



## Where has this year gone?

I can't believe it's September already and what a successful year it's been, with our fish and chips quizzes, holiday to Scotland, a river cruise with Mansfield & Dukeries u3a, the incredible Summer Ball and, still to come, our trip to The Black Country Museum.

Coming soon, there is also our Halloween party in October with pie and pea supper and *The Moonshiners* playing your favourite songs. Get your fancy dress ready and, not advertised yet, we are having a Party Bash in November to celebrate our 8th birthday. More details to follow. Our beloved music group is also starting back up on 8 September.

I don't really want to mention the 'C' word but *The Hostess* is all booked for our celebrations. We will also be having a 'C' get together in December, date and information will follow soon.

Our social group is meeting next month to put together another incredible year of trips, activities and holidays. Kathryn has kicked things off with the trip to *Rhine in Flames* next May, so stay tuned to see what your u3a has planned.

Irene Brooks

## Big thank you from Dr Tim

Dr Tim Gray, a retired GP and founder/chairman of EMICS – East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme, was our speaker on Friday 4 August. His graphic accounts of road traffic collisions and other medical emergencies where EMICS – a team of volunteer doctors who assist the East Midlands Ambulance Service – attend, wasn't exactly entertainment but it was instructive. Such a shame that our NHS can't offer the sort of emergency response that EMICS provides nationally but, of course, whilst demand for health care is infinite, resources to fund it are not! We are lucky that, in our region, we have such a band of volunteers.

Tim put his speaker's fee into the pot and with that and the donations made by members Forest Town & District u3a raised a fantastic £312.35. Tim tells us that the donation will be used to purchase and maintain the emergency medical equipment that EMICS volunteer doctors use to treat seriously ill and injured patients.



Dr Tim Gray, left, with our Mike Lyall

## Watch your waste in October

On 6 October Lesley Taylor from Veolia will be testing us on the rubbish we throw away. So come along to The Arena for the meeting on Friday 6 October, 10.30 start, to discover: *Do you know your rubbish?*

## My Extra Life

The speaker at our September meeting on Friday 1 September, 10.30 at the Forest Town Arena, is Mike Newbold. Mike's talk is: *My Extra Life*.

He will be telling us about his life as an extra on TV and in films for the past 17 years during which, he says, he has encountered some interesting and strange people.

## Gretna girls



The historian David Skillen, pictured, gave a fascinating talk at our July meeting. His presentation: *The Gretna Green Girls and the Devil's Porridge* explained how Gretna came to be chosen as the secret site for the factory where the Gretna Green Girls stirred the dangerous explosives mixture that helped win the First World War.

He outlined just how enormous the site was and how dangerous the work. Interestingly he explained how Sherlock Holmes' creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, after a visit to the factory, changed his view entirely and became a supporter of votes for women.

# Spectacular Summer Ball 2023

It had been 28 years since I had taken to the floor for a waltz with my dear Dad but on the evening of the Summer Ball I took to the floor once more, with my partner Raymond Jones. It was a lovely trip down memory lane.

But it wasn't all waltz and quickstep. Those who could, did, but the majority just danced the night -away in their own style.

The decorated room with twinkling lights, glitter ball and beautifully decorated tables set the scene. We were greeted by our two butlers Kevin Cope and Alan

Taylor, our very own 007s, with a glass of Prosecco, and then joined friends at our pre-booked tables.

The evening began with Ravenshead Swing Band playing American Patrol (those brought up with Glen Miller definitely appreciated this tune). But, it wasn't all swing. Amongst other tracks we had Elton John, arranged by one of the young talented musicians in the band. The evening progressed with a delicious buffet provided by Penny and the Arena staff. There was a free raffle with prizes of wine, chocolate and other goodies, then more dancing for the rest of the night.

The music was rounded off by those who could joining in with *New York, New York*. But, in the event, that wasn't the end. We all shouted "more" and were treated to two more songs from the band.

The question at the end of the night was: "Should we do this again next year?" All in all it was a lovely evening. As one member said: "Where else could you go for a Saturday night out like this for just £15!" All I can say is watch this space for July 2024

**Kathryn Cope**



## A very satisfied customer

Just want to say a big thank you to Kathryn and all concerned for a wonderful night at the Summer Ball. I am sure I am speaking for all that attended. The entertainment was brilliant, well suited for the night, and a big thank you to the Arena for a great buffet.

The room layout was perfect; the seating and tables looked amazing.

**Steve Eddis**



# Fun finding the route with fish & chips to boot

With our illustrious leader, Andy, incapacitated, it fell to Helen to lead the first walk in July, Cowers Lane & Turnditch. As Helen explained to the eight members starting the walk, it came with a health warning. Whilst she had accompanied Andy on the recce, that was five weeks earlier and, had she known she would be leading, she'd have paid more attention to the route!!

Armed, after a crash course the night before, with Andy's GPS and map, the group set off on the road to cross the railway bridge.

As a back-up, Andy has sent Carol an electronic copy of the route. At the point where we were to leave the road Carol confidently shouted right turn. Striding out on a level path Helen was still grappling with the GPS. After 15 minutes or so it became apparent that the group was doing the circular route backwards. No wonder the GPS didn't like it. To be fair, Carol had not been told which way round we were doing it. The leader should have known that – oops! But, we were, where we were, and everyone agreed there was no point in turning back. Brian, Georganne, Mary and Carol all mucked in with route finding and it became a collaborative adventure.

To add to the navigational challenge, the paths in this part of the Peak District are very little walked so there were many sections with no visible path. Stiles were overgrown with 6ft high nettles and brambles blocking the way. The secateurs that Andy had suggested Helen bring, were put to good use.

Having a drink in the pub at the end of the walk everyone agreed they'd had a lovely, if more chaotic than usual, day's walk.



Overgrown paths were an extra challenge!

The second walk in July was the group's annual mini-bus trip. For 2023 we chose a walk from Grosmont down the Esk valley to Whitby where a fish and chip tea awaited before the bus ride home. Following the river wasn't as easy as it sounds – there were plenty of ups and downs to challenge the group. The weather was lovely although it did cloud over as we arrived into Whitby – making the choice between a paddle and a pint that much easier!!

The group had only one walk in August due to a last-minute medical scare and a poor weather forecast resulting in the abandonment of our first.

However, our sole August walk was a classic, high up in the moors west of Sheffield. We enjoyed an easy start, heading downhill with views over Strines reservoir and past Boot's Folly, a 45 foot high tower. The tower is no longer accessible as the spiral staircase has been



The Esk Valley steam train greeted us at the walk start



removed, allegedly after a cow ascended the stairs and became stuck. Passing below the reservoir dam, we began a long and, at times, steep climb to the highest point of Derwent Edge, Back Tor at 1,765 feet. Having just nicely settled down to eat our lunch and admire the view, we were attacked by clouds of thunder flies, forcing us to quickly pack up and move on.

Views from the edge were magnificent, with Emley Moor TV mast to the distant north, Kinder Scout and the Great Ridge to the west and Stanage Edge to the south, Ladybower reservoir below us and Cottam power station far to the east. Those pesky flies though showed no mercy, giving up pursuit only after we left the edge.



**Our next rambles:** 6 September: Bakewell area.  
20 September: Manifold trail. **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](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)

## At a Glance Event Diary

### September

#### GENERAL MEETING

Friday 1 September, 10.30,  
Forest Town Arena  
Mike Newbold : 'My Extra Life'

#### NATIONAL TRUST WIGHTWICK MANOR AND MOSELEY OLD HALL

Saturday 2 September Price: £15  
Leave Forest Town Arena at 09.30.  
Fully booked

#### THE BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM Friday 15 September

A TASTE OF THE OPERA  
Wednesday 20 September  
Mansfield Palace Theatre

### October

#### NATIONAL TRUST STONEYWELL & CALKE ABBEY

Thursday 5 October Price £10  
Departs the Arena at 10.00  
Fully booked

#### GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6 October, 10.30,  
Forest Town Arena

*Lesley Taylor from Veolia asks:  
'Do you know your rubbish?'*

HALLOWEEN PARTY  
Friday 27 October

### November

#### GENERAL MEETING

Friday 3 November 10.30,  
Forest Town Arena

#### ROGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA

Saturday 11 November  
Mansfield Palace Theatre

### December

#### GENERAL MEETING

Friday 1 December 10.30,  
Forest Town Arena

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 15 December  
The Hostess

## Our country dancers entertain



Our Country Dancing group demonstrated five dances at Forest Town Women's Institute's (WI) Summer Camp. We dodged the rainstorms and had a wonderful time sharing our dances. Irene did a sterling job trying to keep us all in order, reminding us what came next and, of course, though perfect in our practice session, we did go wrong – once – but this caused great laughter and enjoyment!

The WI Facebook page includes some amusing video of when the dance went wrong. Follow this link to view:

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestTownWI/videos/830385075100199>

#### Dates for the rest of 2023 & January 2024

Tuesday 12 September, 10 October, 14  
November, 12 December & 9 January 24.

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

## Upcoming theatre trips

- ◆ A Taste of the Opera on Wednesday 20 September at 7.30pm. Running time 1 hour. Mansfield Palace Theatre. Tickets £5. Tickets that were paid for in August will be ready to collect at September's meeting.
- ◆ Masque Productions on Saturday November 11 at 2.30pm, Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at Mansfield Palace Theatre. Tickets £18-50. Cheques made payable to Masque Productions.
- ◆ ONE u3a chance to book a seat for the Westfield Folkhouse Panto, Sleeping Beauty, Mansfield Palace Theatre on Saturday 13 January 2024 at 2.30pm. £7-50. Cash please. **Available at September's meeting only.** The seats sell out quickly for this local group.
- ◆ Coming also in 2024. Mansfield Operatic Society's production of Kinky Boots.

**Ann Stanford**

## All aboard!

Come aboard the *Princess River Cruise*. We joined Mansfield & Dukeries u3a for a night of fun and entertainment on the River Trent on Wednesday 12 July. We all had a great night, dancing the night away with good food and good friends,

Going to book it again next year!

**Irene Brooks**





# 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 07752 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 07752 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), Sue Robinson (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), 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](mailto:webftu3a@gmail.com)

## Next issue is Nov

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 October 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417