



Looking forward to a great spring & summer

I hope you all remembered to put your clocks forward!

Now it's lighter in the evenings we can start to look forward to spring and summer, get to the garden centres and start planting. By the way, if any of you need help in your garden due to poor health please get in touch. I will be happy to come over and lend a hand.

I don't know if you are aware but some of us from Forest Town & District u3a have been out cleaning up Forest Town. We've planted bulbs at Stuart Avenue and, with the help of my sister, Sandra and her husband, Barry, along with Marilyn Redfern we four sanded and painted the rail there making it look as new again.

I hope you are looking forward to the April meeting with soup and a roll, along with *Turn Back Time* to entertain you and a demonstration from our country dancing group. There's also going to be a bottle drive and the Easter bonnets.

Our Vice Chair, Mike Lyall, has been kind enough to take over the painting & drawing group, so come along and see if you could be the next 'Claude Monet'.

If you need any of the group leaders' telephone numbers they are on display at the meetings and now included on the back of our newsletter so, finding out more about a group and/or joining it, is just a phone call away.

As you know Andy Riby is standing down as our treasurer at the AGM in July. Also Kathryn Cope will be standing down as our speaker seeker. Thank you Kathryn and Andy for all your hard work. If any of you are interested in taking over these positions please contact a member of the committee.

Irene Brooks

Winning photos

I have had the pleasure of having my photo of 'Trolleys' accepted for the u3a eye website. The theme for February was 'repetition'.

You can see my photograph and other entries on www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/u3a-eye

Why not enter one of your photographs?"

Bob Hunt



Mystery solved

For those of you still trying to work out what Bob's winning abstract photo was – see February issue of the newsletter – it was a kitchen spatula!



The April general meeting is by ticket only midday on Friday 14 April 2023 at Forest Town Arena

Motoring manners!



Paula Cornell in the guise of the Hon. Mrs Victor Bruce was our speaker at the General Meeting on Friday 3 March. She entertained a packed Forest Town Arena with tales of driving in the 1920s. Her interactive talk looked to answer the question: Do you have the perfect driving temperament for 1920's motoring?

Amongst the many pieces of advice she gave was how to avoid a 1920s speed trap – put your foot down because then the man hiding in the bushes doesn't have time to signal the man up the road with the stopwatch!

Interest groups' update

Painting and drawing

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Christine Cawthorne is now unable to lead this group. Fortunately, Mike Lyall, an excellent artist himself, has offered to reinstate the group. The meeting times are as before, the 4th Thursday in the month at the Sherwood Centre 14.00 to 16.00. All skill levels are welcome.

Crochet and knitting

We now have a leader for this group. Jane Vernon has offered to share her skills. Whether you are a beginner or more practised, it's a relaxed meeting where you can work on your own project and enjoy a chat.

The group has also opened up to knitters, so feel free to come and knit or crochet. The sessions will be at the Sherwood Centre on Stuart Avenue on the 3rd Thursday mornings of the month at 10.00.



Our chair person, Irene, was persuaded to have a go – here's her first attempt

Litter pickers pick

Wow! What a wonderful Litter Pick session around various locations in Forest Town by a fabulous group of volunteers from the u3a.

The morning started with a miserable amount of rainfall. Ten volunteers arrived despite the weather. Just after they commenced, the rain eased and then stopped, allowing the volunteers to carry out a very thorough cleanup of streets and verges in Forest Town and District over the following two hours.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all you volunteers.



Litter Pick Group Leader: **Mike Lyall**
Meet 4th Tuesdays

Book Group

We met at Forest Town library to discuss the latest book, *'The Secrets of Strangers'* by Charity Norman. It was agreed by everyone that it was an excellent read.

The story revolves around a group of people held hostage by a gunman in a cafe. The characters' lives are explored first and then as the siege develops preconceptions are challenged and the reader is inexorably swept towards a page-turning conclusion.

If you are a member of Inspire you can access the audio version through Libby or borrow the book from a library. **There is no meeting for the Book Group in May.**

Book Group Leader: **Ann Stanford**
Meet 1st Mondays

Coronation poppies



Thank you to anyone who has been making these for us. Can you please hand them in at Forest Town Library or the Thursday Coffee Morning at St Alban's Church by Thursday 13 April.

Pauline Marples

Getting ready for Easter

For our March meeting about a dozen of us had a decorative morning making Easter bonnets (as shown), to be worn at the April 14 event. The table was strewn with colourful springtime items and the glue gun was much in use. Tea/coffee and biscuits helped us along.

The small garden outside is coming into its own, with daffodils in bud, and one or two flowering primulas and pansies. There is more work to do but it's looking tidy and has a little colour.

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



Ramblers brave the mud in March

Our first walk in March was led by Carol from Ashfield u3a. A steep ascent out of Matlock Bath took us to the war memorial high above Matlock with commanding views over the town.

Then it was up thorough Lumsdale, a steep sided wooded gorge, with the ruins of historic watermills and spectacular waterfalls. Continuing on uphill, we eventually arrived at our lunch spot, Cocking Tor, with extensive views from Ashover across to Ogden reservoir, with Hardwick Hall and Bolsover Castle in the far distance. Our return route was largely downhill thankfully, through pleasant countryside with Riber Castle marking our direction of travel. A visit to the

café in Matlock's lovely Hall Leys park rounded off a fine walk.

Snowmelt made our second walk in March from Linacre Reservoirs near Cutthorpe in Derbyshire quite challenging. A ford across an insignificant stream on the recce was now a torrent which we did well to cross without getting wet feet. Mud, deep in places, provided a significant slip risk, but we had only one fall, thankfully without injury.

On the plus side, this was an interesting and varied walk with some fine country houses to admire, lovely views to take in, fields of alpacas to watch and a very strange horse jump in the shape of a giant swan to climb on.



Our next rambles: 5 April: Nether Broughton, Queensway Old Dalby, Old Dalby and Upper Broughton (7.8 miles). 19 April: Combs reservoir and the White Hall Centre (8.3 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

Current affairs group tackle some fascinating subjects

Discussions on a wide range of current news took place. Some themes explored were should:

- ◆ Harry attend the Coronation?
- ◆ There be a review of old literature through the eyes of 'sensitive readers'?
- ◆ We eat seasonally?
- ◆ Prisoners be released after serving half their time?
- ◆ to the BBC's pursuit of replacing well respected, knowledgeable presenters in order to attract younger people?

The consensus on reviewing literature such as classic tales like Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty, was that they should not be altered. We should however eat more seasonally and more homegrown food but everyone has the opportunity to eat a variety of worldwide foods, which even though they do not always taste good out of

season, do prove hard to resist for the variety they offer.

Prisoners should serve their sentence but there was a split view on the BBC's change of presenters, particularly on the radio.

A question on immigration and the £7million a day spent on housing, brought a lively discussion. The use of fruit and mushroom skins as an alternative to leather and an intriguing question on an exascale computer that can carry out one quintillion calculations a second. How would you even write a quintillion?
(1,000,000,000,000,000,000)

This Current Affairs Group is currently full but if there is anyone who would like to start a Current Affairs Group 2 we would offer support to do so. It is a lovely group to run, no pressure and a great way of meeting, discussing with a cup of tea and biscuits. What

more could you ask? See Marilyn Redfern, Group Co-ordinator, for further details on starting Current Affairs 2.

Current Affairs Group Leader:
Michael King
Meet on 2nd Wednesdays

Jim Bentley RIP

We are sad to report the loss of one of our members, Jim Bentley.

Jim passed away on 5 March. His funeral at Mansfield Crematorium is on Wednesday 5 April at 14.00

Our thoughts go out to Cindy, Adrian, Martin and family at this very sad time.

Scotland here we come!

Off we go to Scotland with Blue Pigeon Travel: "Got to get those pigeons out!" Those of you that have been on a Blue Pigeon bus will know what that means. The trip North was great. Kevin Cope won both the line and full house at a game of bingo. He said he would buy us all a drink but it was an all inclusive holiday. Tuesday night we were entertained by a Scottish dancer and a piper and there was a *Toast to The Haggis*; we all tried some.

We did some country dancing, drank some wine and had a brilliant night.

Wednesday we passed by Stirling Castle on our way to Glasgow.

Stirling Castle is one of the largest and most important Castles in Scotland, both historically and architecturally. The Castle dates from the early 12th century.

Wednesday night we were entertained by *The Jersey Notes*, a Jersey Boys tribute. We were all on our feet dancing.

Thursday we went to Edinburgh. What a beautiful city, amazing architecture, buildings on top of cliffs. How did they do that? Our tour guide was a mine of information.

Friday was a trip to Stirling with time to shop and walk up to the castle.

We went over Duke's Pass on the A821 between Aberfoyle and Brig 'O' Turk.

Its hairpin bends climb to 240 metres above sea level with stunning, breathtaking views. A twisting winding stream meanders through the trees till it reaches its destination, the magnificent Loch Katrine where Sir Walter Scott was inspired to write his epic poem *The Lady of the Lake*.

On the way back we stopped at Loch Lomond for a boat trip.

The weather had been perfect all the time we were there.

Wall-to-wall sunshine (there was 6ins of snow back home).

Saturday we reluctantly packed our cases to head home. A good time was had by everyone.

Irene Brooks



Lunch group go to Farnsfield

Lovely lunch at the Lion in Farnsfield.
Good food, good service.

Report & photo by Angelina Taylor
Luncheon Club Group Leader:
Irene Brooks



At a Glance Event Diary

April

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14 April at 12 midday

Forest Town Arena

Lunch & Easter Bonnet Parade

Price: £5 each.

SPRINGFIELDS DAY TRIP

Tuesday 11 April Price: £14

NEWSTEAD ABBEY

Tuesday 18 April

NATIONAL TRUST SUDBURY

Saturday 22 April

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

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

July

GENERAL MEETING including AGM

Friday 7 July, 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

NATIONAL TRUST LYME PARK

Saturday 8 July Price £11

RIVER CRUISE

Wednesday 12 July

SUMMER BALL

Saturday 22 July

August

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 4 August, 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 8 August

September

NATIONAL TRUST WIGHTWICK

MANOR AND MOSELEY OLD HALL

Saturday 2 September Price: £15

Upcoming trip & event details

Tickets now available for our Summer Ball

We will be holding our first Summer Ball on **Saturday 22 July** at the Forest Town Arena starting at 7.30pm. There will be a complimentary drink on arrival with a buffet later in the evening. We have the 20-piece Ravenshead Swing Band to entertain us playing dance, swing and pop music.

This event is open to members and friends of Forest Town & District u3a.

Tickets are £15 and are available at General Meetings **or** **contact Kathryn on 07711 128897.**

Kathryn Cope

Looking forward to Newstead Abbey

We are looking forward to our tour and afternoon tea at the Abbey on 18 April. I will be visiting Jonathan at the Abbey to confirm details of meeting points and times and will then email details to members booked on this trip or give you a call. Let's hope the weather is kind then we can have a stroll around the gardens after our tea.

Kathryn Cope

Fun lunch

After the success of our fish and chip quiz we will be holding a *fun lunch* on Wednesday 7 June, 12.00 midday at St Lawrence's Church Hall.

This time our lunch will be pie & peas with tea or coffee. We will play some fun games during the afternoon with prizes to be won.

So come along and have a few laughs and plenty of chatter. Tickets for this are £10 and available now. **contact Kathryn on 07711 128897**

Kathryn Cope

Coronation celebration

We will be celebrating the Coronation on Friday 5 May with a toast to his Majesty King Charles III followed by a cream tea.

There are just a few tickets left for this event. Unfortunately, when the room is set out with tables, the Arena has a limit of 144 people for safety reasons.

We have Carlton & Gedling Ukulele group and our tea ladies' *Right Royal Quiz*.

It is just £1 a ticket (we are asking for this so that we can check how many people are attending). Your ticket number will be put into a draw for an afternoon tea for two with prosecco at The Tea Rooms, Carr Bank Park.

More information and booking details for the above will be available at general meetings or you may **contact me on 07711 128897**

Kathryn Cope

National Trust – the definitive list

- ◆ Saturday 22 April to Sudbury. 10.00 pick up from Forest Town Arena.
- ◆ Saturday 13 May to Biddulph Grange Gardens and Little Moreton Hall. Four seats left at £18. Payment due April meeting please. Leave Forest Town Arena at 09.00.
- ◆ Saturday 8 July to Lyme Park. £11. Leave Forest Town Arena at 10.00.
- ◆ Saturday 2 September to Wightwick Manor and Mosley Old Hall. £15. Leave Forest Town Arena at 09.30.
- ◆ **THURSDAY** 5 October to Stoneywell and Calke Abbey. £10. Leave the Arena at 10.00.

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

Which interest group will you join?

Just pick up
the phone

Group	When	Where	Time	Leader
Book Club	1st Mondays	Forest Town Library	10.30–12.00	Ann Stanford 01623 641864
Computers & IT	Any time	Member's home	By arrangement	Robert Hunt 07588 047885
Country Dancing	2nd Tuesdays	Flint Avenue Centre	14.00–16.00	Ann Stanford 01623 641864
Crochet & Knitting	3rd Thursdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00–12.00	Jane Vernon 07947 958850
Cryptic Crosswords	4th Thursdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00–12.00	Kay Toy 01623 652245
Current Affairs	2nd Wednesdays	Flint Ave Centre	10.00–12.00	Michael King 01623 470629
Days Out & Holidays	Advertised at general meetings 1st Fridays	Forest Town Arena	10.30 start	Angelina Taylor 01623 622871
Evening Dinner Out	4th Thursdays	Various	18.30	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
Gardening & Crafts	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00–12.00	Angelina Taylor 01623 622871
Litter Pick	4th Tuesdays	Meet at Forest Town Arena	10.00	Mike Lyall 07782 878619
Luncheon club	Various	Various	Lunchtime	Irene Brooks 07765 970751
Music 50s, 60s & 70s	2nd Fridays	Forest Town Arena	14.00–16.00	Win Wall & Irene Brooks 07765 970751
National Trust	Some Saturdays	Meet at Forest Town Arena	Various	Ann Stanford 01623 641864
Painting & Drawing	4th Thursdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00–16.00	Mike Lyall 07782 878619
Photography	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00–16.00	Angelina Taylor 01623 622871
Rambling 7–9 miles	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	Various	Various	Andy Riby 01623 656958
Strollers	3rd Fridays	Various	10.30 departure	Denise Doud 01623 619856
Table Tennis	1st Tuesdays	Oak Tree Centre	11.30–13.30	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
Trace Your Family Tree	3rd Tuesdays	Flint Avenue Centre	14.00–16.00	Andrew & Julie Rowbottom 01623 636223
Zumba	2nd Mondays	St Lawrence Church Hall	11.30–12.15	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731

All members are invited to come along to the General Meetings which are held on the first Friday in the month at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30 start.

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, email: webftu3a@gmail.com

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 23 April 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417