

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - FEBRUARY 2024

CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"

Hello and welcome to the February edition of the Not So Idle Times (NSIT), when at last I feel as though Spring is on the horizon. The snowdrops are out, daffodils are budding and some are in flower. It lifts my spirits.

I was reminded that on Valentines day in 1984 Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean were in Sarajevo at the Winter Olympics. For 3 minutes they were figure skating their free programme to Ravel's Bolero, for which they gained a perfect score from all the judges, and won the gold medal.

This month it is the 40th anniversary of that amazing achievement that followed on from them being British and European Champions and finally World Champions, after which they turned professional. At that time I was living down south and I only knew about Robin Hood but nothing much about the city of Nottingham, and only that that is where they lived and trained. I do remember exactly where I was when I saw their performance on TV. I guess many of you would also remember the event well. Hearing the music takes me right back to the thrill of their performance and appreciation of their dedication and commitment to their training, as they worked towards their goal.

My goal at around that time was to get on my windsurfer and sail away from the beach, turn around without falling in or needing to be rescued, and sail back at a reasonable speed and in control! It was a constant goal for many years - sometimes achieved!

The U3a offers opportunities through Learn Laugh Live to learn something new, develop new skills, rise to a challenge or share knowledge with others. Along the way there should be laughter and the chances to make new friends and to live your best life. So do make the most of the many groups available, both the long established and new ones. They are the life blood of our organisation.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Meeting on February 22nd. **The speaker will be Sam Millard from Rufford Poachers. His talk is 'Rogues, Vagabonds ? Heroes' This is a change from the previous published speaker who will come to us later in the year.**

Pippa Ramsay
Chair Retford U3A
chair@retford-U3a.org.uk 01777 704550

NOTTS NEWSBITE

<https://nottsnetworkofu3as.weebly.com/> Is the latest edition of Notts Newsbites a county network within the East Midlands u3a Region.

2024 SPEAKER PROGRAM

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
Feb 22 nd	Sam Millard	Rogues, Vagabonds - or Heroes?
March 28 th	Lucy Kennedy Fraud & Cyber Protect Officer	How to avoid the fraudsters
April 25 th	AGM	Talk by Bryan Gladstone subject TBC
May 23 rd	Dinah Wilcox	Workhouse Storytellers with some songs.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The last date for receiving articles for March edition **Friday 22nd March 2024**

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

FUN WITH FLOWERS

A selection of spring arrangements produce during our February group. Sally.



BOOK CLUB 3 GROUP

Celebrating book club member Daniel Toyne's birthday. His sister, who is also part of our group, made him a cake.



AIR FRYER USERS GROUP

The air fryers user group is now meeting at the West Retford Hotel on the second Friday of the month at 10am.

We now have 10 enthusiastic but inexperienced members but still do not have a leader. We would love to have an experienced air fryer user join us as a leader.

Alternatively, if anyone was willing to join us on an ad hoc basis to share some hints and tips with us they would also be very welcome.

Please contact Sue Ross on 07771523160 or use the contact details on the Retford u3a group list if you are interested in joining or advising us.

This month we have discussed keeping the air fryer clean, timings and temperature and shared recipes for Sausage Rolls, Toad in the Hole and Bread and Butter pudding.



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The theme for February was "Which is Best?"

Cheeky Mr. Fox
Tony Crawshaw



Fund Raising Tortoise
Andy Paul



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

At our February 'live' meeting at Hallcroft, Adrian Sumner spoke to forty members who attended. The subject of his talk was the History of the Royal Naval Air Station at Howden, which is in between Selby and Goole and how after a short period being part of the RAF the site was sold to the Vickers Armstrong Group. They established the Airship Guarantee Company who were commissioned to build a number of airships to carry passengers across the Atlantic and also to the Middle and Far East. The R100 was a success but following the crash of the Government built R101 the whole airship programme was abandoned.



Barnes Wallis and Nevil Shute were involved in the construction of the R100 and went on to design aircraft for Vickers and Airspeed Aviation.

The Military History Group's three day trip to London and Kent in May now has 35 members going and we are also looking for a day trip to both East Kirkby (home of Lincolnshire's Aviation Heritage Centre) and Bletchley Park later in the Summer.

Bryan Gladstone is our speaker in March and he will be discussing the 'Battle of Midway', which was the Americans response to Pearl Harbour. If you want to know more about our speaker programme, click onto the Retford u3a website and follow Events downwards. You will then find our programme of 'Live' and 'Zoom' presentations for the rest of the year. We charge a small fee of £2.00 for the meetings at Hallcroft, but the Zoom talks are free to all Retford u3a members. All you need to do is send me an email expressing interest and you will then automatically receive monthly information on the group. My email address is roy.clarborough@gmail.com

For your information our trip in May will visit the RAF Museum at Hendon, The Royal Historic Dockyard at Chatham and the National Army Museum at Chelsea. If you are interested again contact me by email.

Roy Evans

WATERCOLOUR GROUP

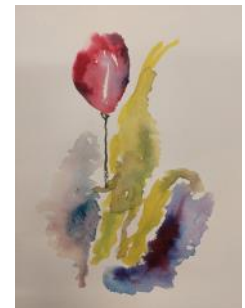
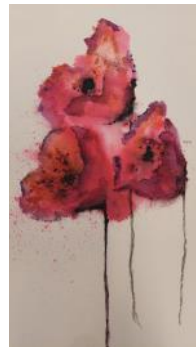
Our January topic was "unstructured or loose flowers" and some examples are shown.

Our future topics are to be: -

Thursday 22nd Feb	Abstracts and abstraction
Thursday 28th March	Animals
Thursday 25th April	Monochrome
Thursday 23rd May	Complementary colours

All start at 9.30 in the Maypole Court Community Centre, Wellow. If you are interested in joining us please contact Andrew Young on 01623 863327 or use the link from the group's page on the u3a website.

[Retford u3a: Painting - Watercolour \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)



INTEREST GROUPS

SOCIAL GROUP FOR MEN GROUP



I'm proposing to start a social group for male members of the U3A who live alone. What these social activities might be can be decided by the members, to start with meeting over a coffee or a beer, the main activity is to be able to talk to other people leading similar lives. I've lived alone

for some 25 years now and find I don't have, as time goes on, as many friends I can have a 'heart to heart' chat with. I don't mind being the group coordinator, and looking after finding suitable venues for meetings. A couple of Retford cafes have offered to help depending on time of day and numbers.

If you think this group might be of interest to you (or you know someone who might find such a group helpful) please email me on michael.colborn@icloud.com

I undertake to answer all emails within a few days of receipt and keep enquirers up to date

NEW HISTORY GROUP

The new History Group will definitely be going ahead. Our first meeting will be on Thursday March 15th commencing at 2.00 pm. Meetings will be held in Hayton Village Hall. Subsequent meetings will always be on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

If you have yet to register your interest please email me (Vernon Davis) at veldavis@gmail.com.

Alternatively, I will be at a side table at the next General Meeting if you wish to find out more or just have a chat about the group.

Arrangements are already in place for the first three meetings. Exciting times lie ahead (or should that be in the past?!). I'm certainly looking forward to what I'm sure will be a satisfying and informative future for the group and its members.

Vernon

STROLLERS WALKING GROUP

The March walk for the strollers walking group will take place on the 19th of the month, meeting for 10.00 am at Babworth Church, Babworth Road, Retford, DN22 8EP. Hopefully the weather will be kind.

Jean Winder

DUKERIES U3A

Dukeries u3a are holding a trip to Bletchley Park on Friday 26th April and have had three cancellations and wondered whether anyone from our group might be interested, it should be a very interesting day out. If you are interested please contact Dukeries u3a

Elaine Biddulph - Email jebbie567@yahoo.co.uk or Tel 07470237576

Bletchley Park is an English country house and estate in Bletchley, Milton Keynes (Buckinghamshire) that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War.

8.20 am - Assemble Jubilee Hall, Ollerton - Free parking for cars - Coach leaves 8.30 am

11.30 am approx. Arrive at Bletchley Hall Café to buy refreshments - look at maps and information.

12.30 pm - Guided Tour

1.30pm - Time to visit Bletchley Huts, museum and gardens. Free multi-media guides are available to each person, to bring your trip alive with information and stories. Please Note - Bletchley House is accessible for wheel chair users. This trip includes walking outside to visit the various huts. 4.30pm Coach takes us to The Stadium where you can buy a meal in a range of restaurants. Shops also available. 6.15pm Board the coach for the journey back to Jubilee Hall. The cost for the trip, which includes an entry ticket which lasts 12 months, guided tour and coach travel is approx. £49 (non refundable)