



A time to remember

November is the time for remembering all the people that have lost their lives in war, but we also need to take time out to remember the members of our own families and other loved ones that we have lost.

There will be a moment of silence at our November general meeting to allow us all to think about both.

On 17 November at the Arena there is a fund raiser for cancer research. Tickets are just £5. It is being organised by Steve Saunders from Ready Steady 60s. Please can I urge you to attend.



On a lighter note, your Committee is excited about the year we have got planned for you. Your social group has been working hard to provide you with trips, days out and days in. Keep an eye on your newsletter for details.

See you all soon.

Irene Brooks

Interest group update

This year has seen lots of changes in our u3a. There are events and trips every month and we try to find something to interest all our members. Getting out and about and staying connected is crucial to our mental well-being.

However, we are not just a social club. The key u3a aim is to provide opportunities in later life to continue to learn and enjoy new skills, to stretch our imagination, to share our interests and knowledge. Having a mental work-out is just as important as a physical one. Forest Town u3a is trying to give you opportunity for both, which means that there is always room for a new group. So, if you have any ideas, please let us know.

On that note we have had recent suggestions for the following:

- ◆ A theatre group: local and further afield;
- ◆ A bus pass group: with a challenge to get out and about on the bus to places of interest;
- ◆ Our own choir: wouldn't that be great?;
- ◆ Re launching the bird watching group;
- ◆ Re launching the cycling group;
- ◆ Re launching ten pin bowling;
- ◆ Line dancing: learning routines to music is good for the soul.

To get off the ground these new groups will need new leaders. Opportunity knocks! Please get in touch.

Marilyn Redfern

Canon returns



Friday 3 November 2023

Canon Alan Haydock

It is better than working for a living

Canon Alan Haydock will return as the speaker for our November meeting, 10.30 at Forest Town Arena.

Kathryn Cope explains her choice: "I will be hanging up my Speaker Seeker's hat at the end of this year and I thought it would be good to have one of my favourite speakers return. I am so pleased Alan has agreed to present his second talk: *It is better than working for a living.*"

Life as an 'Extra'

The speaker at our September meeting was Mike Newbold.

Mike told us about his life as an extra on TV and in films; something he has done for the past 17 years.



Snap & Chat - new members welcome

Hi to you all. We only had a small group in October but had a good discussion about our way forward. At the November general meeting we will have a display of some of the photos that we have taken in the past year. There will also be two folders for all to look at just to see what can be achieved using a camera or a mobile phone. With a little instruction anyone can create good photos using either their mobile or an SLR camera. At the meeting Arthur will give a short talk on what we do in the group explaining different ways to take photos using the phone or the camera.

If you have any questions, come and see us at our presentation stand at the meeting. We are looking for new members so please come and speak to us. Alongside are a few photos, some taken using my mobile phone and some using my SLR camera just to show you what can be achieved with a little advice.



New Lads' Breakfast Club

A new breakfast club with the focus on encouraging the guys to meet, eat and chew the fat (possibly quite literally) has been launched. Group leader Kevin Cope says: "Calling all men out there, I am looking to start a *Young Lads' Breakfast Club*. Our first breakfast will be at Rumbles situated at Vicar Water, Clipstone, at 10.00 on Tuesday 28 November.

"If you fancy coming along for breakfast and a good chat then please come and see me at the November general meeting or get me on 07902 579299. I have copies of the Rumbles menu for you to browse."

Breakfast Club Group Leader:
Kevin Cope Meet 4th Tuesdays
Contact Kevin on 07902 579299



Report & photos by: **Steve Edis**
Photography Group Leader:
Alan Taylor Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Group news in brief

- ◆ Zumba is discontinued.
- ◆ Crochet is taking a break and re-launching in 2024.
- ◆ German language lessons are up-and-running and making 'gute fortschritte' (look it up - Ed)
- ◆ Cardcraft is turning out some amazing pieces from enthusiastic members.
- ◆ Tabletop games is waking up our 'little grey cells' in a relaxed atmosphere.
- ◆ Our country dancers have another booking! If you would like to be part of this event, please come to the meetings at Flint Avenue on Tuesdays 14 November and 12 December from 14.00 to 16.00 to practise. It's country dancing with a twist!

Newsletter is going digital only

From January 2024 the Committee have decided that the Forest Town & District u3a newsletter will only be available in digital format. This is a decision made to be more environmentally friendly and will have the added benefit of allowing us to reach all members in an emergency.

If you have stated that you have no email address we are asking if you have a relative or friend who would kindly receive your emails for you. The benefit of this was proved only last month when, at the last minute, the Arena cancelled our general meeting. We immediately sent out an email to inform members of the situation but had to rely on people to spread the word to those who hadn't registered an email address with us. Unfortunately this resulted in some members still turning up.

Funerals - often a great source of family history

At the September Trace Your Family Tree meeting, Andy and Julie spoke of attending a recent family funeral where they met many family members they had not seen for years. This had led to them making many new family history discoveries including spending two days with Andy's older brother looking at many photos and other family memorabilia. Funerals may be sad but they are a good way of gaining new family history information.

They also gave us an update on the free BMD website and told us of another website for free parish registers.

Pauline and Jenny have been delving further into the history of Ada Elizabeth Young, the VAD nurse buried in St Alban's Churchyard, who died at Clipstone Camp Military Hospital and have made some interesting discoveries about her family in both England and Ireland.

At the October meeting we spent the first half of the session chatting about some of the extra features that can be found on the various internet genealogy sites. It just shows how much more information these sites hold. We all decided that we needed to make more use of them to help our research. We just need more time!

The discussion also looked at some DNA results and how much DNA could help further develop our knowledge and

information about ourselves. The television programme DNA Journeys shows how much information our DNA holds and how it can sometimes locate and enhance family information.

The second half of the meeting looked at a selection of Scottish gravestones and some Scottish birth, marriage and death records. It was amazing how much information they put on some of their grave memorials and records about how and where people died and, more importantly, for family tree research the wives also have their maiden names recorded.



Reports by **Pauline Marples & Ann Alcock**

Trace Your Family Tree Group Leaders:

Andrew & Julie Rowbottom Meet 3rd Tuesdays

Memorable visits

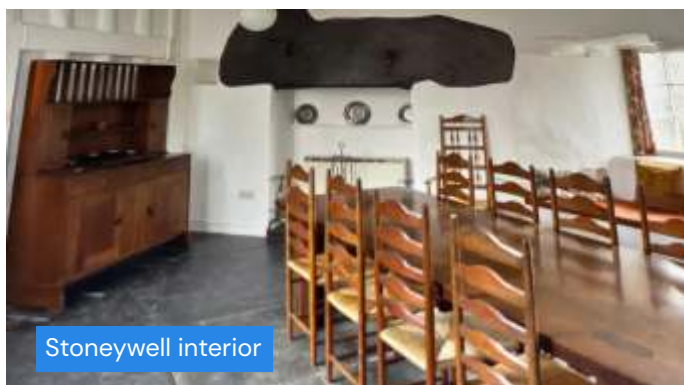
Our last two visits for this year were memorable in many ways. On the first we walked in the footsteps of King Charles II at Mosley Old Hall, seeing the very small priest hole where he hid from Cromwell's soldiers. It was then on to the Victorian Wightwick Manor with its wonderful William Morris and the Arts & Crafts interiors. The many art works are displayed in such a way to ensure that the very essence of a home is conveyed. The gardens were beautiful and perfect for a picnic in the gorgeous September sunshine.

In October we visited Stoneywell and Calke Abbey. Two very contrasting properties. We had a guided tour of Stoneywell, the home of the Gimson family, whose love of the Arts & Craft movement pervades every nook and cranny. The cottage was built into a rocky outcrop in



Charnwood Forest and the 11 rooms sit on seven different levels. A challenging build! Stoneywell reflects perfectly William Morris's golden rule: *'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.'*

Calke Abbey in its preserved fragile state is crammed full of natural history collections and probably a bit like Mr Straw's house but on a much bigger scale. There were lots of guides in the house to give nuggets of information on the numerous collections. The grounds are a magnificent expanse.



Stoneywell interior

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

Celebrating autumn

For our October meeting around 15 of us had a creative time making autumn/winter wreaths. These were either made from fresh evergreen leaves, or from padding/colourful ribbon/dried flowers and decorative items to represent Halloween or winter. Wire, cellotape and glue gun were all made use of and talent shone through (see illustration). Look out for eye-catching wreaths on front doors in the local area!

Some members may be getting together to visit a garden centre, but not when our meetings usually fall (TBA). Otherwise, there will be further creativity at the next meeting. We await Angelina's email and instructions.



Report by: **Kay Toy**

Gardening Craft Group Leader: **Angelina Taylor**

Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Three counties explored

For our first walk in September it was an elite 'famous five' setting out. After a 'gentle' climb from the old station car park on the Monsal Trail of 450ft in half a mile we were rewarded with some great views of the Derbyshire countryside even though it was a little misty to begin with. The weather wasn't as hot as forecast and proved not too overbearing. We found a lovely spot in Hassop for our lunch break where three of us bought fresh organic milk directly from the farm and it was delicious. As we passed Holme Bank Chert Mine we were taken aback by the cold coming out of the mine. We concluded the walk with a visit to the Lime Tree Cafe in Bakewell for a little light refreshment.

The second walk in September was billed as a very pleasant 7.2 miles walk through undulating countryside with good views and some local history in the South Wingfield and Pentrich area. In the event, heavy rain limited the views and full waterproofs were definitely the order of the day.

The affluent South Derbyshire village of Repton was the starting point of our first walk in October. Repton is dominated by its independent boarding school, which Jeremy Clarkson and Graeme Gardner of

The Goodies attended.

A particularly wet and muddy track led us to the banks of the River Trent, then across the flood plain to the Anchor Church near Ingleby. This is a series of caves carved into the sandstone by the river, which have been extended to form a crude dwelling place, complete with door and window holes. Flooding of our riverside path forced us to take a higher route through rolling countryside.

We eventually came to Foremark Hall, a grand Grade 1 listed Palladian manor house, now the home of Repton Preparatory School. Tea and cakes in the Repton community café rounded off a lovely warm and sunny walk.

We had a rare foray into Leicestershire for our second walk, setting out from the village of Nether Broughton. Little did we know we had embarked on an assault course, having to battle our way over 35 stiles, along paths overgrown with brambles, through deep mud while trying to avoid touching electrified fences. Skirting a deep muddy puddle using a wire fence for support, poor Rita touched an electrified wire, let out a shriek and ended up with her bottom in the mire.

On the plus side, the hills above Old Dalby afforded magnificent views over the Vale of Belvoir, the villages we passed through were lovely, we



The 'Famous Five' – someone had to take the picture!

saw a hare, met friendly donkeys and horses and it only rained during the last half hour of our walk. It might be a while before we return to Leicestershire though!

Our next rambles: 1 November: Teversal, Stanley, Hardwick Hall and Ault Hucknall (9 miles). 8 November: Wirksworth and Alport Heights (8.5 miles). New members welcome.



1st September report by Brian Tuffnell

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

At a Glance Event Diary

November

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 3 November 10.30,
Forest Town Arena

BIRTHDAY BASH

Friday 10 November
Forest Town Arena
Tickets: £3.00

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 22 December 14.00–16.00
Forest Town Arena
Tickets: £2.00

January 2024

SOUP & A ROLL

Friday 12 January 14.00–16.00
Forest Town Arena
Tickets: £5.00

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 5 January 10.30,
Forest Town Arena

February 2024

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 2 February 10.30,
Forest Town Arena

FISH & CHIP QUIZ

Date: TBA
St Lawrence Church Hall
Tickets: £10.00

March 2024

KINKY BOOTS

Saturday 9 or Sunday 10 March
Mansfield Palace Theatre
Tickets £19

Birthday bash

We will be celebrating our 8th birthday on 10 November 14.00 to 16.00 at Forest Town Arena. Tickets are on sale at £3 each at our November general meeting. The celebrations will include our very own *Turn Back Time* playing the music we can have a dance to. Bingo tickets will be on sale for 50p each and there will be lots of cake and tea or coffee!

Christmas party time

Forest Town Arena is the venue for our u3a Christmas party on 22 December from 14.00 to 16.00. Tickets are just £2.

Our music group will lead us with a sing-a-long to well known Christmas tunes. The Country Dancing ladies will be dancing for us and, if you get itchy feet, feel free to join in.

Our new German language group will lead us in a German Silent Night.

Once again our Secret Santa will be running. A £3 spend if you would like to buy a gift and take part. There will also be a prize for the best Christmas outfit so get your thinking caps on.

Last but by no means least you will get a raffle ticket to enter our free draw, with lots of prizes, a Christmas Hamper, wine, chocolates and biscuits galore.

Tickets are on sale at our General Meetings in November and December or contact Kathryn on 077111 28897. Please note there is a limit on ticket sales due to Health & Safety requirements.

Winter warmer

It's our winter warmer – soup and a roll – on 12 January 14.00 to 16.00 at Forest Town Arena. Tickets £5. There's a choice of leek & potato or tomato & roasted red pepper (please state your preference when purchasing your ticket). Tickets on sale at the November and December general meetings or contact Marilyn Redfern on 07928 781706.

Upcoming theatre trips

- ◆ Last call for 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.
- ◆ Mansfield Operatic Society. Matinee performances on Saturday 9 or Sunday 10 March 2024 at 14.00 for 'Kinky Boots'. £19. Tickets are selling fast for this production so don't wait too long to book your seat! **Ann Stanford**

Black country museum enjoyable

The trip was very enjoyable. As we arrived the sun came out and it stayed out all day. There was so much to see and do. Where to start? Some opted for a drink; lots of pubs to choose from; some went on the school room visit, some a canal ride. I personally had the fish and chips; and delicious they were too!

Report: Angelina Taylor Photo: Arthur Williams



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
Breakfast Club	4th Tuesdays	various	10.00	Kevin Cope 07902 579299.
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
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
German language	3rd Tuesdays	Forest Town Arena	16.30–17.30	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
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

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

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 November 2023.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417