



What is Remembrance Day?

The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 to commemorate the end of hostilities in the Great War in 1918. It was originally called Armistice Day and was a day of commemoration which came to be held throughout the British Commonwealth.

In a letter published in *The London Evening News* on 8 May 1919, Australian journalist, Edward George Honey, proposed a respectful silence to remember those who had given their lives in the Great War. This suggestion was brought to the attention of King George V. Four days before the first anniversary of Armistice Day on 7 November 1919, King George V announced that a two-minute silence would be observed, and thus began one of the key features of Remembrance Day as we know it today.

The other key feature central to today's commemorations is The Cenotaph in London's Whitehall. Edwin Lutyens designed this structure at the request of the then Prime Minister, David Lloyd George. Its initial design was apparently sketched on the back of a napkin. The original structure was a temporary one made of wood and plaster. On that first Armistice Day some 15,000 troops took part in the March Past.

It soon became clear that a permanent structure was needed. This was built from Portland stone between 1919 and 1920 by Holland, Hannen & Cubitts.

After the end of the Second World War in 1945 Armistice Day became Remembrance Day to include all those who had fallen in both World Wars. Today the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, in the eleventh month is a time to remember all the people who have fought and died in wars from World War 1 onwards including those more recent conflicts, the Falklands War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War and the war in Afghanistan.

I myself have a son-in-law and an ex-husband who fought in these conflicts. Both received a Purple Heart; the award that recognises members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been wounded or killed whilst serving.

Less We Forget

Irene Brooks



Children's TV at next meeting

Friday 1 November 2024 at Forest Town Arena 10.00 for 10.30

The scheduled topic of *Tai Chi and a packet of crisps* has been replaced as the speaker, Elaine Clark, is in for an operation. We wish her a speedy recovery. The talk instead will be on *Children's TV and how it has changed over the years*.



Learning about the RBL

At our October general meeting, Neil Davidson, chairman of the Clipstone and Forest Town branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), gave a timely presentation about the work of the organisation. He provided an insight into the history of the legion from its onset in 1921 to the present day and outlined how there is a lot more to the RBL than just going on parades. Anyone can apply to join. You don't have to have served in the Armed Forces to join.



Next issue

Please send articles or ideas for the next issue to Helen Riby by email: ftu3aews@gmail.com or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW by midday on Monday 25 November 2024.

Open Day Success

We had our long overdue Open Day on Friday 27 September and it was hugely successful. It gave our group leaders the chance to remind current members of what our u3a offers, showcasing the many varied activities and classes we run. Our visitors who were new to the u3a were very surprised by the range of groups available and the skills shown in the work on show. The room was lined with tables of colourful and interesting displays, testament to the commitment of everyone leading and attending the sessions.

It obviously impressed our visitors enough to take up membership so we welcome the 10 who have joined us on the day.

Huge thanks to the helpers who shifted tables and chairs, anchored wayward helium balloons in the car park, greeted members and generally pulled it all together. A special thanks to our heroic 'tea team' who kept the tea pots tipping for several hours.

We have a thriving u3a and I'm sure many of you will agree that making new friends, staying connected and being open to new learning, all helps with adjusting to the challenges of later life.



Marilyn Refern



Ramblers back in their waterproofs!!!

Our first walk in October was also the first from our Autumn/Winter programme, and we got the weather to match – cold and wet with low cloud as we set off from Ashover in Derbyshire.

After two days of torrential rain, the River Amber was in spate as we walked beside it. Fortunately, the rain had stopped by the time we took our coffee break high up on Cocking Tor with limited views over the Amber Valley. Visibility kept improving as we climbed Ravensnest Tor and had lunch at Highoredish.

By the time we traversed the ridge above Ashover Hay we had extensive views and spotted Bolsover Castle and Hardwick Hall on the distant horizon. Walking back to Ashover along the banks of the River Amber, we had to clamber over a recently felled tree, brought down by the river and blocking our path but we also enjoyed spells of welcome sunshine.

Our second walk set out from Denstone in Staffordshire on a damp, misty and altogether miserable day.

We had a challenging time struggling over broken stiles, along overgrown paths, splashing through waterlogged and muddy fields and having to plot an alternative route when we couldn't ford a stream in spate.

On the plus side, we enjoyed exploring the ancient village of Alton, with its spectacular castle designed by Pugin, similar in style to those found on the Rhine.

We found shelter from the drizzle in the atmospheric ruins of the Croxden Abbey, once home to over 70 Cistercian monks, and passed by the impressive edifice of Denstone College, a public school.

Back in Denstone village, having a well-earned drink in the pub, we felt a great sense of achievement that we'd overcome the challenges this walk threw at us.

Short walkers get the sun



The short walk group visited Poulter Country Park on 22 October. The weather was kind whilst we walked nearly 2.5 miles around the park before meeting up round the corner at the Jug and Glass for a lovely lunch. A little bit of information about Poulter Country Park was shared with the group before we set off home. All in all a lovely morning. **Next short walk** is round King's Mill Reservoir (Sutton Res)

on Thursday
14 November.

Report by **Halina Gaskell**
Short Walk Group Leaders: **Various**



Our next rambles: 6 November: Whatstandwell, Wirksworth Moor & Bolehill (7.3 miles). 20 November: Stoke Bardolph, Colwick Country Park and the River Trent (9 miles). New members welcome.



Rambling Group Leader: **Andrew Riby**.
Rambles 7 to 9 miles. Meet 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays. Contact Andrew on: 07833
543705 Email: ribya@imcgroup.co.uk

National Trust Group visit Woolsthorpe & Belton

Our last National Trust outing for 2024 was on Thursday 17 October. It was to Woolsthorpe Manor and Belton House.

We had the most glorious perfect autumn day! Woolsthorpe was first – the home of Sir Isaac Newton. Newton was a genius who had a curious, experimenting mind from an early age. During the 17th century 'lockdown', the time of the Great Plague, Isaac came back to Woolsthorpe from Cambridge to develop theories in calculus, optics and the laws of motion and gravity. Some of his experiments are still evident and of course the story of the falling apple, from a tree in the adjoining garden, that inspired Newton, is a scientific legend!

Belton Country House was built in the late 17th century by the Brownlow family and everything about its 1,300 acres was to impress. The collection of paintings, silver, orientalist ceramics and books are some of the finest within the National Trust.

The formal gardens of Italian and Dutch design complete with conservatory and fountain are beautifully maintained. The ancient deer park, grazing sheep, ponds and woodland provide miles of walking trails and, of course, the huge adventure playground for all to enjoy.



The famous Isaac Newton tree



At Woolsthorpe Manor



Belton House

Fancy visiting the Christmas magical light trail at Belton

Belton is staging a 'magical after dark illuminated trail' to celebrate Christmas within the grounds. If anyone is interested please see Ann Stanford at the November meeting. It would cost £25, including transport, on Thursday 5th December leaving the Arena at 15.30 and back around 20.00.

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

Flint Ave 'Weed Free' again

The garden at Flint Avenue where many of our u3a groups meet had been created by Guides and Rangers in spring 2023, but by September this year it was in need of some TLC. After asking Councillor Mick Barton if they could clear up this area, Mary Harris and Janis Bye did a wonderful job. The overgrown weeds have all gone (for now). A good deed done by two of our u3a members and a big thank you from all of us that use Flint Avenue for our group meetings.



Cream of Cornwall holiday

31st May to 4th June 2025 £465
 Staying at the Barrowfield 3* Hotel in Newquay



Day 1: Travel to Newquay

Day 2: Visit nautical Falmouth famed for its fresh oysters and seafood. Then onto Truro for its beautiful Cathedral and unique shopping experience, stopping on the way back to visit Healey's Cyder Farm for a delicious Cornish Cream Tea.

Day 3: On our second excursion we first visit Par Market; one of the largest indoor markets in the UK with over seventy stalls. From here we continue to the award winning Eden Project where you will find the largest indoor rainforest and be able to stroll through the Mediterranean biome where you can smell the aromas of lemons, oranges and herbs.

Day 4: Explore charming Newquay in your own time, stroll along Cornwall's Atlantic Coast, or visit Newquay's Zoo.

Day 5: Travel back to Mansfield

The hotel has an indoor pool and entertainment each evening.

If you are interested in this holiday and would like more information please contact Kathryn Cope on 07711 128897.

Kevin Cope will be taking names and a deposit of £65 at our general meetings.

New members' social

Calling all members who joined our u3a from April 2024 onwards. You are invited to our New Members' Social on Wednesday 13 November 10.00 at Forest Town Arena. You will have a chance to meet some of our group leaders and ask questions about their groups and to talk to committee members to see what Forest Town & District has to offer you.

This is something we hope to do for new members every 6 months to welcome them to our u3a. We hope it will also allow new members to get the most from their membership by joining relevant interest groups, and, who knows may be even starting up their own groups. If that's you, then please do come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.



Image by Clinker-Free-Vector-Images

At a Glance Diary – Meetings, Events & Trips

November	November	November
GENERAL MEETING Friday 1 November 10.30 Forest Town Arena A N Other <i>Children's TV and how it has changed</i>	TURKEY & TINSEL HOLIDAY Monday 4 to Friday 8 November, Clarence House Hotel, Tenby	OUR HOUSE Saturday 9 November 14.30 Mansfield Palace Theatre Masque Productions latest musical Price: £19.50
November	November	December
NEW MEMBERS' SOCIAL Wednesday 13 November 10.00 Forest Town Arena A chance for members who joined April 24 onwards to learn more about Forest Town & District u3a	CHRISTMAS PARTY Friday 29 November 12.00–14.30 Forest Town Arena Light lunch and entertainment by Oliver Ward Price £5	GENERAL MEETING Friday 6 December 10.30 Forest Town Arena Johnny Victory Singer & entertainer
December		
CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thursday 19 December 12 midday The Hostess Restaurant		

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
Bus Pass Group	Various	Various	As agreed	Christine Cawthorne 01623 658171
Card Craft	4th Mondays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Sue Buchanan 07957 656514
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
Current Affairs	2nd Wednesdays	Flint Avenue 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	new leader TBA
Luncheon Club	Various	Various	Lunchtime	Jan Kerr and Olive Moore
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	Christine Cawthorne 01623 658171
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 07833 543705
Short walks	Various	Various	10.00 start	See Group display at meetings
Table Tennis	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	Oak Tree Centre	10.30-12.30	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
Young Lads' Breakfast Club	Last Tuesdays	various	10.00	Kevin Cope 07902 579299

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 Committee members can be contacted via the website at <https://forest-town.u3asite.uk/contact/>



Our Chairperson is Irene Brooks. She has overall responsibility for ensuring the effective running of our u3a along with compliance and regulatory

requirements. Vice Chairperson, Michael Lyall, works with the Chair to oversee the running of our u3a and has a particular role in member engagement. The Vice Chair makes sure that new members are supported and encouraged to be active in our u3a and provides feedback to the Committee from the wider membership.



Our Joint Business Secretaries are Janis Bye, left, and Kay Toy. They keep us legal and in order, looking after all the Committee

meeting arrangements and submitting reports and returns to bodies such as the National u3a office and Charity Commission. A lot of 'behind the scenes' activities!

The Treasurer, Sue Robinson (right) and Assistant Treasurer, Jenny Vernalls, have oversight of our finances and the production of our Accounts.



They deal with our monetary income, membership subscriptions etc. and make payments for those groups who organise visits, experiences and trips for their members.



The Membership Secretary, Kathryn Cope (left) and Assistant Membership Secretary, Halina Gaskell, maintain our membership

records, deal with queries about membership and enrol new members. Remember to tell them if you move or change your email address or phone number. The Membership Secretary also submits a current list of members at the appropriate time to the organisation that distributes your *u3a Matters* magazine.

The Groups Co-ordinator, Marilyn Redfern (1st right) & Assistant Groups Co-ordinator, Sue Buchanan, support our group leaders. They are the 'go to' people for



information and advice about interest groups. They help to set up new groups and deal with room and venue bookings for groups.

Welfare Officer, Win Wall, liaises with group leaders and other members to identify individual members who might like some moral support. Win will purchase and send cards, as is felt appropriate, and keep Committee Members informed as and when it is necessary.



If you have any concerns then please call him on 01623 640037.

Bob Hunt is the Website Editor, email: webftu3a@gmail.com For latest news visit: <https://forest-town.u3asite.uk/>

Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417