



# North Notts Neighbourhood Group

I don't know if all our members know that Forest Town & District u3a is part of the North Notts Neighbourhood Group (NNNG). As well as ourselves, this Group includes all of the following u3as: Ashfield, Dukeries, Mansfield & District, Sherwood, Rainworth, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Warsop & District and Worksop & District.

The NNNG members have agreed that there should be a reciprocal arrangement between them whereby, should you want to join an interest group that a neighbouring u3a is running, you can contact the group leader to see if they have room for you. You do not have to be a member or an associate member to attend these groups. You will only get a place though if there is room in the group. However, should you want attend the general meetings of that u3a you would be expected to join as an associate member.

As the Forest Town & District u3a we pay an annual membership to the NNNG, so you have access to all the interest groups of the neighbouring u3as.



Image by stockgiu on Freepik

Of course, you will be required to share the costs of any group you join. In the same way, if there are vacancies, members may take part in social events, trips and holidays organised by any of the u3as within the NNNG.

On June 26 there is to be an NNNG picnic in the park in Sherwood Forest. All members are welcome to attend this event. More details to follow.

*Irene Brooks*

## FORMAL NOTICE OF FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Business Secretary is giving notice that the Annual General Meeting will take place at 10.30 am on Friday, 7th June 2024 at the Forest Town Arena, Clipstone Road West, Mansfield, NG19 0EE.

If you have any other business that you wish to bring up at the AGM please put this in writing to be received by the Business Secretary by Wednesday 5th June. Please note items submitted after this date will not be considered at the AGM.

The Agenda and last year's Minutes will be published with the May newsletter but, if you wish to read these earlier please contact the Business Secretary by email to: [jannisbye@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jannisbye@yahoo.co.uk)

## Last chance to renew your membership

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, is £15.00. Membership must be renewed by 30 April 2024 latest. There are three ways of paying your membership fee:

- ◆ **Bank transfer.** Account name FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A, sort code 30-90-89, account number 53978960. This is classed as a business bank account. **Note, it is a different bank account to the one you pay your trip money into. PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND/OR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS THE REFERENCE.**
- ◆ **Cheque.** These should be made out to **FOREST TOWN & DISTRICT U3A**, with **your membership number on the reverse.** Bring your cheque along to the meeting in April or post to Kathryn Cope, 97 Lingforest Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 3NQ.
- ◆ If you are unable to pay by bank transfer or cheque then **you can pay in cash** at the monthly meeting on Friday 5 April 2024 **PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.**

*Kathryn Cope*

## Interest groups - an update

We have worked hard over the years to provide a varied range of groups so that members can access different interests and activities. However, we could do so much more.

We have had suggestions for regular quiz sessions, ten pin bowling, a theatre group, language classes, pétanque, flat green bowls, the list goes on.... Members often mention to me 'why don't we try...?' The reason we are limited in our groups is obvious; there is a shortage of group leaders. Our current leaders are very committed, sometimes running more than one group so we do need new input to widen our groups' interest provision.

It is not difficult to run a group and it can be shared. Maybe you have thought about it and are concerned about time, commitment etc, so it makes sense to have two or more people working together.

Our next group leader meeting is at Forest Town Arena on 19 April at 10.30am.

Come and have a cuppa and chat with our current leaders and maybe bring your suggestions for new groups.

*Marilyn Redfern*

## Lunch Group well attended



The lunch group went to Larch Farm, Nottingham Road, Ravenshead in March. A three-course meal for £11.95. Not massive portions, but they were all quite delicious. 31 people attended today. Good job' Jan Kerr and Olive Moore, the organisers. Next lunch group is at The Hostess on Thursday 18 April.

The venues and dates for the lunch club have been agreed, all start at 12 o'clock

Thursday 16 May. The Foxglove

Thursday 20 June. The Rushley

Thursday 18 July. The Lion

August no meeting

Thursday 19 September. Bella Vita

Thursday 17 October. The Red Gate

Thursday 21 November. Ciao Bella

December. Date to be agreed. West Notts College

Report by Irene Brooks

Luncheon Club Group Leaders:

*Jan Kerr and Olive Moore*

## April speaker will entertain



Friday 5 April 2024 at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30 start Vince Eager - My life in the entertainment business

In the late 1950s & 1960s Vince was considered to be a pioneer of British popular music and was a regular on Saturday evening television shows such as the Six-

Five Special, Oh Boy and Drumbeat, alongside artistes such as Cliff Richard, Joe Brown, Marty Wilde, Billy Fury and Adam Faith. He was also part of the first and biggest tour featuring American icons Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent. In 1960 he became the first pop star to appear in the Eurovision Song Contest. He then turned to theatre and cabaret throughout the world. In 1978 he took on the lead role of Elvis in the Sir Lawrence Olivia Award-winning West End musical "ELVIS the Musical".

## Card crafters going well



Card Craft Group Leader:

**Sue Buchanan** Meet 4th Mondays

## Garden craft Easter theme

It was a busy morning at the garden craft group in March. Some of us were working on our Easter bonnets, ready for the Eggstravaganza event. The rest of us made Easter baskets using sheet card & the glue gun. We cut out felt chicks, eggs and chickens complete with feathers.



Gardening Craft Group Leader: **Angelina Taylor**

Meet 2nd Tuesdays

## Ramblers plans disrupted!



Footpath closures forced a change to our programmed walk from the Attenborough Nature reserve. Instead, we set off from Bolsover on our first walk in March on a cool, grey and misty morning.

Walk leader Carol set a brisk pace which quickly warmed us through as we strode out along the easy going Stockley Trail towards Bramley Vale, following the river Doe Lea.

By the time we reached Ault Hucknall, the sun was out in a cloudless sky, and we basked in the warmth as we ate our lunch on the plentiful benches in the church cemetery.

The pace then slowed considerably as we took care not to slip crossing waterlogged fields on the way to Glapwell. From there we followed the ridge through Palterton back to Bolsover, with views all the way across to the Peak District to the east and to tower blocks on the outskirts of Sheffield to the north.

Blocked paths, broken stiles, floods and mud also caused a switch in our next programmed walk from East Bridgford.

Instead, we walked north from Edwinstowe, through Sherwood Forest via the Major Oak and on to Budby South Forest passing the naturism area. Given the cool weather, none of our group fancied stripping off; thankfully!

Heading back we passed Sherwood Forest's Centre Oak and then the curious Archway House, built by the Duke of Portland in 1842 clad with statues of Robin Hood, Maid

Marian and Little John.

As we strolled along the banks of the River Maun on the way back into Edwinstowe, some of us were lucky enough to see the tell-tale metallic blue flash of a kingfisher flying upstream.

**Our next rambles:** 3 April: Drakeholes and Gringley on the Hill (9.5 miles). 17 April: Alport, Youlgreave, Moneyash and Lathkill Dale (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](mailto:ribya@imcgroup.co.uk)

## Winning photos display at April meeting

Hi to you all, just a few words on our group meeting, it was another good get together. Our theme for March was 'portraits'. We had two winners, but, to see these you will have to wait for the display at the April general meeting where the winning pictures, along with lots of others, will be available to view.

Now the weather seems to be getting a little better, hopefully, we will be going outdoors to take our photos. We have decided that we will find something interesting to photograph and then everyone in the group will take a photo of the same thing. We will then have a discussion about the technique and the approach individuals took. We expect to see differences in the quality and composition of each picture.

Our theme for April will be Easter. It's a wide subject so we are hoping for a variety of photos.

Finally, on behalf of our group, I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Easter Eggstravaganza. It was an amazing morning with cream tea; and a big thanks to Oliver, our entertainer This guy was amazing and, in my opinion, the best entertainer we have ever seen. I for one hope we see him again soon. That's it for now, see you all at the meeting. Do come up and see our display.

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

## Get your little grey cells working at Tabletop games group



Tabletop Games Group Leader:  
**Jane Vernon** Meet 4th Mondays

## Murder mystery delights

What an amazing weekend. We arrived at The Barn Hotel & Spa Grantham in sunshine. Some took advantage of the facilities – the pool, sauna and jacuzzi.

The night and meal started. We had to guess: "who'd dun it?" The actors gave us clues, the detective put them on the bulletin board. We changed our minds a hundred times, but then came the crunch. It was time to write down our answers and how we'd come to that conclusion.

The winning couple was Helen and Ray from Dukeries u3a. Dukeries may have won the trophy for working out "who'd dun it", but Forest Town & District won the prize for the last wo(man) standing on the dance floor. **Irene Brooks**



# Easter Eggstravaganza

The Easter Eggstravaganza at the Forest Town Arena on Friday 22 March lived up to its name.

There was a dynamic performance from a local talented young man, Oliver Ward, who entertained us with a range of songs from Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Michael Bublé, Neil Diamond and Queen to name but a few.

Oliver Ward had all the ladies swooning like teenagers with his incredible voice and got everyone singing along with the popular songs of our youth. We stopped for a cream tea at half-time and enjoyed our little Easter gift, then it was on to the Easter bonnet parade. The winner was Lorna Mills and the runner-up Kathryn Cope.

Oliver's second set included more sing-a-long songs as he became Elvis, George Michael & Elton John all rolled into one.

Our new PA system came to the rescue when Oliver's mic started to crackle.

All this entertainment for just £1, only at the Forest Town & District u3a. We will definitely be getting Oliver back again soon. Thank you Kathryn for organising this incredible event.



**Word & pictures by Irene Brooks & Bob Hunt**



Easter bonnet winners. Kathryn Cope 2nd place (left) and Lorna Mills 1st place



# Summer ball is back for 2024

Because it was such an amazing evening last year we will be holding our 2nd Summer Ball on Saturday 27 July. We will have the fabulous Ravenshead Swing Band to entertain us, there will be a complimentary Pimms on arrival and a buffet will be served later in the evening. This year we are going for a Black and White theme, so dress to impress.

Tickets for this event are £15 and will be on sale at our April, May and June General Meetings. Members' friends and family are more than welcome to attend. If you can't get to any meetings just give me a ring on 07711 128897 to book your place.

Kathryn Cope



## Bookings now being taken

At the April meeting you will be able to book your place on:

### ◆ The Trent River Cruise

**Wednesday 10 July.** Price £37 each includes, coach travel, three-hour cruise 18.30 to 21.30, two drinks tickets, chicken skewers, potato wedges & coleslaw, black forest gateau with fresh cream and dancing with a DJ playing some old favourites.

### ◆ The Turkey & Tinsel trip to Tenby

**Monday 4 to Friday 8 November** at Clarence House Hotel, Tenby. Half Board, £425pp. Itinerary includes **Monday 'Christmas Eve'** - on arrival sherry and mince pies, **Tuesday 'Christmas Day'** - Picton Castle with a guided tour, festive punch, Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa, **Wednesday 'New Year's Eve'** visit to Carmarthen market, **Thursday 'New Year's Day'** - a day at leisure to explore the beautiful town of Tenby with afternoon cream tea, **Friday** - Depart after breakfast.

Interested? Then put your name down and pay your non-refundable £50.00 deposit at the meeting. If you can't make the meetings ring Irene on 07765 970751.

## At a Glance Diary – Meetings, Events & Trips

At a Glance Diary – Meetings, Events & Trips		
<b>April</b>		
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Friday 5 April 10.30, Forest Town Arena Vince Eager <i>Life in the Entertainment Business</i>	<b>NIGHT AT THE DOGS</b> Monday 15 April 17.30 to 10.30 Nottingham £36 per person including transport, race card and meal	<b>CALENDAR GIRLS</b> Saturday 20 April 14.30 Mansfield Palace Theatre £18.50
<b>May</b>		
<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Friday 3 May 10.30, Forest Town Arena Mark Barron <i>Carrara marble – Michelangelo's greatest love</i>	<b>RHINE IN FLAMES</b> Thursday 2 to Wednesday 8 May Holiday to the Rhine in Flames Festival <b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>NATIONAL TRUST NOSTELL</b> Saturday 18 May Price £16
<b>June</b>		
<b>GENERAL MEETING &amp; AGM</b> Friday 7 June 10.30, Forest Town Arena Paul Barlow <i>Derbyshire Mountain Rescue</i>	<b>NATIONAL TRUST EAST RIDDLES DEN HALL &amp; HARDCASTLE CRAGS</b> Saturday 8 June Price £18.50	<b>NORTH NOTTS NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP PICNIC</b> Wednesday 26 June Sherwood Forest Details to follow
<b>July</b>		
<b>NATIONAL TRUST WENTWORTH CASTLE GARDENS</b> Thursday 4 July Price £17	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> Friday 5 July 10.30, Forest Town Arena Ann Featherstone <i>Mashed potato sandwiches</i>	<b>TRENT RIVER CRUISE</b> Wednesday 10 July Price £37

# 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.
Bus Pass Group	Various	Various	As agreed	Christine Cawthorne
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	Various	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
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), Halina Gaskell (Assistant Membership Secretary & joint Speaker Seeker), Marilyn Redfern (Groups' Coordinator), Sue Buchanan (Assistant Groups' Coordinator & joint Speaker Seeker) 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

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 21 April 2024.**

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

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417