



Changes you need to know about

Please make a note in your diaries that **there will be no general meeting in December**. Instead, your Committee has agreed that the first Friday in December will be our 2026 Christmas party. Please also note the party will start at 10.00 – doors open at 09.30.

Our social group has secured Johnny Victory to help things go with a swing. He's bound to include a sing-along of Christmas songs. There will be a £5 Secret Santa and a cream tea will be provided. Tickets priced at £5 will be available at the October general meeting.

Whilst our u3a usually holds a monthly general meeting to which all members are invited free of charge, this is not a national u3a requirement. Indeed some u3as in other parts of the country always charge a small fee to cover room hire and refreshment costs for their general sessions.

In addition, there will be no General Meeting in January as the first Friday falls on New Year's Day. Therefore, the first General Meeting of 2027 will be on **Friday 5 February 2027**.



Committee still short of volunteers

Forest Town & District u3a needs a Group's Co-ordinator and a Speaker Seeker. These two roles are extremely important. Without volunteers to fill them this u3a will struggle to keep going. A u3a isn't allowed to run without a chair, vice-chair, business secretary or treasurer – but, important as these four roles are, the interest groups and speakers at general meetings, along with our social group are just as essential. Please consider volunteering for these vital positions.

David Moylan entertains

The speaker for the September meeting, 10.30 on Friday 4 September at Forest Town Arena, was David Moylan.

David is a one-man variety show featuring comedy, magic, music and hilarious routines, remembering some of the country's greatest entertainers.



October speaker will be...

Martin Rowley is the speaker for the October General Meeting on Friday 2 October, 10.30 at the Forest Town Arena.

Probably because we don't yet have a u3a Speaker Seeker, it's not clear what he will be talking about. However, Martin's entry on Speakernet tells us that there are six possibles:

- 1960s motor sport, including the Goodwood Revival meeting;
- The Sheffield 'Gang Wars' of the 1920s;
- How to survive open heart surgery ...a beginners' guide!
- 'Can a drinks can save your life?' – an interesting presentation on the Air Ambulance service and the charity which turns recycled drinks cans into Helipads for Hospitals;
- Electric cars: Are they as good as they seem? The truth behind the myths: what we all should know before deciding and how it will affect us;
- The story of the British motor industry in the Midlands from 1890 to present day.

Next issue is November 2026

Please send articles or ideas for the November issue to Helen Riby by email: ftu3anews@gmail.com or by post to: 5 Fal Paddock, Mansfield Woodhouse NG19 9RW by midday on **Monday 25 October 2026**

Button up!

Reuse and recycle: that was the theme for the recent meeting of the Craft Group. Old buttons were put to good use.

We made patterns out of card and fabric. Some made butterflies, others made Christmas trees and some decorated flower baskets. We all enjoyed being creative.



Craft Group Leader: **Angelina Taylor** Meet 2nd Tuesdays

Last 2026 NT trip - still two places

There are still two places available for the last National Trust trip of the year. It's to Dunham Massey/Tatton Park on Friday 16 October. We will be leaving the Forest Town Arena at 08.30 and returning by 18.30. The plan is to spend 2hrs 30mins at each site. They are only seven miles apart. I will confirm the times nearer the day. The cost is £20.

If you would like to go, please message or phone me on 07960 488419.

If anyone has still to pay, please do so at the October meeting.

Thanks.

Jan Cooper

National Trust Group Leaders:

Halina Gaskell, Jan Cooper, Jackie & Steve Evans

Pick ups: Near Forest Town Arena & in Mansfield Woodhouse



The Book Club recommends...

This month's book was *Frank and Red* by Matt Coyne. Frank is a grumpy recluse estranged from his friends and his son following the death of his wife, Marcie, two years ago. Red is a lively six year old, who recently moved next door and never stops talking. He is struggling to come to terms with his parent's separation.

Red has a trampoline and from the minute his blonde head appears over Frank's fence an unlikely friendship is formed.

We all enjoyed the book which is easy to read, funny and heartwarming.



Book Club:

Ann Stanford Meet 1st Mondays

Join the Photo Group and pick up tips for great pictures

We had our monthly meeting for September and were a little low on numbers, so we are looking to rearrange a few things.

Group leader Steve explained that he'd not been at the last few meetings because his wife, Joan, has been quite ill and therefore his priority has been looking after her.

After some discussion the group decided that it wants to try to help those who have little or no knowledge of the art of taking good photos.

It doesn't matter what you are using - your mobile phone, or any kind of camera, and you don't need fancy expensive equipment to take good pictures. The art is to have an imagination and spot where, or when, it's a good time to snap a photo.

So, we are calling all beginners: why not come along to our group meeting on the 2nd Tuesday each month at The Sherwood Centre, Stuart Avenue, Forest Town, where I am sure there will be someone who can help you. If there are any questions please come and speak to me at the monthly October meeting.

We have a theme for each meeting and the next one will be *Photos of Shadows*. We display them then take a vote to find a monthly winner.

Photography Group Leader:
Steve Edis Meet 2nd Tuesdays



Go on... Post it

Forest Town & District u3a is on Facebook, so please help promote your u3a by posting comments and pictures of your u3a activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/foresttownu3a>

Ramblers learn a lot on first September walk...

Our ramble on 2 September saw us in a quieter part of Derbyshire following a generally flat route through fields and lanes, although there were a couple of uphill to get the heart rate going. Striking out from Ockbrook we soon came to the first of these as we climbed through the village to the Moravian Settlement.

Few of us had heard of this Christian group which emphasises freedom and simplicity in faith and life, so it was fascinating to get an insight into the history of this place. Founded in 1750, the six-acre site contains several red-brick Georgian buildings, with a Grade II chapel dating to 1751. The origins of the community go back to 1457 when it was first established in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic).

We learnt that a girls' boarding school was founded on the grounds in 1799, marking the beginning of a long educational tradition on the site that continues to this day. Whilst the independent school closed in 2021, the site is now being used by the charity, Over The Wall. Over the Wall was set up by late Hollywood star, Paul Newman, in 1999 to offer free residential activity camps for children in the UK with health challenges and disabilities.

The well-ordered graveyard where every memorial was a simple paving stone laid flat and engraved with a name and dates prompted some speculation. These were placed too close together to allow for burial so we concluded maybe they contained cremated ashes. The message however that everyone is equal was very clear.

Our route took us into Locko Park. As we walked beside the Lake we had glimpses of the 17th century Locko Hall – still largely a private residence having been in the same family since 1747.

Our next stop was Dale Abbey. Whilst very little of the actual abbey remains, Georganne had arranged a tour of the tiny All Saints Church. This quirky church is semi-detached; the other part of the building is a private house, but originally it was a hospital with its own access door



Outside the semi-detached All Saints Church in Dale Abbey. The half on the right, now a private dwelling, was originally a hospital and then a pub



On the balcony in the tiny Dale Abbey church

onto the church balcony, allowing the sick to attend church without infecting the parishioners below. The doorway was blocked up in 1820 when the building became the Blue Bell Inn. The little church is all that remains intact from the abbey buildings. It even has a fragment of 13th century wall painting inside to prove its credentials.

Leaving Dale Abbey some of us climbed up to the Hermit's Cave after which a pleasant cross country walk brought us back to Ockbrook.

..cont on page 4



The Moravian Chapel, Ockbrook



Locko Park

Report by **Helen Riby**

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

Matlock day trippers bathed in September sunshine

What better way to spend a day – Tuesday 22 September – than with friends from our u3a in Matlock and in weather that felt like the last burst of summer too.

Our coach first arrived in Matlock Bath where, those who were more adventurous-minded, left it to walk down into Matlock. I'm not that adventurous so I stayed on the coach. The only decision I then had to make was: "Do I leave my jacket on the coach?" It was hotting up outside!



Happy members, soaking up some sun in Matlock

After a stroll through the beautiful park to admire the colourful begonias we stopped for coffee. Sitting in the lovely sunshine was unbelievable for the latter part of September.

Refreshed, we headed off to walk around Matlock, bumping into other members and stopping for a chat around every corner. We checked out some of the numerous charity shops and antique centres.

The morning ran away and it was soon time for lunch, so we headed back to the park to make the most of the sunny day. By this time the temperature had reached 24°C. People were eating fish and chips in the park but, unfortunately, the coffee shop balcony was full so we had to go inside. I thoroughly recommend the cheese and ham ciabatta, also the rhubarb and custard ice cream.

It was soon time to head back to the coach with our purchases for the drive back to the Arena. Thank you Marilyn for organising the trip. I think a lovely day was had by all.

Kathryn Cope

... then tackle tricky paths!

Our second outing in September saw us setting out from Ashford in the Water on an unsettled day, unsure whether to wear waterproofs. Those wearing coats were soon proved right, but the shower was quickly over and we got round the rest of the walk without further rain.

There were frequent stops to add, or remove layers of clothing as the sun kept making short appearances. A walking pole was left behind on one such stop, and Julie added an extra half mile to her walk as she trudged back to retrieve it.

A steady ascent brought us to Monsal Head with magnificent views down into the Monsal Valley with the viaduct looking tiny below us. After a steep descent we were soon in the valley bottom walking under the viaduct which now looked huge, standing at 70 feet high.

We then encountered a stretch of muddy paths, a novelty after such a dry summer. The way up to the village of Sheldon proved to be steep and treacherous underfoot through Great Shacklow Wood. Surprisingly we had only one faller, thankfully unhurt though shaken.

The way back to Ashford involved a steep descent through Little Shacklow Wood, equally treacherous underfoot, requiring great concentration on every step to avoid slipping. For all its challenges, this was a hugely enjoyable walk with great views and good company.

Our next rambles:

7 October: Cromford station to Ambergate station – linear (7 miles). 21 October: Eckington, Moss Valley, Birleyhay and Marsh Lane (7.3 miles). New members welcome.



Watch where you put your feet!



The magnificent Monsal Head viaduct towers above us

Report by **Andrew Riby**

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

Hostess Christmas lunch - just a few places left

Our Christmas lunch is at The Hostess on Thursday 10 December, cost is £23. There are still a few places available. If you are interested, please message me on 07928 781706, or see me at the October general meeting.

Marilyn Redfern



Playing cards needed

Does anyone have any old packs of playing cards they no longer use? Please bring them to the General Meeting and pass them onto me, so that at our next Forest Tavern we have a game of Sticky 13!

Kathryn Cope



Fish 'n chips lunch & quiz is back

The popular Fish 'n Chips lunch and quiz returns for 2027. The date for your diary is Wednesday 13 January at St Lawrence Hall. The price will still be £10. (If only our gas and electricity prices could remain this constant!)



PLEASE NOTE:

Tickets for this event will **NOT BE ON SALE** until the **NOVEMBER** General Meeting.

Marilyn Redfern

Limericks continued...

The Owl and the Cat (Owl, rejected, dejected)

Owl said, "I'm in love with you Cat",

(A strange kind of love is that).

Cat said to the Owl,

"You're a handsome fowl,

but dear, I'm in love with a Bat".

Bob Hunt

Don't miss next Silver Screen

The next Silver Screen is on Friday 23 October, 11.00 to 13.00 at Forest Town Arena.

The film is *Mrs Henderson Presents*.

Set in London in 1937, Judi Dench is at her brilliant best. It's a true story, funny and sad.



Angelina Taylor

At a Glance Diary – Meetings, Events & Trips

October 2026	October 2026	October 2026
GENERAL MEETING Friday 2 October 10.30 Forest Town Arena <i>Martin Rowley, TBA</i>	NATIONAL TRUST DUNHAM MASSEY/TATTON PARK Friday 16 October Pick up Forest Town Arena Price: £20 TWO PLACES LEFT	SILVER SCREEN Friday 23 October, 11.00 Forest Town Arena <i>Judi Dench stars in Mrs Henderson</i>
November 2026	November 2026	December 2026
GENERAL MEETING Friday 6 November 10.30 Forest Town Arena <i>Jane Barnes, Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife</i>	TURKEY & TINSEL Monday 23 to Friday 27 November Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold Price: £409pp	CHRISTMAS PARTY Friday 4 December 10.00 Forest Town Arena with Johnny Victory, a cream tea & Secret Santa Price: £5
December 2026	January 2027	February 2027
CHRISTMAS LUNCH Thursday 10 December The Hostess Price: £23	FISH 'N CHIPS LUNCH & QUIZ Wednesday 13 January 11.00 St Lawrence's Hall Price: £10	GENERAL MEETING Friday 5 February 10.30 Forest Town Arena <i>TBA</i>

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 07716 653850
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
Craft	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	10.00-12.00	Angelina Taylor 01623 622871
Computers & IT	Any time	Member's home	By arrangement	Robert Hunt 07588 047885
Country Dancing	2nd Tuesdays	Selwyn St Centre	14.00-16.00	Ann Stanford 07716 653850
Current Affairs	2nd Wednesdays	Selwyn St Centre	10.00-12.00	Michael King 01623 470929
Days Out & Holidays	Advertised at general meetings	Forest Town Arena	Various	Angelina Taylor 01623 622871
Evening Dinner Out	4th Thursdays	Various	18.30	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
Litter Pick	4th Tuesdays	Meet outside Forest Town Library	10.00	Susan Wright 07949 726209
Luncheon Club	Various	Various	Lunchtime	Olive Moore Contact via https://forest-town.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/lunch-club/
National Trust	Various	Pick up near Arena & in Woodhouse	Various	Halina Gaskell, Jan Cooper, Jackie & Steve Evans
Painting & Drawing	SUSPENDED but you can attend Sherwood u3a sessions. Contact Marilyn Redfern 07928 781706			
Photography	2nd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Steve Edis 07752 270619
Pilates	Thursdays	St Lawrence Church Hall, Sandy Lane	10.00-11.00	Halina Gaskell 07508 4995231
Rambling 7-9 miles	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	Various	10.00 start	Andy Riby 07833 543705
Short walks	Various	Various	10.00 start	See Group display at meeting
Table Tennis	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	Oak Tree Centre	10.30-12.30	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
Tabletop Games	4th Mondays	Selwyn St Centre	14.00-16.00	Alan Kelly 07787 823778
Trace Your Family Tree	3rd Tuesdays	Sherwood Centre	14.00-16.00	Andrew & Julie Rowbottom 01623 636223
Vintage Voices	2nd Fridays	Big Barn Lane Methodist Church	12.30-14.00	Marilyn Redfern 01623 845731
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.

For latest news visit: <https://forest-town.u3asite.uk/> Forest Town & District u3a is a Registered Charity Number 1186417

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 Alan Kelly. His role is to chair the monthly meetings and our committee meetings. He also represents Forest Town & District u3a to other u3as, the local area Network, the Region and the National u3a and provides leadership to ensure the committee fulfils its responsibilities.



The Vice chairperson is Richard Lord. He deputises where necessary for the chairperson in any of the chairperson's duties and provides an alternative source of motivation to the committee and the whole of Forest Town & District u3a.



Our Business Secretary is Mary Hind. Mary keeps 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 the Charity Commission.



A lot of 'behind the scenes' activities!

The Treasurer, Sue Robinson (first 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, Hilary Bramwell (first right) 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.

They also submit a current list of members at the appropriate time to the organisation that distributes your *u3a Matters* magazine.

The Groups Co-ordinator position is vacant. If you are willing to take on the role please contact the Chair or any member of the committee. The Assistant Groups Co-ordinator is Sue Buchanan



These two roles provide support to 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, Angelina Taylor, liaises with group leaders and other members to identify individual members who might like some moral support.



She 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 her on 01623 622871.

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