



# NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3a Newsletter - AUGUST 2023

## CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"

Greetings to you all. I hope you will enjoy reading this August edition of the Not So Idle Times. It is full of news from the groups and upcoming events next month.

I can't believe it is August already. Grandchildren are on school holidays, the weather is still unsettled (as the weather forecasters say), and today I saw Christmas items on sale in a store in Retford! It's all topsy turvey and what happened to summer? It must have been those 2 weeks in June that beat all temperature records. However the weeds thrive on my allotment following a week of rain!

I am delighted to report that we have 2 new speaker finders who have taken on the role in a shared capacity. They are Lorraine Sulman and Karen Woodcock. Thank you both for coming forward last month in response to my plea for a volunteer. You are most welcome to the team and I look forward to working with you.

Retford U3a Open Afternoon Friday 22nd September at Retford library 2.00-4.00pm. Along with other U3a's across the UK we are participating in National U3a week that is being held from 16-23rd September. The theme is recruitment of new members. There is more information elsewhere on page 4. You are all invited to come along. Bring a friend or neighbour so they can find out about the different activities that take place weekly/monthly in our vibrant organisation. Volunteers are needed on market days leading up to the event to hand out leaflets to promote the event. Support your interest group leaders on the day who are asked to be available to meet potential new members and welcome

people to the event at the Library. If you have some time to spare and would like to help in any capacity, please contact any member of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing you at the August General meeting. 3 Members of the Notts Fire service - Daniel Corr is replaced by Jasbinder (Jazz) Hayer, Ben Sheperd & Ryan Gaskin will be with us (with their fire engine as they are on duty). They will provide an interactive talk on Staying Safe and Well at Home.

Pippa Ramsay [chair@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@retford-u3a.org.uk)

### 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	Lorraine Sulman Karen Woodcock
* Social Events	Sue Paul
	Also
* Webmaster	Andrew Young
* Newsletter	Chrissie Cook
* U3a Merchandise	Roger Stenson

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Contact 07939 476676.

Last date for receiving articles  
for August edition is Friday 22nd September

### SPEAKER PROGRAM

Aug	24th	Safe and Well at Home	Notts Fire and Rescue Service
Sept	28th	Bonney Baggaley	Bassetlaw Hospice
Oct	26th	Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity	Tim Shuldham
Nov	23rd	Pilots and Petticoats - Masters of the Sky	David Skillen

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### WATERCOLOUR GROUP

In July our subject was "Fishing boats in/out of Water". A few examples including a couple that took a lot of effort are shown.

At 9.30 on Thursday 24th August our topic will be "Dry-brush work". We'll have a supply of "rough" Saunders Waterford watercolour paper 11" x 15" available to attach to a board for the subject.

If you would like to join us please contact Andrew Young on 01623 863327 or via our website page.



### FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP

Our august challenge was to make a boat using plant and flower material and a suitable container. Not an easy task but very impressive results. The weather we've been having I nearly change it to producing an Ark!!  
Sally



### DINNER AND QUIZ - REMINDER

Come and join us for a social night out – two course meal and quiz (with a cash prize). Bar available for you to buy your own drinks. I am still awaiting confirmation on menu choices

To book a place please contact Sue Paul – 01777 705008 or [social@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:social@retford-u3a.org.uk)



Date	Friday 20th October 2023
Time	7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
Cost	£20
Venue	Retford Golf Club, Ordsall

Last month I told you that we as a group had been the Eden Camp. Twenty Four of us went to the museum, which was originally built to house Prisoners of War in the 1940s. The last German POW's actually didn't leave the camp until 1948.



There are around 30 of the original wartime buildings on site with most containing various artifacts from the 20th Century up to modern times. We all felt it was a very interesting trip and

those who had been before said how the museum was constantly being changed and updated.

As most of you now know, our September trip is 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). The August General Meeting is your last chance to pay to go on this trip so if you want to go but can't make the meeting please contact me at : [roy.clarborough@gmail.com](mailto:roy.clarborough@gmail.com)

Our meeting in July covered the American War of Independence when America broke away from Great Britain. Bryan Gladstone gave the talk and many of you who have seen Bryan's talks in the past know he is not only a very entertaining speaker, but his presentations are always very well researched. This talk was no exception with 32 members attending the 'live' talk at Hallcroft and a very commendable 29 members joining us later in the month on Zoom.

We had the National u3a Military History Coordinator Mike Fox join us from Banstead u3a and other members from Odiham u3a (for the first time), North Norfolk u3a, Milford u3a,

Southwell u3a, West Bridgford u3a, Worksop u3a and our members and friends from Chicago, Michigan and Pittsburgh in the United States. On top of these folk we also had nine of our own Retford based u3a members.

As a regular speaker myself I can tell you how gratifying it is to see so many people obviously appreciating your efforts and enjoying these presentations.

Our August presentation looked at the 80th anniversary of the Dam Busters Raid carried out by Guy Gibson's 617 Squadron. Initially the question was posed "Were the Dams the original target". No clues were given beforehand and I gave the background to the members and the outcome. If you have shown interest in the past in Retford's Military History Group you automatically receive an invitation to join 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 of March next 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.

Don't forget our September, October, November and December Meetings will be free. The talks will cover local historical events. These talks have been designed for those of you who were members of the Local History Group, which no longer exists. Have a look at the website events page to see the subjects. Remember on the day just turn up and you will be made most welcome.

The September presentation will be given by David Broom and will cover the work carried out at ROF Ranskill between 1940 and 1945. How many of us living in the area remember this site which was not finally released until 1975. These four free autumn meetings at Hallcroft are on the second Thursday morning of the month and the doors open around 9.40.

## MIND AND BODY FITNESS

As we have mentioned previously the group coordinators are keeping a register of the ladies/gentlemen that are interested in either Yoga, Tai Chi or Mindfulness. People have come forward with names but not highlighted which interest groups they are interested in. We require this information also to take this forward as we need the right amount of numbers per group.

## NEW WINE GROUP

If there are any members who would like to take part in a new wine group or lead a new wine group could you please register your interests with the group coordinators. If we can assist with your group in anyway our email address is [co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk). Carol Knowles and Caroline Marsh.

## RECORDER GROUP

U3A Recorder Ensemble at Heritage Day in Retford. Saturday 9th September.

Please come along to St Swithuns Church at 11am or St Michaels Church at 2pm to support us!!

## AIR FRYER GROUP

Air fryers – want to know more?

- What are the pros and cons of an air fryer?
- What air fryer should I buy?
- Now I've got one – what can I cook in it?
- Are they easy to use?
- Does it really save money?
- Is it healthy?
- How do I translate recipes to work in my air fryer?
- Does anyone have any handy hints?

You could have the answers to these questions and many more by joining a new u3a Air Fryer user group. This group has been suggested by some of our members and they would like to set up this group for anyone who would like to buy or get the most from their air fryer. If you would like to join, then let the group co-ordinators know in the first instance. If there is sufficient interest, we will support a new group to be established. Here is our email: [co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk)

## OPEN AFTERNOON

Come and join us at our u3a week celebration on Friday 22nd September 2.00-4.00 at Retford Library. 16 – 24 September is national u3a Week, which showcases the activities, learning and fun which takes place across the movement every day. Here in Retford, we are hosting an open afternoon at Retford Library on Friday 22nd September to showcase what we do and encourage new members. You are very welcome to drop in anytime for a cuppa and a biscuit between 2.00 and 4.00pm that afternoon to find out more about us and celebrate our lively and friendly u3a with us. You will meet some of our members and group leaders as well as get a flavour of what some of our interest groups get up to. Members, please feel free to bring along a friend or neighbour who is no longer in full time work to come and learn more about us. If you would like to help on the day, to meet and greet our visitors, or serve refreshments, please email Carol and Caroline. We also need volunteers to hand out leaflets in the market square on 16th, 21st and 22nd September. Our email address is - [co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk)

If you are reading this as a non-member, here is a bit more info. We have 35 groups, so there is something for everyone here – from snooker to Spanish, as well as military history, gardening, quilting and many more. Some of our groups organise trips and visits too, and we have regular social events. We have a General Meeting with a speaker every 4th Thursday of the month 1.30-3.30 at The Well, Hospital Road, Retford (Except December). Future speakers will cover topics such as Bassetlaw Hospice, Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity, and tales of wartime pilots. There is much more on our website, so do take a look - <https://u3asites.org.uk/retford/home>

u3a is a national learning organisation in which those no longer in full-time work and have a desire to develop their interests, make new friends and have fun. We say the more the merrier, and we welcome new members – come and meet us at the library on 22nd September and have a chat to find out more.

## OBITUARY FOR JOAN EVANS - 1927 - 2023

An honorary member of Retford u3a, Joan Evans, passed away in her sleep in early August. She was born in India of English parents during the time of the Raj. During World War Two, she enlisted in the British Army in India and joined the Signals, becoming proficient in Morse Code. She returned to Britain with her husband after the war. She lived in Retford for many years, working in such places as Harworth Glass Bulbs and Rampton Hospital. Her sight began to deteriorate after she reached the age of 80, having both Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration. She became a member of Blind Veterans and enjoyed going on holiday to their hotel in Llandudno. As a u3a member, she enjoyed attending keep fit classes, until they ceased but she still went to the Wednesday coffee mornings where she could chat to people. She leaves a son and two daughters.

*Her funeral will be on Friday 25th August at 12 noon at Babworth Crematorium.*