street which I know from speaking to you that a lot of you have heard of it. Unfortunately the whole street was pulled down to make way for what is now the ring road.

I left home and school when I was 15 years old. Can you imagine a 15 year old of today looking after themselves? I started off like a lot of us back then in a factory by day, working in a pub as a waitress/bartender by night. That started my career in the hospitality business.

I was trained by Mansfield Brewery. My husband and I (sound like the late Queen now) took over the Dukeries in Edwinstowe and travelled all over England looking after different venues.

After a divorce I eventually ended up in America where I started my career managing restaurants and hotels, one of which was a 5 star hotel called *The Cliff House* in Ogunquit, Maine. I had found my calling. I simply loved working there.

At first I was put in charge of the dining room which had 174 seats. Then, after a few years, I became the food and beverage manager in charge of the bar, wait and banquet staff, some fifty people in total.

I sorted the seating charts for weddings and banquets and ordered all the alcohol for the events. We did a Sunday Brunch where over a thousand people would pass through each Sunday.

Busy? Yes, but this is what I love and, now I am helping look after Forest Town u3a alongside your other committee members, it has become my passion to make our u3a the place to be. We don't know everything on the Committee, sometimes we may get it wrong, but we do care and I believe our ever increasing membership reflects that. We have a great year planned for you so get your names down for the interest groups, trips, holidays and other activities and support your u3a.

Irene Brooks

Mind your motoring manners!



Photo by ModelTMitch - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=69615054>

Our speaker at the General Meeting on Friday 3 March (10.00 for 10.30 at Forest Town Arena) will be Paula Cornell in the guise of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce.

Her upbeat and interactive talk based on the writings of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce will answer the question: Do you have the perfect driving temperament for 1920's motoring?

Time to renew

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. The increase in fees is regrettable but necessary to cover costs.

There are three ways to pay:

◆ 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

Group leaders – YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Some Groups regularly send in reports BUT there are some I never hear from. Please tell me what you are doing – a few lines or a photograph is all I need and it doesn't have to be for every issue. The newsletter is a great way to advertise your group to new and existing members. Email: ftu3anews@gmail.com or message me 07939 205519

Photographers go abstract

The February photo group was just a small one but we had our usual photo competition. The theme this month was *Unusual Objects*. It proved a difficult one to decide but in the end the group agreed that Bob was our winner. Take a look and see if you can guess what the object is! If you cannot guess you will have to ask Bob (Or wait for our next issue after I've asked Bob! Editor).

Moving on to next month, our theme is Springtime

We are hoping for a variety of photos as Springtime can mean lots of things.

Report by:

Steve Edis

Photography Group Leader:

Alan Taylor

Meet on 2nd Tuesdays



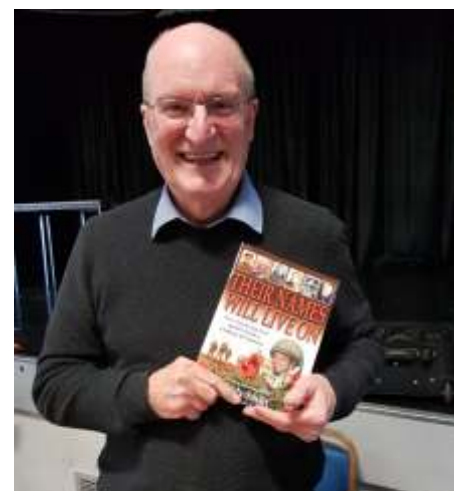
Andy entertains

Andy Smart entertained the February meeting with stories from his 40 year career as a local journalist and in particular his time at the Notts *Bygones* magazine – it was supposed to be published once a month for a year but went on for ten years!

He started however at the CHAD in 1966 when it was the country's biggest selling regional newspaper.

Among his many amusing anecdotes was one about the Hollywood star Jayne Mansfield. The story goes that the organisers of the Mansfield Journalists' Annual Charity Ball decided to write to Miss Mansfield's agent to invite the star to their Ball. Nothing ventured! Imagine their delight when the agent came back to say Miss Mansfield didn't know there was a town in England named after her and would be delighted to attend.

This she did for no fee, staying at the Swan Hotel in the town. Here she came across what to her was a very quaint item, a stone hot water bottle which the story goes she asked to take back to California with her as a memento of her visit. Andy said he likes to think of that hot water bottle displayed on a pink pedestal in Jayne's Pink Palace in Beverley Hills.



February's speaker Andy Smart has authored a book about local wartime heroes, sales from which raise money for the Royal British Legion

Lunch club indulge

In February the Lunch group went to The Red Gate Inn, which is run by Amy and Jason. Good service guaranteed.

Great time, great company.

Luncheon Club Group Leader:

Irene Brooks



Gardeners get planting

The Gardening Group got their hands dirty planting up spring displays at their February gathering.

Pictured with their lovely creations are Kay (left) and Sue.

Their next meeting is at the Sherwood centre on Tuesday 14 March. All welcome with or without greenfingers!

Gardening Craft Group Leader:

Angelina Taylor

Meet on 2nd Tuesdays



Strolling through Brierley Country Park



On Friday 17 February the strollers met on a very blowy morning at Brierley Country Park. Although our numbers were a little low (only seven of us), we did enjoy the leisurely stroll in the park. It was nice to see the fishermen chatting to the youngsters that passed. Despite the wind quite a few folk were out and lots of lovely dogs were around too. Coffee and a natter was had by all.

Our next meet is on Friday 17 March 10.30 at Vicar Water. Hope to see you then.

Report by Group member, **Jen Lowe**

Strollers Group Leader: **Denise Doud** Meet on 3rd Fridays

Blooming for the Coronation

Community Groups are planning to decorate Forest Town's main street for the Coronation and some u3a members are already taking part. YOU can help by making flowers in any format to fasten to railings etc.

Knitting pattern opposite if you like knitting. Finished flowers can be taken to the Drop in Coffee Mornings in St

Alban's Church or Forest Town Library.

Please join in and make Forest Town bloom for the Coronation.

Pauline Marples



Firmer footing for ramblers in February

Our first walk in February started from the Idle Valley Nature Reserve near Retford. Steve led the way at a fair pace, which was welcome as the wind was biting cold on an otherwise pleasant day.

It was a welcome change to walk on firm tracks with only an occasional muddy patch, rather than the mud baths we've endured this winter. Soon we came across an early display of snowdrops. We passed numerous lakes formed from old gravel pits with plenty of aquatic birds to be seen, including cormorants holding out their wings to dry.

Then we walked a long stretch along the banks of the River Idle, at one time spotting a couple of roe deer before they shot off. The beavers were asleep in their lodges though as we passed by their enclosure. A warm drink in the reserve's smart RSPB visitor centre with a spectacular lake view rounded off our walk.

On our second walk of the month Carol led us from the Dukeries Garden Centre through the impressive Cresswell Crag. After learning just how important the site is – its cave art is the northernmost in Europe and the evidence of occupation found there is regarded as internationally unique in demonstrating how prehistoric people managed to live at the extreme northern limits of their territory during the Late Pleistocene period – we carried on to the pretty hamlet of Belp.

Walking in pleasantly mild February temperatures and with very little mud to negotiate we admired the rolling landscape on the Nottinghamshire/ Derbyshire border. Stopping for lunch in a sheltered field corner, it felt as if



The impressive Cresswell Crag

spring was almost here. The horses which came galloping towards us in one field were certainly full of the joys! Hares were spotted dancing (not boxing) in the sunshine along with some very talkative sheep and several friendly robins. Layers were put back on after lunch as the clouds began to gather and a stiff breeze blew up. Passing close to Welbeck Abbey we stopped at the South Lodge Tunnel. The tunnel is one of many built by the 5th Duke of Portland who was known as the 'burrowing duke.' The 5th Duke spent his time and wealth at Welbeck commissioning an impressive range of buildings that included a maze of underground tunnels. From South Lodge it was a short walk back to the

Garden Centre where the weather held just long enough for us to enjoy a hot drink and, for some, cake, in the outside seating area at the Harley Gallery Café.

Our next rambles:

1 March: Matlock to Lumsdale and Cocking Tor (8.4 miles). 15 March: Linacre Reservoirs, Barlow Common, Rumbling Street, Pratchall (7.8 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



Enjoying a drink in the Idle Valley Nature Reserve cafe



These two reminded us of the galloping steeds on the walk

At a Glance Event Diary

March

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 3 March

Mind Your Motoring Manners

SCOTLAND BREAK

Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 March

April

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 April at 12 midday

Forest Town Arena

Lunch & Easter Bonnet Parade

Price: £5 each. Book & pay at March meeting

SPRINGFIELDS DAY TRIP

Tuesday 11 April

Price: £14 Book at March meeting

NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Tuesday 18 April

NATIONAL TRUST SUDBURY

Saturday 22nd April

Price: £9.50. Mentioned in the Spring NT magazine, 10am pick up at the Forest Town Arena.

Payment at March meeting

May

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 5 May, 10.30, FT Arena

Coronation Celebrations

NATIONAL TRUST BIDDULPH GRANGE GARDENS & LITTLE MORETON HALL

Saturday 13 May Price: £18

HEMSWELL ANTIQUES

Tuesday 23 May

June

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 2 June 10.30

PIE & PEAS WITH GAMES

Wednesday 7 June

NATIONAL TRUST LYME PARK

Saturday 22 June

Price £17

July

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 7 July, 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

RIVER CRUISE

Wednesday 12 July

SUMMER BALL

Saturday 22 July

Upcoming trips and events in detail

Newstead Abbey Afternoon Tea and Tour of the House

Tuesday 18 April

Guided House Tour 11.00am approx 1 hour, £12.00

Afternoon Tea 12.15pm in the Victorian Kitchen £15.00

Weather permitting, a stroll around the gardens. Unfortunately, because there is no lift, if you struggle with stairs, the house tour may not be for you but you are welcome to come along for the afternoon tea in the Victorian Kitchen.

BALANCE FOR THIS TRIP NEEDS TO BE PAID BY MONDAY 3 APRIL.

Coronation Celebrations

Friday 5 May

at Forest Town Arena

Come along and celebrate King Charles III coronation.

We have Carlton & Gedling u3a Ukulele Band to entertain us and our Tea Ladies will be bringing you their Right Royal Quiz.

Cream Tea for refreshments.

Tickets will be on sale at our March and April meetings for £1 and you will be entered into a free prize draw.

Once again because of safety regulations at the Arena we are limited to 144 people. Book now to avoid disappointment!



National Trust Biddulph Grange & Little Moreton Hall

Saturday 13 May

At Biddulph Grange you can travel the world through flowers and trees, seeing Italianate terraces, topiary obelisks and sphinxes, cherry orchards and Himalayan rhododendrons but, **note**, these spectacular gardens have numerous steps and uneven terrain. Little Moreton Hall is an iconic Tudor Manor House.

Price £18 – can be paid at the March, April or May general meetings. Transport by Glen Ryder Coaches. 35 seats available.

Hemswell Antiques

Tuesday May 23

A visit to this antiques centre, near Gainsborough including lunch.

A coach will be leaving the Arena 10.00am and coming back from the antiques centre at 4.00pm.

The cost for this trip is £29 with a hot meal or £27 with a light lunch. Booking and full payment will be available from our March meeting.

Pie & Pea Games

Wednesday 7 June

Because our lunchtime fish & chip quiz was a success we've decided to hold a Games with Pie & Pea Lunch. This will be in St Lawrence's Church Hall 12.00 till 2pm. Tickets will be on sale at our April and June meetings.

Summer Ball

Saturday 22 July

We will be holding our first Summer Ball at the Forest Town Arena with a buffet and the Ravenshead Swing Band for our entertainment.

Tickets for this event will go on sale for £15 at our April meeting.

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	2nd 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 March 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417