



What a difference a year makes!

Last June we were raising a glass to Queen Elizabeth II celebrating her platinum jubilee and singing God save the Queen, then in September what a turnaround, people from around the world were glued to their TVs watching her funeral.

And what an amazing send-off; only the Brits could do that so well.

This May we were raising a glass and singing God save The King to mark King Charles III's coronation. Not such a grand affair but that's how he wanted it.

Over the same time, our u3a has come on in leaps and bounds, getting stronger all the time with new interest groups being offered. Please take advantage of them.

The start-up of the social group has been a great addition to our u3a. It has taken the pressure off, six heads are better than one.

We've had some great outings and holidays starting with Scotland in March. Hopefully we will go again next year. One place we are definitely going is Thursford in November for the Christmas spectacular. I for one am really looking forward to that.

Next May we are off to Germany for Rhine in flames – five ships with fireworks going off on them! Thank you Kathryn for organising it.

Alongside the good there has also been some sad times. We have lost a few of our members and our hearts go out to their friends and family.

Also this July at our AGM Andy our treasurer is stepping down. Thank you Andy for all your dedication. We welcome Sue Robinson along with Jenny Vernalls as our new treasurer and assistant treasurer, respectively. All the other committee members are staying on. Thank you to all of you.

There are so many people that keep our u3a going, Helen, our newsletter editor, Bob Hunt, always there to keep us wired for sound and the website up-to-date. Where would we be without Penny from the Arena helping us out whenever we need her. We are so fortunate to have this venue.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep this u3a going.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead so please go on the trips, holidays and days out and join the interest groups. It's your u3a but unless you get involved we won't move forward.

Thank you

Irene Brooks



July meeting



By DevilsPorridge LN <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=107024148>

Our July meeting on Friday 7 July, 10.30 at the Forest town Arena will include the Annual General Meeting. Papers have already been sent to members.

Following the AGM our speaker will be the historian David Skillen. David will be telling us about *The Gretna Green Girls and the Devil's Porridge*. He will provide a fascinating insight into the secret factory where the Gretna Green Girls stirred the dangerous explosives mixture that helped win the First World War.

August meeting

Dr Tim Gray, a retired GP and founder/chairman of EMICS – East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme, will be our speaker on Friday 4 August, 10.30 at the Forest Town Arena. EMICS has a team of volunteer doctors who assist the East Midlands Ambulance Service at the scene of emergencies.



Newsletter editor is taking a break

As usual there will be no newsletter in August but, in addition to the normal break, your editor is taking a holiday in September so there will be no October newsletter either, unless, of course, you or someone you know would like to take on the role!



Our June speaker, Steve Lovell (pictured), gave an enthusiastic talk about gardens and gardening and how to create habitats to encourage different species of wildlife. Hopefully everyone went away to make what are often only small changes to their gardening that will allow our native species to thrive.

Strollers

The Stroller group met up at King's Mill Water Park in June. Just seven of us braved the very warm morning and had a wander around. Iced coffee was enjoyed and definitely required afterwards.

Our next stroll will be at Vicar Water on 21 July at 10.30.

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

Bentley family send their thanks

Cindy, Martin and Adrian would like to thank everyone for their kind donations. A total of £260 has been raised for Cancer Research UK. We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you for all your well wishes and kind words over the last few months. Hearing your personal memories and stories has been a great comfort and given us a time to laugh and share a smile as Jim would have wanted us to do.

Interest groups show off!

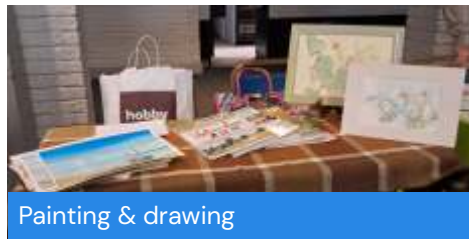
A few of our interest groups had display tables at the June general meeting to show their wares and invite members to join them. Thanks go to Bob Hunt for this selection of pictures from the meeting.



Tabletop games



Photos snap & chat



Painting & drawing



Garden craft

Crochet & knitting up and running

My name is Jane Vernon and I recently joined Forest Town & District u3a. In a short space of time I decided to set up the Crocheting & Knitting interest group. These are hobbies I really enjoy as I am sure many others do.

My father taught me to crotchet when I was about seven. My mother taught me to knit, so I have crocheted and knitted most of my life. I taught myself to read patterns when I was about 15 and, since then, I have never stopped. I knit and crotchet for myself, my family, my friends and also just for pleasure.

So this group is very much up and running. Thanks to Hilary for her generous donation of knitting needles, patterns and wool.

SO NO EXCUSE YOU DON'T NEED ANY MATERIALS WE CAN PROVIDE THEM.

Please come and join in the fun. We crotchet, knit, natter and have a coffee and biscuit.

Crochet & Knitting Group Leader:
Jane Vernon Meet 3rd Thursdays

Card craft group has first session

The new Card Craft Group had its first meeting at the Sherwood Centre on Monday 25 June. A good turn out and everyone seemed to enjoy their first session.



Card Craft Group Leader:
Sue Buchanan Meet 4th Mondays

Gloves & full waterproofs in June - really?

Our first walk in June took place on a dull and surprisingly cold day from Ilam Park in Staffordshire.

We were regretting not bringing gloves (in June!) but soon warmed up when Brian led us up a big hill to Castern Hall. Unfortunately, the hall was wrapped in a giant bag with nothing visible as major repair works are being carried out.

Lunch was taken in the hamlet of Milldale by the River Dove where we shared our sandwiches with a very tame robin and some ducks. The sun eventually came out as we wandered down Dove Dale with its precipitously steep sides, stopping on the way to explore caves and admire the view from Lovers' Leap.

After crossing the river via the stepping stones, we explored the pretty village of Ilam and the surrounding parkland before enjoying an alfresco cuppa in the sunshine back at Ilam Hall.

Our second walk was also in Staffordshire set out from the imposing 18th century Gradbach Mill which produced silk until 1880. A long climb took us up and over Midgley Hill and down to the hamlet of Wildboarclough in the next valley, with another former mill and Crag Hall, one of the Earl of Derby's country residences, and magnificent views of Shuttlingsloe, dubbed the Matterhorn of the Peak District.

Our lunch stop was at the Three Shires Head, the point on Axe Edge Moor where Cheshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire meet. We endured a torrential downpour on an otherwise warm and pleasant day. We were treated to a close-up view of two curlews on the way down from the moor to round off a thoroughly enjoyable walk.



Our next rambles:

5 July: Cowers Lane and Turnditch area (7.5 miles).
19 July: Minibus outing Grosment to Whitby (fully booked). 2 August: Repton, Foremark, Anchor church
16 August: Manifold Valley. **New members welcome.**

Ramblers Group Leader: **Andrew Riby.**

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles. Meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Contact Andrew on: 01623 656958
Mobile: 07833 543705 Email: ribya@imcgroup.co.uk

Can you beat the experts?



After several requests for the *Tabletop Games Group* to come back and with help from Marilyn and previous leaders, I decided to step up as group leader and get us rolling again. We had an enjoyable afternoon playing Rummikub, Scrabble, various card games etc: Any experts out there? We are all willing to learn other games too. We have: Back Gammon, Triominoes, Chess, Shut The Box, Wheel of Fortune, several sets of cards and Uno. Please come along and join in the fun. I would like to thank Alan Kelly for donating several games to get us started and also those members who brought in their own games.

**So, we are setting you a challenge:
COME ALONG AND SEE IF YOU CAN
BEAT THE EXPERTS!**

Tabletop Games Group Leader:
Jane Vernon Meet 4th Mondays

Garden crafts



We all made these flowers from plastic bottles. Group leader Angelina says: "They look lovely in the garden and last a long time."

Gardening Craft Group Leader:
Angelina Taylor
Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Trace your family tree group discover yet more

The June *Trace Your Family Tree* meeting began with a recap of some of the 'brick walls' from last month followed by news of new developments.

Malcolm's May 'brick wall', trying to decipher a name spelling, had been helped by research from two members of the group which suddenly put things in place for him leading to new information being discovered.

Pauline's mistake of accidentally and unintentionally upgrading to international access online, suddenly made her realise that she could begin to research further information on a stem of her family who had, at some point emigrated to Canada and America. She took a letter which had been written in 1912 to a family member back in England and contained details of the family and their daughters' married names and managed to look up information about the people mentioned using her access to an overseas census from the early 1900's.

For the remainder of the meeting we discussed the information that can be found about family members in

the 1939 England and Wales National Register. Many of us knew about the 1939 Register but had not fully appreciated what the various colour-coded writing added onto the document meant. Pauline had brought the details from the Register for Forest Town which we looked at in conjunction with Bulletin provided by Julie to examine the finer details of the register.



Report by **Ann Alcock**

Trace Your Family Tree Group Leaders:

Andrew & Julie Rowbottom Meet 3rd Tuesdays

It's now photos snap & chat



At our June meeting we decided that our new name will be **Photos Snap & Chat**. The first half of the meeting will be a general chat then we will move on to photography. Hopefully we will get more members along. Want more info about the group? Please get in touch or just come along to a meeting (See page 6 for group contact details).

Photos on our theme of landscape were displayed and a winner was chosen. I am pleased to say that it was mine.

It was taken in York standing on the Millennium bridge looking down the river.

Report by: **Steve Edis**

Photography Group Leader:

Alan Taylor Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Art group say come and join us



Painting & Drawing Group Leader:

Mike Lyall

Meet 4th Thursdays

Lunch?

In June we went to *The Fox and Hounds* at Blidworth Bottoms.

Desperate Dan would have

been over the moon with the steak and ale pie. If you're looking for a great place to eat and are hungry, look no further.

We would definitely go there again. Next meal is July 19 at *The Water Lily*, next to Currys/PC World. If you would like to join us please let me know. £5 deposit required.



Luncheon Club Group Leader:

Irene Brooks

At a Glance Event Diary

July

GENERAL MEETING including AGM

Friday 7 July, 10.30

Forest Town Arena

David Skillen, *The Gretna Green Girls and the Devil's Porridge*

NATIONAL TRUST LYME PARK

Saturday 8 July Price £11

Leave Forest Town Arena at 9.30

TRENT RIVER CRUISE

Wednesday 12 July

SUMMER BALL

Saturday 22 July

August

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 4 August 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

Dr Tim Gray MBE

September

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 1 September, 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

NATIONAL TRUST WIGHTWICK MANOR AND MOSELEY OLD HALL

Saturday 2 September Price: £15

Leave Forest Town Arena at 09.30.

THE BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM

Friday 15 September

October

NATIONAL TRUST STONEYWELL & CALKE ABBEY

Thursday 5 October Price £10

Departs the Arena at 10.00

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6 October, 10.30,

Forest Town Arena

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday 27 October

Fish & Chip lunch & quiz is a winner

We had yet another great time at St Lawrence Church on Wednesday 7 June. The fish and chips from Sue's on Peck's Hill were amazing as usual. Our fish and chips relay guys: Alan Taylor, Kevin Cope and Barry Walker were running back and forth making sure they were piping hot. Thank you guys.

Kathryn did a great job of putting together a picture quiz bingo: £15 for the line and an amazing £50 for the full house.

New to a lot of us we had a game of Beetle, if you've never tried it please do. We were laughing all the way through it. It was a great way of mixing things up and getting to meet other people on different tables.

Everyone had a good time, thank you Kathryn for all your hard work. Can't wait till next time.

Irene Brooks



Potters holiday enjoyed

A total of 56 u3a members, including some from our Forest Town & District enjoyed a few nights at the Potters resort in Norfolk in June. The holiday was organised by Denise Whitsed who said: "This event has been so popular it's re-booked yearly. From the quizzes, to the Pimms on the terrace, to listening to the entertainers, there is a full programme: archery, dancing chukka hoop, curling and pickleball; some even tried the Segways and the giant swing!"

As one u3a guest explained: "The food was first class with choices galore for all courses and to suit absolutely everyone's needs. The staff could not do enough and the entertainment made you feel like you were watching a West-End show. Not only was the singing superb but the costume changes, and the number of them, blew your mind. A big THANK YOU to Denise. Her meticulous planning made the holiday extra special for everyone."



Summer Ball grab your ticket now!

Join us on **Saturday 22 July** at the Forest Town Arena for our first ever Summer Ball. Complimentary drink on arrival and buffet included.

Music from the Ravenshead Swing Band - dance, swing and pop.

Open to members and friends of Forest Town & District u3a.

Tickets £15 available at General Meetings contact **Kathryn Cope** on **07711 128897**.



Image by pch.vector on Freepik

Which interest groups will you join?

Just pick up the phone or turn up on the day

Group	When	Where	Time	Leader
Book Club	1st Mondays	Forest Town Library	10.30–12.00	Ann Stanford 01623 641864
Card Craft	4th Mondays	Sherwood Centre	10.00–12.00	Sue Buchanan
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
Garden 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	Suspended until further notice	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
Photos snap & chat	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
Tabletop Games	4th Mondays	Flint Avenue	14.00–16.00	Jane Vernon 07947 958850
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 General Meetings – 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 is Sept

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 20 August 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417