

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - OCTOBER 2023

CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"



Hello and welcome to the October newsletter, The Not So Idle Times. It is full of news about what has been happening in some of the groups. Just before our meeting in September we held an Open Afternoon at Retford Library with the aim of showcasing Retford u3a to the public. Group leaders were there to tell interested people what goes on in their groups & members volunteered to meet and greet at the entrance. Committee members provided the broader information about the u3a as an organisation, and to provide the information packs with the application forms. A big thank you to everyone who gave up their time on the day and beforehand in the planning of the event. I mentioned at the last meeting that 5 people signed up on the day and I'm delighted to report that a further 6 people have become members. Our total membership is now 516. I consider that to be a very good outcome. Please make all the newcomers welcome in your groups and at the General meetings. It can seem quite daunting at first.

I have recently attended the Third Age Trust AGM. It reminded me that we are part of a national organisation that offers opportunities to learn in a most enjoyable way. Our strap line Learn, Laugh, Live is in evidence in our truly vibrant Retford u3a. We are all volunteers, sharing our skills and knowledge mostly in face to face groups, but there are options to join in with some on line learning too. This month I've done a Moderate and Striders walk in

unfamiliar areas, photography and gardening groups and the greatest, most challenging, learning opportunity has been with Brush Up My French! All of the groups are an absolute pleasure to be a part of.

Last Friday the Membership Secretary and Speaker Finder joined up with Worksop U3a to run a stand at a Senior Citizens Fair held at The Crossing in Worksop. Another great opportunity to raise the profile of the U3a.

Last month's speaker was Bonney Baggaley who provided a stimulating talk about Bassetlaw Hospice. She blew away quite a lot of assumptions I had about the hospice and emphasised the varied activities that staff, supporters and patients get involved with, both for themselves and for fundraising.

This month our speaker is Tim Shuldham from Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity – Retford's Best Kept Secret.

Thank you to all the contributors and to the newsletter editor Chrissie Cook. Enjoy the read. I hope to see you at the General meeting at the Well on Thursday 26th at 1.30p.m. Then we have to be prepared for the clocks going back on the 29th October and for longer nights for a while.

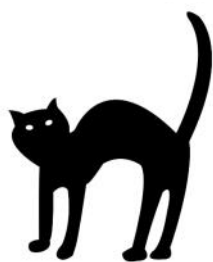
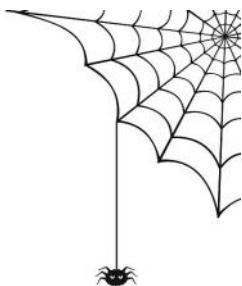
Best wishes Pippa Ramsay Chair Retford U3a
chair@retford-u3a.org.uk 01777 704550
 (unusual answer phone)

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Oct 26th	Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity	Tim Shuldham
Nov 23rd	Pilots and Petticoats - Masters of the Sky	David Skillen

FUN WITH FLOWERS

Our autumnal arrangements...with a few "spooky" bits ready for **Halloween**.
Sally



STROLLERS WALKING GROUP

A group of 14 Striders met in the grounds of Conisbrough Castle on Monday 16th October for a walk in the Conisbrough and Denaby area. It was a chilly day with some nice sunny periods and fortunately the rain kept away. Given the rain over the past few weeks we were fortunate that the going underfoot was very good and we completed the 8 miles in about 4 hours.

The route followed the high ridge south of the River Don through an area called the Craggs which had a number of wooden information posts giving historical details about the area. The plethora of pathways in the Craggs area, most which don't appear on OS maps, made navigation difficult and we took a couple of wrong turnings but eventually made our way by a good path to Old Denaby. From here we crossed the River Don and the adjacent canal and then followed the canal side eastwards for a mile or so before heading north east to join the Trans Pennine Trail. We left this near the remains of the former Earth Centre – which is now an outdoor centre for schools – crossing back to the south bank of the Don before winding our way back to the castle.

Many thanks to Liz and Marion for leading the walk and to Harry for back marking. Thanks also to everyone who attended and contributed to a great days walking in a very interesting area.

For those interested in popular music trivia Conisbrough was the birth place of Tony Christie (born Anthony Fitzgerald 25 04 43) famous for the song 'Is This the Way to Amarillo?' - he must have been struggling to find the place travelling from Conisbrough! For more information on the Craggs and history of the area visit www.thecraggs.net and visit Wikipedia for further information about the Earth Centre



Conisbrough Castle



Craggs Information Post



View Westwards from the Craggs

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WATERCOLOUR GROUP

For our September session we explored techniques for "Water on Leaves and Flowers", On Thursday, 26th October at 1.30pm we have a display of work at the general meeting in the afternoon.

Future sessions are on Thursdays

26th Oct Still life on table
 23rd Nov Shallow water/through water
 2024

25th Jan Unstructured flowers
 22nd Feb Abstraction
 28th March Animals

All are at 9.30 in the Maypole Court Community Centre, Wellow. If interested in joining us please contact Andrew Young via the website link or on 01623 863327"



REMINDER

It may feel like a long time since the blue skies of summer, but the moment when the clocks go back marks the end of British Summer Time (BST). Good news: it also means an extra hour in bed.

An easy way to remember which way the clocks change is to think of the seasons: in spring the clocks 'spring forward', while in autumn they 'fall back'.



Sun, 29 Oct 2023

MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

We have had another good month in our group. I mentioned last month that we are running a three day trip next May to London and Kent. We are going to the RAF Museum at Hendon, The Historic Royal Naval Dockyard at Chatham and the National Army Museum at Chelsea. We now have 37 members who have paid their deposits. We have one single room and one double or twin available should anyone else want to go.

The other piece of important news is that this month we had the second highest number of members at our live meeting. Andrew Jefferson was talking about Nottinghamshire and the English Civil War. We had 42 members come and another 30 for our Zoom meeting last Monday. It's really encouraging that past members of the lapsed Local History group are joining us for these local military history group meetings. Next month Adrian Sumner will be giving a brief history of both RAF Gamston and RAF Worksop.

If you want any information on our group please email me on roy.clarborough@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir circumference
- No matter how hard you push the envelope, it's still stationary.
- The man who invented the door knocker got a no-bell prize.
- What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.
- Our mountains aren't just funny, they're hill areas.
- A bicycle can't stand alone: it is two-tyred.
- My dog can do magic tricks. It's a labracadabrador.
- My fear of moving stairs is escalating.
- His theory on inertia never seemed to gain momentum.
- The art competition ended in a draw.



NEW INTEREST GROUPS

We are pleased to let you know that we have several new groups being launched soon:

The following groups will be having their set up meetings in the next few weeks:

- ◆ Air Fryer User Group
- ◆ Book Group Four
- ◆ Wine Appreciation Three

There is still opportunity to join any of these groups, just let us know and we can add you in.

At earlier stages of development, we have a couple of groups that need enough members to get off the ground.

Short easy walks group. This will be for people who would like to walk for 40-60 minutes on the flat in Retford. The frequency will be agreed by those interested, and it could involve a social cuppa afterwards. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining this group.

Whist Group One of our members is keen to host a new whist group. This is a classic card game which is easy to learn and fun to play. Please get in touch if you are interested in this.

For information about any of these groups please email us at

co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk

Carol and Caroline

Joint Group Co-ordinators

BABWORTH CHURCH ART FESTIVAL

Saturday 18th - 19th November.

10.00a.m - 4.00p.m Sunday 12.30p.m - 3.00p.m

The Retford U3A Patchwork & Quilting Group will be exhibiting 20 of their handmade items. There will also be artwork, pottery and interesting talks. Jenny King, a U3a member, also led the Pilgrim's Embroidery Project and one of the embroideries is installed at Babworth Church.

This would be a good opportunity to see it too.



2023 U3A DIARIES

Roger Stenson (Retford u3a Marketing) is offering to place orders for 2024 diaries and also for lanyards. Diaries will be £4.00 and Lanyards £1. Should you wish to place an order please see Roger at the October or November General Meeting or contact Roger on 07808 930 334 or

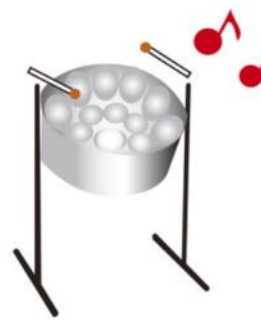
r.stenson292@btinternet.com

Pat Lockett 07385 244 159

Retford u3a Membership Secretary



OPEN DAY



"Do you fancy playing in the only u3a Steelband in the country?"

The Worksop u3a steel band, Steelpantastic, are holding an open day on Thursday, 19th October, between 2.30-4.30.

There will be a chance to try out different types of pans in the band.

Places are limited so you must book your place. To book your place please contact Catherine Williams by email c.williams.shef@gmail.com Catherine Williams, on behalf of the Worksop and District u3a steelband, Steelpantastic."

Patricia Lockett - U3A Membership Secretary
memsec@retford-u3a.org.uk

Tel: 07385 244 159

NEW PROCEDURE

Please be aware that all members attending the General Meetings will be asked to **sign in on arrival**. There will also be a **sign out sheet should you leave the meeting early**.

Heaven forbid that there will be a fire incident during the meeting, but we do need to know who had been in the building. We wouldn't want a fire crew to be searching for someone who actually left early.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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Contact:- newsletters@retford-u3a.org.uk
Contact 07939 476676.

Last date for receiving articles for November edition is Friday 17th November