



'MIKES MUSINGS'

A very warm welcome to all our members to this June edition of our Newsletter which I hope you find interesting and informative.

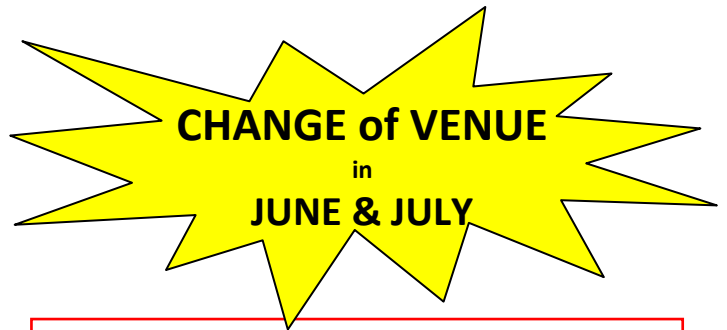
As many of you know, though perhaps not our newest members, we are holding our first AGM at the June monthly meeting. I will endeavour to keep this as brief as possible but there are some formalities that we have to go through in accordance with our Constitution. Despite my 'pleadings' we have had only one nomination for the new Executive Committee, (other than those present committee members who have agreed to stand), but there is the opportunity at the AGM to volunteer your services.

Following the renewal of membership for existing members that we conducted during March & April together with a good number of new members we have at the time of writing 139 members of our U3A. Considering we have only been in existence for eight months I think that is something we can all be proud of and I would personally like to thank you for all your support.

You will see from this Newsletter that there are one or two more suggestions for Interest Groups so please take the opportunity to look at these, and support them if it is something that 'floats your boat'.

I hope that you find the speakers at our monthly meetings interesting, we are trying to provide as wide a range of topics as possible in the hope that there is something for everyone. Susan Wright is our current Speaker Finder, please let her know if through your own contacts you are aware of any good speakers and she will follow this up.

Mike King - Chairman - 1 -



MAIN MEETING THURSDAY 2nd JUNE

Due to health and safety issues that have occurred in St Alban's Church, This meeting will now be held in **Kingsway Hall, Forest Town**



and will start with the AGM at 2pm.

After the AGM

**Russell Hall
from Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice
will speak on
'Wotsits, Spray cream and Spaniels:
A day in the life of a fundraiser.'**

A title like that leaves us all guessing, but in brief Russell's talk will reflect on the wonderful work of this Children's Hospice. The service it provides and the funding needed and how the vast majority of it is raised.

We will also hear about the kind of activities fund raisers get up to and some of the more quirky activities supporters have used.

There will then be time for refreshments and chatting and looking at displays put on by some of our members including:

Woodwork, Crafts, Patchwork, Postboxes, Photo Books and Royalty in Forest Town

KINGSWAY HALL (former Drill Hall)
is opposite Forest Town Post Office.

THE CAR PARK
can be reached by turning down the road at the side of the Red Brick Catholic Church, turn right again and then turn right into the car park.

**We apologise
for this sudden change of venue which is for
June & July or until the problem at St Alban's
Church is resolved.**

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership fees are only £18 for the 2016/17 year which runs from the 1st April to the 31st March, if you are not already a member why not think about joining today. This entitles you to attend our Main meeting and join many of our groups. Also to receive our monthly newsletter.

If you are already a member of another U3A where you pay a full membership fee, the fee with ourselves will be £14.50. Please bring your other membership card with you to qualify for this.

LOOKING BACK TO OUR MAY MEETING



Forest Town, the Village that Grew out of Coal

Our Speaker for May was our very own Pauline Marples, ably assisted by husband, Malcolm. The talk was on the development of Forest Town from a small, mainly farming community through to the village we know today.

Pauline told us about the early days when the Bolsover Colliery Company realised there was money to be made from the area and moved in to sink and develop the Mansfield (Crown Farm) Colliery. In the process they built the Avenues to house the workers and other amenities to provide for their needs.

The talk took us through not just the industrial history but also the growth of a community, and people came to life, with a look at the shops, school, the building of St. Alban's Church, Miners' Institute and the Drill Hall, plus local celebrities of whom Morgan Kingston, the 'Singing Miner' was one. Even the sanitary arrangements which held more than one surprise for the unsuspecting occupant of the pan closets came under scrutiny!

Many thanks to Pauline and Malcolm for this entertaining and fascinating look at our local area, even if you're a lifelong resident I'm sure you found out something about Forest Town that you didn't know or simply enjoyed a trip down Memory Lane.

Jenny Wright

OLD and CURIOUS OCCUPATIONS With Dennis Hill at our July meeting

Over the centuries we have seen many old and curious occupations disappear; some have been soaked up by our factories, while others have either gone abroad or been reduced to curious crafts only to be seen at country fairs or special events.

This illustrated talk takes a look at 60 old occupations in 60 minutes, some of which you will be familiar with, while others you may never have heard of. We take a look at occupations from a wide period of time, from the mediaeval period right up to living memory. Some of those occupations may have only been part time for a small number of people, while others employed tens of thousands of people. The names of some occupations cause quite a bit of amusement.

In many cases the audience will be given the opportunity to have a guess at what a person did before the answer is revealed, which causes quite a bit of amusement. You will certainly end up the evening with a lot of curious facts that you will be able to tease your family and friends with."

Dennis Hill, is a well known local and family historian he was a founder member of Mansfield Family History Society and a mentor on the Nottinghamshire Living History Archive Millennium Scheme

PUZZLED

Disappointingly, despite all our efforts, some people are still saying they cannot hear or see our speakers properly at the main meeting.

At the May meeting our speaker specifically asked everyone if they could hear and ensured she was speaking into the microphone all the time.

Is it the main speaker you cannot hear or those who use the hand held microphone?

The church does have a loop system for people with hearing aids.

Please can we also encourage you all to sit nearer the front to enable you to see the screen, there is always ample room.



THANK YOU

To everyone who helps with refreshments, getting tables out, seeing to the amplifying system and tidying up after the meeting. Many hands make light work and help the smooth running of our meetings

INTEREST GROUPS & LATEST REPORTS

GROUP MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st		Computer & IT Skills-1	Rambling	MAIN MEETING	Music - 60s Appreciation *
2 nd	Craft	Short Walks		Bird Watching	Bridge for Beginners
3 rd	Scrabble & Rummikub Trace Your Family History	Computer & IT Skills-2 Book Club	Rambling	Local History	Strollers
4 th		Drama			Bridge for Beginners

* Not always 1st Friday, please check in Newsletter

Photo Books (Twice a month) will be changing

Woodworking (Toys) No specific day

Bird Watching

Group Leader: Lynne Cooper

2nd Thursday 10am

Contact 01623 652430

Email lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk

At last, a lovely sunny day for our bird watching outing. Six members made a trip to Attenborough Nature Reserve. After visiting a hide to watch Sand Martins we were lucky enough to see a Sandpiper 'close up'. A walk around the lakes resulted in fourteen new species as well as a lot of old favourites. On hearing and then seeing a 'rare' Cetti's warbler we felt quite proud of ourselves. The warden wasn't quite as impressed when we told him, had seen it all before (and got the t shirt no doubt!)

After a break for lunch and ice cream we resumed our walk and were rewarded with sighting of a Redshank, all in all an enjoyable day. Next month we are hoping to go to the Idle Valley Reserve near Retford.

JB

Bridge for Beginners



Group Leader: Steve Evans

**Meet 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
10 am - 12 noon at the Flint Avenue Centre.**

Contact 01623 470282

Email steve.jackie84@ntlworld.com

Book Club

Group Leader: Ann Stanford

**Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month
2.05 - 3.05 at Forest Town Library.**

Contact 01623 641864

Email annstanford1@sky.com

Nine members attended the first meeting of the U3A Book Club which was held in Forest Town Library. Interesting discussions took place on the type of

books people were interested in (crime seemed to be popular), and authors everyone liked. It was a happy friendly atmosphere and there was even reminiscing about books people had read when they took their O-levels! Thomas Hardy was a favourite in those days. The book chosen to read this month for future discussion is 'Heartbreak Hotel' by Deborah Moggach



Computer and IT Skills

Group Leader: Bob Hunt

4/5 people per session

Email bukw90@gmail.com

Craft

Group Leader: Jane Freeman

2nd Monday 2pm - 4pm Meet Forest Town Arena

Contact 01623 624003

Email jam.freeman@btinternet.com

It was wonderful to hold the meeting with the sun shining and the windows open maybe summer really is on the way? although, by the time this item has appeared in print, no doubt it will be "as you were, men", with brollies and thermals being deployed

again. There is a very narrow time-window for we Brits to actually wear Summer Clothes!

A new lady joined the group this month, and hopefully we made her feel welcome. She expressed a wish to learn the intricacies of advanced knitting, so watch this space for her offerings at the next session.

More Twiddle Mitts and premature baby garments were brought in for admiring. It would appear that each batch surpasses the previous with the inventiveness of the "twiddles" created another goal to aim for, maybe?

We agreed to bring as much as we were able to display at the next U3A monthly meeting in June, so we may require several tables! [Sorry ladies we have a limited number of tables -Ed]

Topics discussed ranged from Yarn Bombing for the Royal celebrations in Mansfield town centre next month; the recent local elections for the police commissioner; the lack of reliable information from Any politician regarding the pros and cons of the forthcoming EU referendum (by the way, am I the only person who has Not yet received the 14 page document from the government on this subject?); followed by entertaining anecdotes of pre-retirement work-related escapades. More of this next month, all being well.

Several ladies have decided to give the group a rest (hopefully just for the summer) as they have a lot of other activities keeping them occupied. New members are welcome at any of the sessions just bring some form of craft work to share you may be able to inspire us to try something new.

Next meeting Monday 13th June, 2.00pm at Forest Town Arena. JF

Drama

Group Leader:

4th Tuesday 11am Meet Forest Town Arena,
For further information contact Denise Doude
01623 619856
Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

Family History - see Trace Your Family History

Gardening

Group Leader: *Marian Story*

Monthly, various dates
Contact 01623 631544
Email miku4me1@btinternet.com

1) Three members of the Gardening Group visited the Harrogate Flower Show on Saturday 23rd April, and by all accounts had a splendid day out (avoiding the rain by a fortuitous visit to the marquee!). A few

purchases were made (of course!), plants admired and ideas gained.



2) Eight of us had an enjoyable visit to Hodsock Priory on Sat 7th May, to see the bluebells and the gardens. In amongst ancient trees the bluebells presented a glorious sight - a piece of the sky fallen to earth, or so it seemed...

After a picnic lunch in the woods (bacon cobs from a "log cabin" cafe!), we took a leisurely wander around the beautiful gardens, calling out names of familiar plants (fritillaries, dog-tooth violets), and coming across a few that were unfamiliar (a pretty little white violet?). White tulips glowed in the sunlight, set off by a flowering chaenomeles (quince); aubretia zinged in a sun-worshipping bank; a large sculptured stone snail nestled amongst foliage; a Victorian greenhouse and a nearby beehive completed the tranquil scene. At one point we caught sight of Mother Goose waddling across the lawn with her goslings, the lake in the foreground and the splendid ancient house in the background. We all agreed that we loved our visit to Hodsock. Kay T.

Local History

Group Leader: *Pauline Marples*

3rd Thursday 2.15pm - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email pauline.mp-marples.co.uk



Our May meeting was a village walk in Forest Town. This was a gentle stroll starting at St Alban's Church to the Travellers Rest, then returning by the 'Drill Hall'(Kingsway Hall) to the Miners Welfare (Arena). Among the historical aspects in the churchyard we looked at Nurse Young's memorial stone, a commemorative sundial and later editions to the church. We digress to the cemetery tucked away behind the school, that most people were unaware of, see photo on next page. This gave the opportunity to view the rear of the old school toilets [very historical - Ed].



We were disappointed to see the school guttering had been replaced and the hopper head with 1915 had gone. The plaque over the shops was pointed out which gave the age of the building. There were several opportunities to look behind the shops and see the old stable buildings. An added bonus was to meet the former owner of the Travellers Rest [once a farm] who enlarged on the history of the farm and the farm buildings

It was interesting to see the original brickwork design of the Drill Hall and Bolsover colliery plaques giving the date 1909. We finished the walk in the Arena for coffee and a chat. **Our next meeting will be on 16th June 2.15pm at Flint Avenue Centre**

MM

Music - 60's Appreciation

Group Leader: Keith Bancroft

1st Friday Meet Forest Town Arena 2-4pm

Contact 01623 618099

Email keithbcroft@gmail.com

This month's meeting was held at the Arena on 6th May and was attended by our highest number yet. In fact we were nearly full to capacity. The crowd were treated to the first public appearance of "Rave On" who performed the songs they will be playing in their first spot at the John Fretwell Centre on 7th June.

We held our regular 60's quiz which was this month was compiled by Sandra Boulton which went down very well and got the old grey matter working.

It had been suggested that outings to see concerts at other venues could be arranged. Details for forthcoming events at Mansfield Palace were obtained and 2 concerts have been selected. The first one is on Tues 27th Sept which is "That'll Be The Day" and the other is on Thurs 10th Oct which is "The Roy Orbison Story". We have started taking names and members will have a further opportunity to add their names at the 3rd June session at which "Rave On" will be performing the songs they will be playing in their second spot at J.F. Centre.

Keith B

Petanque

There will be a second U3A Petanque Taster Session 2 hours play followed by refreshments on **Wednesday June 8th 2016 starting at 10am, Tichfield Park Mansfield. Places limited to 36**

Contact Richard Batt 01623 477804

email rbatt123@gmail.com

Photo Books

Group Leader: Marian Batt

Twice a month - Meet - Members Home

Contact 01623 477804

Email mie.batt55@gmail.com

Rambling

Group Leader: Alan Radford

Rambles from 7 miles up to 9 miles on the 1st and 3rd

Wednesdays of each month.

Contact Alan Radford 01623 427934;

[walk days only]: mobile 07851 422466)

Email alan.radford@which.net

For the ramble on Wednesday 4th May the group ventured for the first time into South Yorkshire, setting off from Thorpe Salvin (near Worksop) to Netherthorpe airfield where we were able to view the parked light aircraft and the take-offs and landings taking place. We continued on to Turnerwood where we joined the Chesterfield Canal, and fortunately were able to watch a couple of canal narrow boats working their way up through the locks.



We helped an elderly lady with the opening and closing of the lock gates too. (I had always wanted to see how much effort it would take to open and close lock gates!). Afterwards we carried on over the Lindrick Golf Course to reach Anston Stones Wood, with unbelievable numbers of wild flowers lining the paths.

After lunch we continued through South Anston to re-join the canal at Thorpe Bridge for a second stretch of this lovely waterway and passed through Old Spring Wood, which was more or less completely carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones. I have

walked through these woods many times before, but the flowers have never been as beautiful as they were on our ramble today. We ended our day with drinks/cuppas at The Parish Oven Inn in Thorpe Salvin.

Our ramble on a rainy 18th May started from Minninglow car park on the High Peak Trail, with immediate interest in a high stone embankment built in the 1820s. A short ascent of Minninglow Hill, a hilltop that can be seen from miles away, then on down to Royston Grange followed by crossing the bridge over the Balidon Quarry link to its modern extensions. This was a noisy interruption to the serenity and quietness of the countryside – and within seconds it was all behind us.

We headed southwest over a series of fields for Parwich towards lunchtime, with big views of rolling countryside. Thankfully the rain showers ended leaving us with a drier afternoon as we descended into the village where we worked our way past the church and on to the distinctive school. After passing Parwich Hall we followed paths out of the village northwards past Upper Moor Farm and on to Gotham to re-join the High Peak Trail for the final 1/3 of a mile back to the car park. We then retired to the Wharf Café in Cromford for well-earned cuppas. Another two really good days out.

Our next rambles will be Manifold Valley and Ecton Hill (Wed. 1st June, 8/9m), followed by Hathersage, Nether Hurst, Bamford and Shatton (Wed. 15th June, 8½ m, led by James Parnham), meeting at Arena car park to organise lift sharing and to depart at 08:40 am. New members welcome.

Alan R

Scrabble & Rummikub

Group Leader: *Celia Tassle*

3rd Monday 2pm Forest Town Arena

Contact 01623 627905

Short Walks

Group Leader: *Marlene Mee*

2nd Tuesday 10.30am.

Meet Various Locations

Contact - 01623-409072

E.mail marlene.mee1@virginmedia.com

Strollers

Group Leader: *Denise Doud*

Meet 3rd Friday 10am

Contact 01623 619856

Email dmdoud52@gmail.com

Friday 20th May saw the strolling group of seven people meeting at the Pleasley Pit Country Park

promptly at 10.00am, for a stroll around the former colliery site.



The paths are clearly marked around the site and many dog walkers and bird watchers were also taking advantage of the pleasant spring weather. We stopped and looked for dragonfly nymphs at the dragonfly pond and heard many birds twittering in the newly planted and establishing woodlands of a previously industrial site. At times it was hard to believe that we were only a matter of half a mile from the village of Pleasley and so close to the main roads, as we overlooked fields of bright yellow rape crops and hedgerows full of hawthorn blossom. Following the stroll around the site, through the countryside, we made a bee line for the coffee shop, run by volunteers, and enjoyed a cup of coffee and a piece of cake together with a lovely black Spaniel who just wanted to say hello.

Ann A.

Trace Your Family History



Group Leader: *Malcolm Marples*

Meet - Flint Avenue Centre

Contact 01623 431783

Email malcolm@mp-marples.co.uk

Nine members attended this new group (with four apologies) at the home of Group leader Malcolm Marples. Everyone was introduced to the basics of recording family history starting with themselves. The filling in of a personal Ancestor Chart kept everyone engrossed and then enabled people to share information about their research.



A refreshment break gave the opportunity to look at a variety of Family History Books and to discover why a packet of salt and a Cardboard cupboard were on the table, when the latter was opened up it revealed a skeleton. The salt reminded people to take everything with a pinch of salt until it was proven.

Malcolm then encouraged people to consider documenting information on themselves and gave out a list of suggestions, such as where they were born/baptised, went to school, their work, their family etc. Pauline then demonstrated items to be found around the house that were 'triggers' to events in her family history.

The next meeting will be held on the 20th June at the Flint Avenue Centre 2.30pm. PM

Woodworking (Toys)

Group Leader: Joseph Bell

Contact 01623 631236

NEW

Desley O'Leary has offered to run a Current Affairs group. A signing up sheet will be put out at the June meeting for those interested.

HOW TO START A GROUP

- Have an idea/think of something that interests you.
- Speak to Denise, the Group Co-ordinator (contact details below)
- Arrange an initial interest meeting

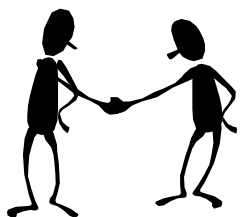
This is how all the groups without a leader begin by getting those interested together to ask what they want from the group, any ideas, day and time to have the meeting. Sometimes a group develops from this, sometimes it doesn't, but at least the idea has been tried.

DOES THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

It does not matter where I go these days, or what I do the topic of the U3A crops up, it can be in church, the village market, the library, museum, even on the phone or in emails. Isn't it good that the U3A is such a great talking point?

PLEASE SAY 'HELLO'

If you see someone sat on their own at our meetings please say 'hello' and make them feel welcome.



SOCIAL SECRETARY NEEDED

To arrange Theatre Visits, Lunch Outings
Please discuss with Mike King - Chairman,
contact details on page 8.



Stop Press Local History Group

If you are on the waiting list for this group, please see Pauline Marples at the main meeting in June or contact;

Pauline Marples 01623 431783
pauline@mp-marples.co.uk

We are moving to a new venue in June which will allow more members to join.

Theatre Visit

**Sound of Music, Theatre Royal,
Wednesday 21st September 2pm**

All seats £29. 50 if 10 or more seats are purchased.
Names to Denise/Ann - all monies paid by June meeting.

DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

MAIN MEETINGS

Thursday 2nd Jun - **AGM & Speaker - Bluebell Wood Hospice, also craft and other displays. (more below)**

Thursday 7th Jul - Speaker - *Old and Curious Occupations*

Thursday 4th Aug - Speaker - *Gardens of Carmarthen South Wales*

Thursday 1st Sep - Speaker - Veolia Waste Recycle

Thursday 6th Oct - Speaker - Action For Hearing Loss

Thursday 3rd Nov - Speaker - Mansfield Area in WW1, Including Clipstone Camp

Thursday 1st Dec - Christmas event

Royal Revelry

Tuesday 7th June - Day event at the John Fretwell Centre, Sookholme. **See Page 8**

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#### NEWSLETTER - DEADLINE

Please send information/photos on your groups activities for the next newsletter to pauline@mp-marples.co.uk by the **25<sup>th</sup> June sooner if possible.**

**LOVE, LAUGH and LEARN  
WITH THE U3A**

## PROGRAMME for the "ROYAL REVELRY"

TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 at the JOHN FRETWELL CENTRE START 10AM

### INSIDE

#### Music in the Function Room

- Retford U3A Choir and Recorder Group will perform from 12 to 12.45
- Forest Town & District U3A "Rave On" will perform from 1 to 1.30pm
- Ashfield U3A Ukele & Guitar Group will perform from 2 to 2.45

#### Competitions

- Ashfield U3A invite you to make a "crown"
- Dukeries U3A ask for captions for their Royal Picture Quiz. Prize to the most humorous.

#### Exhibitions

Throughout the day there will be displays of art, photography, craft and memorabilia with a "royal" flavour. Thanks to Ashfield, Dukeries, Forest Town & District, Hucknall, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford, Sherwood and Sutton U3As

### OUTSIDE

- Enter the Bowls Competition organised by Mansfield U3A.
- **Session 1** 11am to 12 noon, **Session 2** 1 to 2pm

Did you want to have a go at Croquet? Now's your chance. Between 3 and 3.30pm Sutton U3A invite you to come outside and learn some "royal" moves.

Please vacate the Function Room by **3.30pm** to enable the "Royal" tea to be set up.

Please note that Afternoon Tea will be served at 4pm but ticket holders only will be welcome into the Function Room. **Anyone not having a ticket will be taken to The Tower.**

Throughout the day you will be seeing "roving" photographers. Please note if you do not want your photograph taken inform the photographers when s/he points her/his camera at you.

With thanks to all of the Neighbourhood U3As who have contributed:-

Ashfield, Dukeries, Forest Town & District, Hucknall, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford,

**Our Forest Town & District U3a Web Site**

**<http://u3asites.org.uk/forest-town>**

Do take a look for up to-date information, back issues of our newsletter, group information, a gallery full of photo's - are you on them? Links to other U3A web sites and much more.



| Forest Town U3A Steering Committee |                   |              |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Committee Position                 | Name              | Phone number | Email                                                                                |
| Chairman & Treas Asst              | Mike King         | 01623 470929 | <a href="mailto:mikethos42@yahoo.com">mikethos42@yahoo.com</a>                       |
| V/Chair & Speaker Sec              | Susan Wright      | 01623 635120 | <a href="mailto:susanhw28@hotmail.com">susanhw28@hotmail.com</a>                     |
| Business Secretary                 | Jennifer Wright   | 01623 631371 | <a href="mailto:j.wright445@btinternet.com">j.wright445@btinternet.com</a>           |
| Treasurer                          | Lynne Cooper      | 01623 652430 | <a href="mailto:lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk">lynnecoopernotts@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| Groups Co-ordinator                | Denise Doud       | 01623 619856 | <a href="mailto:dmdoud52@gmail.com">dmdoud52@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Asst Groups Co-ord.                | Ann Stanford      | 01623 641864 | <a href="mailto:annstanford1@sky.com">annstanford1@sky.com</a>                       |
| Membership Sec                     | Kath Wolstonholme | 01623 617194 | <a href="mailto:ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com">ftanddu3amembership@hotmail.com</a> |
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| Website Editor                     | Bob Hunt          |              | <a href="mailto:foresttownu3a@outlook.com">foresttownu3a@outlook.com</a>             |