



Merry Christmas one and all!

We had a great turnout for our 8th Brthday Bash, thank you all for your donations of baked and bought cakes. Our fab twosome Alan and Kevin cut the cake whilst Bob took the photos, see page 3.

Our next get together is our Christmas party on Friday 22 December from 14.00 to 16.00 at Forest Town Arena. Don't forget your Christmas outfit. Prizes are on offer for the best and most creative outfits.

Thank you to those of you that purchased a ticket to Ready Steady 60s in aid of cancer charities. We raised just over £900 which is going to be spilt between Macmillan Nurses and breast cancer at Kings Mill hospital. What a fabulous night. Thanks to Steve Saunders for organising it. Your committee would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year.



Irene Brooks

New year speakers

Friday 5 January 2024

Lauren Griffiths from Bryan and Armstrong solicitors will be talking about care fees planning, trusts with regards to property and Lasting Power of Attorney.

Friday 2 February 2024

Barry Harper will be giving a talk on ***Crossing the Great Slave Lake in Arctic Canada***. Barry is a retired police inspector who enjoys extreme sports.

He has climbed some of the world's highest mountains and walked to the North and South Poles as well as being a member of the first team to cross the Great Slave Lake in 2003.

Fun & laughter anticipated at December meeting

**Friday 1
December 2023**

**Patricia Hall –
Life Can Be
Funny**

Pat has a rare and remarkable gift – the ability to see the funny side of absolutely everything.

She will present her fun show with jokes, bits and bobs, funny poetry and a sprinkling of Christmas. So come along and enjoy with a cuppa and mince pie.

Pat says: "I began giving comedy talks about 17 years ago. My talks consist of jokes, funny poems and odd/interesting bits and bobs from many sources.

"I like the audience to join in, if they wish and I don't mind hecklers, if they dare!"



Newsletter digital only from January 2024

This will be the last printed edition of the Newsletter.

From January 2024 the Committee has 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 your Committee 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.

Membership renewals coming soon

Your committee has agreed the annual fee for membership will remain at £19 for the 2024/25 year. Associate membership, for those who are already a member at another u3a, will be £15.50.

You will have the opportunity to renew your membership at the January, February and March general meetings. As last year, we would very much prefer payment by bank transfer or cheque rather than cash. More details in our next issue

Fabulous poppy display selected as November's best picture

Hi to you all. In the first hour of our November Snap & Chat meeting we had a general catch-up – the chat – before we moved on to photography.



Our winner this month was Robert Hunt with two photos that he took in Hull. They are of the *Weeping Window* poppy display at the Hull Maritime Museum.

For the December meeting our challenge photo theme is *industrial*. This is a wide subject so hopefully we will get a real variety of different photos.

At the November general meeting – see photo right – we had a photo display with a view to attracting more members. Whilst we had lots of interest, we're still waiting for new members but we will not give up. We will keep on trying to recruit.



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

Crafty gardeners set a difficult task

For our November meeting the table was full of beads, wire, and accessories as we attempted to make a colourful dragonfly. Eyes were focused, fingers dextrous, and minds attentive to Angelina's instructions. Great was the concentration as wire was manipulated, colours sorted and run-away beads chased across the table. At the end, I think we all agreed it was good fun, though difficult and a pretty object for the home/garden was produced (see illustration).

A few minutes were also spent on the strip of garden outside the community centre. Next month (December 12th) will be our Christmas "fuddle", with music and nibbles and some Christmas crafts (sewing) to keep us occupied.



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

Canon Alan returns



Canon Alan Haydock entertained the November general meeting with his talk outlining some of the funny things that have happened to him in his speaking career – ***It's better than working for a living!***

Birthday bash

We celebrated our 8th birthday with lots of cake, bingo, a music quiz and singing from our music group "Turn Back Time"

Our two unsung heroes who do a lot of behind the scenes work, Kevin and Allan, cut the birthday cake and party bags were handed out when the party was over.

Carl Blythe won the bingo prize pot.

Thank you to all those who baked and donated cakes. They were absolutely yummy.

Irene Brooks



Italian lunch

The lunch group went to Ciao Bella on Nottingham Road in November.

Group leader Irene confesses that she forgot to take a photo, but she reports: "We had a fabulous lunch, the food was excellent, dessert to die for, service was great, a good time was had by everyone. Would definitely go back."

Luncheon Club Group Leader:
Irene Brooks

Keep on dancing

Final practice is on Tuesday, 12 December, 14.00 to 16.00 at Flint Avenue!

We aren't quite perfect yet so do come and join us!

Our first meeting of 2024 will be Tuesday 9 January. Fitness with fun and side-aching laughter!

Country Dancing Group Leader:
Ann Stanford Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Book club date

There will be no Book Club meeting in January. The next meeting is Monday 5 February 2024, 10.30 at Forest Town library.

Book Group Leader:
Ann Stanford
Meet
1st Mondays



Ramblers stay closer to home in November

Steve led our first November outing from Teversal Country Park. We were soon admiring the view from the statue of the miner in Silver Hill Wood Country Park, reputedly the highest point in Nottinghamshire.

From there, some muddy and slippery paths with awkward stiles took us to the hamlet of Stanley. Lunch was taken in the grounds of Hardwick Hall, but we didn't linger long in the biting cold wind.

After walking down to the Miller's Pond, we skirted the boundary of the Hardwick estate to arrive at Norwood Lodge, our boots clattered in mud, relieved no-one had slipped in the mire. Thankfully, after that, the route back to our cars was much firmer underfoot.

Closed roads and lack of parking meant we couldn't do the programmed Alport Heights walk as our second outing in November. Instead, we spent a lovely sunny and unseasonably warm day exploring Southwell and the surrounding countryside.

Georganne, our walk leader, gave us a potted history of the work house, mills and the magnificent prebend houses we came across. Walking through the grounds of Southwell minster was as uplifting as ever.

Our attempts to fathom out how to use the outdoor gym equipment in a nearby park caused great hilarity. The Robin Hood Way took us through the middle of Brackenhurst College and on to Westhorpe. Westhorpe Hall's huge Cedar of Lebanon tree, purportedly planted in



the 16th century, towered above the high garden wall. Remarkably, a grotesque life-sized model of a three toed sloth hung from this wall. A stretch along the Southwell trail, a disused railway line, brought us to the Final Whistle pub at the end of our walk where we enjoyed a drink in the first-class saloon of this former railway station.

Our next rambles:

6 December: Newstead Abbey grounds and garden (4.5 miles). 20

December: Hardwick Village and Bothamsall (8.9 miles). 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

At a Glance Event Diary

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

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 5 January 10.30,
Forest Town Arena

SOUP & A ROLL

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

February 2024

GENERAL MEETING

Friday 2 February 10.30,
Forest Town Arena

FISH & CHIP QUIZ

Date: 14 February 12.00 to 14.00
St Lawrence Church Hall
Tickets: £10.00

March 2024

KINKY BOOTS

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

MURDER MYSTERY

18 & 19 March

The Old Barn Hotel, Marston in
Lincolnshire

Price includes overnight stay, return
coach, dinner, bed and breakfast:
Double room £156.00 per couple
Twin room £78 per person
(£156 for the room)
Single room £118

March Madness Murder Mystery

We will be heading to The Old Barn Hotel, Marston in Lincolnshire on 17 March 2024 to stay overnight and hopefully solve a murder mystery.

During the three course meal *Not so Civil War* murder will be played out and our group will be charged with solving the case. After the murder has been solved there will be dancing till midnight.



Places for this are now on sale and will be available at the general meetings or, if you can't make a meeting and are interested, please contact either Irene on 07765 970751 or Kathryn on 077111 28897.

The trip price includes return coach, dinner, bed and breakfast:

- ◆ Double room £156.00 per couple;
- ◆ Twin room £78 per person (£156 for the room);
- ◆ Single room £118.

Fish & Chip Quiz

Our next lunchtime quiz will be Wednesday 14 February, 12.00–14.00 at St Lawrence's Church Hall. There will be fish, chips, bread and butter, all served with a cuppa.

Tickets for this event will be £10 and will be on sale at the December and January meetings. If you have any dietary requirements please state this when purchasing your ticket.

P.S. Don't forget your knife and fork!!!

Halloween party time!

What a great time we had at the Halloween party. 140 people came along to the Clipstone Welfare for a night of fun music and spooky outfits.

The Moonshiners entertained us with their amazing music. In the break we had a pie and pea supper.

Thanks to Rebecca and her staff, for a memorable evening.



Last call for Kinky Boots

Absolutely the last call for Mansfield Operatic Society's Kinky Boots at Mansfield Palace Theatre in March 2024.

There are two matinees: Saturday 9 March, 14.30 or Sunday 10 March also at 14.30.

Cheques for £19 per ticket should be made payable to M.A.O.D.S.

Ann Stanford



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	suspended			New leader needed
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

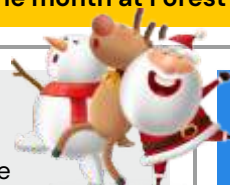
All members are invited to General Meetings - first Friday in the month at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30 start.

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 is Feb

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 21 January 2024.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417