



It's time to renew

Your committee has set the annual fee for membership at £20 for the 2025/26 year. Associate membership, for those who are already a member at another u3a, is £16.00. What amazing value this is. Where else can you get 12 cups of tea/coffee and a biscuit (served free at our monthly general meetings) for so little, let alone all the activities, events and trips on offer?

There are three ways to pay:

- ◆ **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 March meeting 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 general meeting on 7 March 2025. **PLEASE AVOID CASH PAYMENTS IF YOU CAN.**

Future of u3a is in your hands

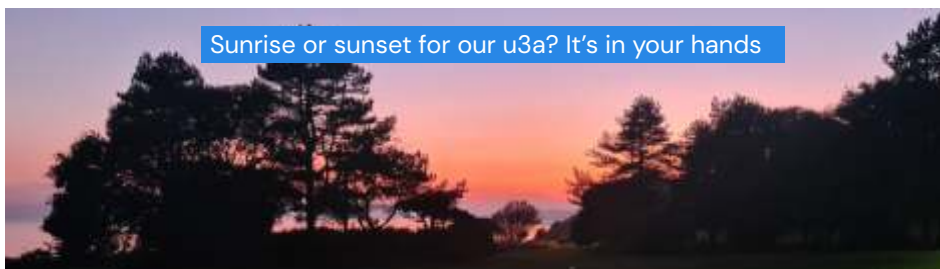
Our u3a committee needs new members in key roles this June as current members will have served the three years allowed. This is your opportunity to shape a new committee with fresh ideas. The roles are not difficult. They just require enthusiasm and commitment so please come forward and do your bit. Please treat this as **URGENT, AS NO COMMITTEE MEANS, NO U3A.**

In particular, it is crucial we have nominations for CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR and BUSINESS SECRETARY as without these three in place, there can be no Forest Town & District u3a. There is scope for job sharing in the key roles and this has worked well so far.

Whilst the above three roles are requirements, other roles also becoming vacant in June are just as essential to delivering our interest groups, events and trips. These are: Group Coordinator & Assistant, Speaker Finder & Assistant, Membership Secretary & Assistant. You can read more about Committee roles on page 7. On page 8 there's a detailed description of the business secretary position prepared by Janis and Kay who currently job-share the role.

Marilyn's role as Group Co-Ordinator is one of the roles to be filled. She says she has really enjoyed trying to keep the groups supported and looking for new interest group ideas. "The role is what you make it but, basically, it is being available to discuss group leaders' concerns and keep all members updated in changes to all the groups and attending the main committee meeting once a month. Usually there are two meetings per year for group leaders to share thoughts, concerns and ideas. I am happy to meet anyone on a one-to-one basis to discuss this role, just message me on 07928 781706."

Sunrise or sunset for our u3a? It's in your hands



Masters of Mirth at March meeting

Mike Storr will be our speaker at the March general meeting on Friday 7 March at the Forest Town Arena, 10.00 for 10.30. start.

Mike's humorous talk, *Masters of Mirth*, is an affectionate review of some of his favourite Music Hall laughter-makers.

He will look at how music hall began and cover some of his best-loved characters –Robb Wilton, Stanley Holloway and Bernard Miles to name but a few....

Examples of their acts, including some of their famous monologues are often included.

Next issue is April 2025

Please send articles or ideas for the April issue to Helen Riby by email: ftu3anews@gmail.com or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW by midday on Monday 24 March 2025

Card craft group proving very popular



Twenty-one members attended the card craft interest group at the Sherwood Centre on Monday 24 February. "We all made some lovely creations," says Group leader Sue Buchanan.

Sue continues: "The group has proved so popular that, unfortunately, we can't take any more people at the moment, but, if you are interested, I can put your name on a waiting list," she adds.



Card Craft Group Leader:
Sue Buchanan 07957 656514 Meet 4th Mondays

Arctic adventures

Barry Harper's talk at the general meeting on Friday 7 March gave us a real feel for what it was like to trek unaided to the North Pole. Our chair Stephen Garner introduced Barry as 'the man from the fridge', and he wasn't wrong!

Barry's tales of sub-zero temperatures (minus 45), Force 9 Arctic gales, massive ice pressure ridges, white-outs, falling into freezing water and a close encounter with a polar bear didn't exactly invite his audience to follow in his footsteps.

The transport arrangements to get to the start of the trek sounded equally hazardous – ex-cold-war helicopters and planes flown by Russians with little, if any, health & safety considerations.



It was clearly an amazing feeling to make it to the North Pole – when Barry got there in April 2005 only around 500 people had ever been there.

Barry is currently raising money for local mental health charity, Revive Counselling & Wellbeing CIC. To find out more or donate please visit: <https://www.revivewellbeing.org/home>



Tabletop games to continue

A big thank you to Alan Kelly who is the new tabletop games group leader.

The group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at the Flint Ave Community Centre, off Dorothy Drive. If you haven't yet joined this group you might want to consider giving it a try. There are loads of games available, including chess, backgammon, rummikub and lots of different card games.

If you want something different, either bring it along or talk to Alan to see if funds allow a purchase.

It's a good way to pass a couple of hours, to socialise and get those 'little grey cells' working.



Image by Alex, Pixabay

Table Top Games Group Leader:
Alan Kelly Meet 4th Mondays

Jaunts in good company; the essence of u3a rambling

Our first walk in February was supposed to be round the Attenborough Nature Reserve, but pipe-laying works by Severn Trent had shut a crucial section of our route. Instead, we fell back on an old favourite, walking to Hardwick Hall from Teversal Country Park via the Teversal and Rowthorne trails.

The walking was easy and we set a fast pace to keep warm on a cool day under a blue sky in full sun. So much so, we arrived at Hardwick Hall, our scheduled lunch stop, a tad early for lunch. Fortunately, Georganne gave us an impromptu talk on the life of Bess of Hardwick, so we could take lunch after 12 noon.

Our second outing set out from Unstone near Dronfield on a cold, dull and hazy day. We were glad of a steep hill at the start of the walk to warm us up. The walk was varied, starting off with some street walking then alternating between farm fields and woodland.

For most of the morning, frost had firmed up the mud so the going was good. However, once the thaw set in, the mud became quite deep and treacherous in places. The largest settlement we came across was Cowley, consisting of just a few private houses and a farm. Other than that, it was a quiet jaunt through pleasant countryside in good company.

Our next rambles:

5 March: Hathersage, Grindleford, Longshaw Estate and Burbage Rocks (9.miles). 19 March: Sprotborough, Doncaster (8.5 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



A little goes a long way for short walkers in Clumber

Although it was cold, our small group braved the grey February morning to visit Clumber Park lakeside. We all felt better for the social interaction and a not too strenuous walk. A little goes a long way to lift the spirits.

The next walk is on Friday 21 March. Kathryn will be taking us around Thoresby. Please meet at THORESBY PARK car park at 10.30am.

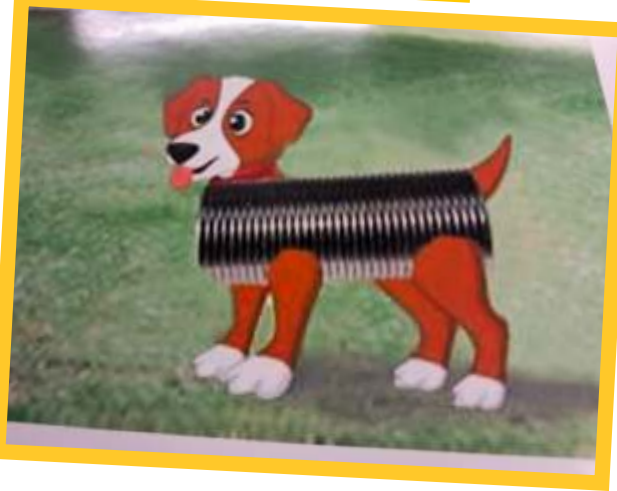
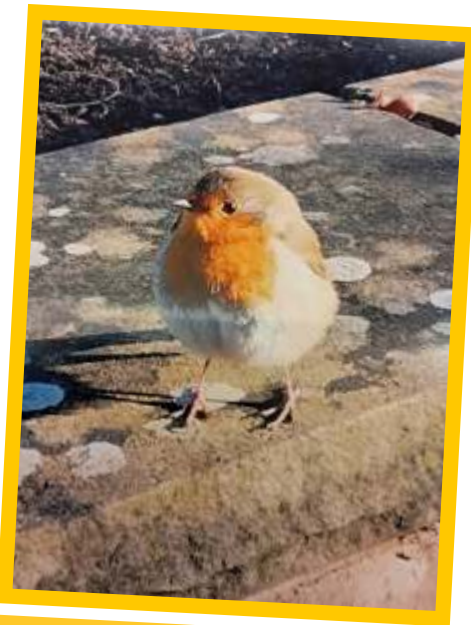
We need offers to lead walks from April onwards. Please leave your name and a date to suit you on the list I will leave by the blue boards at the March general meeting. Alternatively, message me on 07928 781706.

Report by **Marilyn Redfern**
Short Walk Group Leaders: **Various**

Snap 'n Chat look forward to Spring

The theme for February's Snap & Chat meeting was spring animals. Take a look at the photos! We had to give way to that very special spring animal!

Arthur gave us lots of helpful information on how to get the best pictures with our phones and better use of light and a steady hand has improved our technique, so thank you Arthur.



National Trust

Looking forward to lighter and warmer days from May onwards, the National Trust Group is planning to visit:

- ◆ Quarry Bank, Wilmslow, Cheshire,
- ◆ The Old Manor and Kedleston, Derbyshire
- ◆ Wightwick Manor, near Wolverhampton

Details to follow!

National Trust Group Leader:

Ann Stanford. Contact Ann on: 01623 641864 Email: annstanford1@sky.com

Report by: **Angelina Taylor**
Photo Group Leader:
Alan Taylor
Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Garden Craft Group tackle macramé

For our February meeting, about a dozen of us sat round the table and began by trying to figure out the macramé puzzle in front of us. It wasn't long before most of us got the hang of it, under Angelina's and Christine's instructions and made a key ring decoration (see photo).

I speak from experience when I say that this makes one's keys easy to find, especially if a bright colour is chosen.

I think we have all joined the u3a to learn new skills and Tuesday's session required dexterity and the ability to follow instructions. Good for active retired folk!



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

Social events update

Veolia waste management visit, Friday 11 April

We have arranged a morning visit to VEOLIA WASTE MANAGEMENT on Friday 11 April. We have had very interesting talks from Veolia at previous meetings so a visit to their site should give us further insight into what happens to our empty yoghurt cartons. There is a small fee per member (around £8) and names will be taken at the March meeting. You can also message Marilyn on 07928781706 if you want to go.



Marilyn Refern

VE Day Commemoration, Friday 16 May



We will be turning the Arena into a 40's Dance Hall to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe. We will be putting our rations together for a light lunch and Johnny Victory will be singing the songs of the era. Come dressed in your best 40's outfit.

Tickets £5 on sale at the general meetings in March, April and May. Once again we can only have 140 people at this event due to safety regulations.

Kathryn Cope

Whitby day trip, Monday 14 July

Enjoy a day out in Whitby on Monday 14 July. The coach will be leaving the Arena at 08.00 and returning from Whitby at 16.00. The cost is £19. Please note cheques should be made out to Forest Town & District u3a. If you are paying by cash can you please try and bring the exact amount - £19.

This trip will be available to book from the March meeting onwards.

Yorkshire heritage cruise & steam holiday, 17 & 18 September

Day 1 - Following our departure from the Arena, we visit Otley, then onto Embsay for a nostalgic journey on a restored steam engine and carriages via the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway. Afterwards we continue to Haworth, home of the Brontë sisters, before arriving at The Great Victoria Hotel, Bradford, where we will have a three-course meal, tea and coffee waiting for us.

Day 2 - After breakfast we head to Skipton for a fun and informative cruise on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal before heading to Saltaire Victorian Village. This former textile mill has been transformed into a fabulous collection of art, plus shopping and dining. Walk around the village to find the buildings and homes that Sir Titus Salt built for his mill workers.



The holiday cost pp is £149.00 with single supplement £35.00

A deposit of £45.00 is required for this trip, which will be available to book from the March general meeting onwards.

Please note, a heritage diesel engine might replace the steam train service without notice.

At a Glance Diary – Meetings, Events & Trips

March	March	April
GENERAL MEETING Friday 7 March 10.30 Forest Town Arena Mike Storr <i>Masters of Mirth</i>	NEWSTEAD ABBEY Friday 28 March – guided tour and/or refreshments	WIZARD OF OZ Saturday 8 March 14.30 Mansfield Palace Theatre – £20
March	April	April
GENERAL MEETING Friday 4 April 10.30 Forest Town Arena Richard Kubron <i>Crime Prevention</i>	VEOLIA WASTE MANAGEMENT VISIT Morning of Friday 11 April Price c£8	RHS SPRING FLOWER SHOW Saturday 26 April Harrogate – Fully booked

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 470929
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	SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE			
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	Alan Kelly 07787 823778
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/>



Councillor Steve Garner is acting Chairperson with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective running of our u3a along with compliance and regulatory requirements. We currently have a vacancy for the Vice Chairperson

role. The Vice chair works with the Chairperson to oversee the running of our u3a and has a particular role in member engagement, making sure new members are supported and encouraged to be active in our u3a and providing 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



BUSINESS SECRETARY ROLE DESCRIPTION

The role of the Business Secretary is to support the Chair by ensuring the smooth functioning of the management committee.

Whoever takes on this role should have a laptop/computer with an email account and Word, as well as a printer.

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Preparing the committee meeting Agenda with the Chair
- ◆ Making all arrangements for monthly committee meetings, which they would be expected to attend.
- ◆ Take Minutes of committee meetings and circulate to members
- ◆ Bookings to be made for the year ahead for committee meetings and general meetings
- ◆ Ensuring that a quorum is present
- ◆ Circulating Agendas, Minutes and papers
- ◆ Receiving Agenda items from committee members
- ◆ Circulating u3a members with Agendas and Minutes of the AGM and any special or extraordinary/general meetings
- ◆ Receiving and disseminating to committee members any correspondence including that from the Third Age Trust. Extract relevant information and transfer onto notice boards.
- ◆ Receive and disseminate, as appropriate, information from North Notts Network
- ◆ Ensuring all licences are up to date
- ◆ Ensure all relevant forms are revised and updated as appropriate and at least once a year
- ◆ Keep committee list up to date and circulate to appropriate committee members
- ◆ Maintain files of historic information as appropriate