

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - JUNE 2023

CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"

Hello to you all

As I write this I'm aware that the Summer Solstice and longest day of the year, 21st June, is fast approaching. I love the long evenings we have been having and look forward to a good summer and harvest from my allotment. While the walker and cyclist in me hopes for dry days for outdoor events, the gardener in me is crying out for some overnight rain. We have had no rain for at least 4 weeks or possibly more by the time you read this. 'No Mow for May' has now finished but we were delighted when a Goldfinch was feeding in our long grass. During the last Bank Holiday in May I had a short boat trip on the historic Chesterfield Canal leaving from the Lock Keeper pub in Worksop. It was good to see a different part of the canal and go through a couple of locks too.

After last months meeting Bryan and I attended the official opening of some new properties in Retford built for the Sloswick Almshouse Charity. Retford's 'best kept secret'. Bob Lamb, who gave the fascinating talk about the bees at short notice last month, is the previous Chair of the organisation who, with fellow trustees, had been involved with the project from the beginning.

The new Chair, Tim Shuldham, will be giving the talk about this local charity to the October General Meeting. Amanda Neilson from the National Trust is the speaker this month. The topic is Mr Straw's House. A fascinating house to visit in Worksop.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting.

Pippa Ramsay

UPDATE ON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

* Chair	Pippa Ramsay
* Vice Chair	Bryan Gladstone
* Secretary	Pamela Mann
* Treasurer	Patricia Everitt
* Interest Group Leaders	Caroline Marsh Carol Knowles
* Membership Secretary	Pat Lockett
* Speaker Finder	Angela Grant
* Social Events	Sue Paul
	Also
* Webmaster	Andrew Young
* Newsletter	Chrissie Cook
* U3a Merchandise	Roger Stenson

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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Last date for receiving articles

for July edition is Friday 21st July

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Jun	22nd	Mr Straw's House, Worksop	National Trust member
Jul	27th	Citizens Advice Bureau	Karen Whitlam
Aug	24th	Safe and Well at home	Daniel Corr Fire and Rescue Service
Sept	28th	Bonney Baggaley	Bassetlaw Hospice
Oct	26th	Sloswick Organisation - Almshouse Charity	Tim Shuldham
Nov	23rd	Pilots and Petticoats - Masters of the Sky	David Skillen

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

There will be a couple of vacancies from September. Contact me if interested on 01777 871567 or

Email - mariethompson@me.com.

Monthly theme - Clothing and Footwear -



Summer Fashion by Pippa Ramsey

Ready for the Rain by Pippa Ramsey



FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP

May's subject was a flower arrangements incorporating a framework/structure.



WATERCOLOUR GROUP

"Our May session focused on sunsets. Some examples of the results are shown.

Our programme for the coming months is below. If you are interested in joining us please contact Andrew Young using the link on the group's website page or on 01623 863327"



Thanks, Andrew"



- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 27th July | Fishing boats in & out of water |
| 24th Aug | Dry brushwork |
| 28th Sep | Water on leaves & flowers |
| 26th Oct | Still life on table |
| 23rd Nov | Shallow water/through water |
| | All held on Thursdays |

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Here are the next venues for the Sunday Lunch Group

- ◆ June 25th Duke William, Scaftworth @ 12.15 -12.30
- ◆ July 16th Cross Keys, Stow @ 12.00
- ◆ August 20th Queens Hotel, East Markham @ 12.30
- ◆ September 17th Dovecote, Laxton @ 12.15 - 12.30

Many thanks, Ruth

MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

By the time you will read this we will have taken 35 members to the National Armoury Museum at Leeds. We have another trip planned for July 19th which is to the Living History Museum at Eden Camp. We still have a few seats available for this trip. For those who have not heard of this museum it is up at Malton near the North York Moors. We are going by Kettlewells coach probably leaving around 8.30am and arriving back at Retford around 6.00pm. This looks like another popular trip with a lovely coach ride through East and North Yorkshire. If you are interested in joining us the cost is £27.00 per person, including the £12.00 entrance fee. Just contact me by email and let me know you're interested and we can add you to the list.

The other trip you should be aware of is our September trip to Bletchley Park. Most of you will know what went on there from 1938 right through until the early 1980's (until the work was moved to GCHQ at Cheltenham). We currently have 38 people who have put their names down to go so we have about 8 spare seats at the moment. The cost including Group Admission is £34.50 per person. This is another all day trip leaving Kettlewells around 8.00am and returning by around 6.30pm. So if either of these trips appeal, contact me at roy.clarborough@gmail.com

We had a great talk and Zoom presentation in May when Adrian Sumner told the group 'live'

at Hallcroft and other u3a Groups around the country on Zoom about how the RAF achieved getting aircraft, airmen and supplies to the Middle East during the war, via the Gold Coast and Nigeria. It was called the Takorlandi Route. We had around 25 members at Hallcroft and a similar number on Zoom, including Corby u3a joining us for the first time. On Zoom, which we run on the fourth Monday afternoon of each month, the 'live' talk is repeated. We usually get at least three if not four households in the United States join us and members from other UK u3a's attend as well including the National Group Coordinator Mike Fox, who runs Banstead u3a's Military History Group. Usually Brighton, Evesham, Gloucester, North Norfolk, Southwell, Tenterden and Worksop u3a's are represented.

If you have shown interest in the past in Retford's Military History Group you automatically receive an invitation to join in our Zoom meetings if you can't make the second Thursday morning of the month at Hallcroft. Have a look at the Retford u3a website and follow the 'Events' link and you will see our programme running until the end of the year. We run an open group and any Retford u3a member can come along to our Hallcroft meetings. If you want to be included on the Zoom invitation list contact me at the email address shown earlier.

MIND AND BODY FITNESS

At the last general meeting Caroline and I took names from members who are interested in either Yoga, Tai Chi and mindfulness. If there are any additional members who would be interested in joining one or all of these groups or suggest something similar please register your interests with the group coordinators - co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk

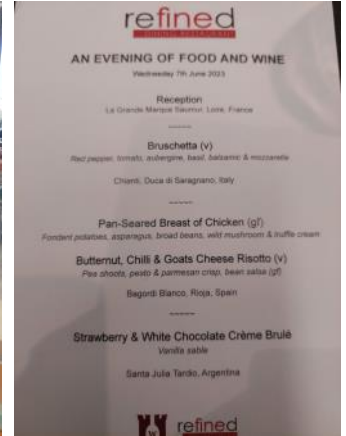
Can you specify which of the groups you would be interested in joining. So far we haven't had a u3a member who is qualified come forward to lead any of the suggested groups. We need enough members registered interest initially before we look to hire a qualified and insured instructor to lead the group. The group members pay for the session to cover the instructor and venue costs.

Carol Knowles Group co-ordinator

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

"Twenty members from the Retford u3a wine appreciation groups enjoyed an evening of "Food and wine pairings" at Refined, West Notts College with excellent food cooked by the students matched with wines supplied by Weavers independent wine merchants."



NEW FRENCH GROUP

Brush Up Your French

Bonjour, tout le monde! I am setting up this group which will hopefully start in September-day and venue to be arranged, meeting every two weeks. If you learned some French at school – or even if you didn't- but wish to become more comfortable speaking and understanding basic French, this is the group

for you. The emphasis will be on listening and speaking, with a little grammar added, if necessary.

We will base the topics on situations which you might encounter in France and these will be led by the needs and wishes of the group. If interested, please contact me at sheenash65@gmail.com. Sheena Harling

WANTED MEETERS AND GREETERS

We would like to resume having a rota of members to act as Meeters & Greeter's at General Meetings.

It will involve being at the entrance doors to The Well from 1.00pm, wearing a smile on your face and a blue sash, to welcome existing and especially new members on arrival at meetings.

There will be a signup list on the notice board if you feel you would be able to support the membership in this way. 2 members are required at each meeting so signing up with a

friend would be good. The more people who sign up means you will be needed less frequently!

Past members who have done the role, still have a blue sash, and who wish to continue supporting the u3a please sign up too. If you have had the sash in the past but no longer wish to do the role, or if you need more information please contact one of the committee.

Thankyou.

Pippa Ramsay