



NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - MARCH 2024

CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"

Welcome to the March edition of the Not So Idle Times (NSIT). Spring is definitely with us at last and the days are getting longer. On the plus side on Easter Sunday the clocks go forward and for me that is such a bonus. Longer and lighter evenings again and with fingers crossed we may get some warmer, drier weather. It seems that February was the wettest on record and I hope March is not following that trend.

Members have been renewing their membership since the beginning of the year. The Membership Secretary Pat Lockett and Treasurer Patricia Everitt tell me that the new process of paying by BACS has been very successful and has helped to keep things very efficient. So a big thank you to everyone who has been able to pay in that way. Of course cheques made payable to Retford U3a will still be accepted and should be paid as soon as possible to Pat Lockett who will be happy to take your payment at the March General meeting.

New groups continue to develop. One of our members, Michael Colburn, will be at the General meeting on Thursday 28th March to tell us more about a group he would like to establish for men who are on their own. He wrote a piece about this in last month's NSIT.

The Speaker at this month's meeting March 28th will be Dale Richardson - Fraud & Cyber Protect Officer from Notts Police. His talk is How to Avoid the Fraudsters. In a time of many scams - how to spot them and stay safe.

Next month on April 25th We will be holding the Retford U3a Annual General Meeting. All the meeting details will be sent by email and hard copies provided to those without email.

Sue Paul, Social Secretary, is standing down as a trustee but will continue to organise the Big Night Out Dinner and Quiz. If members would like other social activities eg Theatre or Coach trips then we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who wishes to take on the role.

There is a vacant post for Vice Treasurer. For further information about the role and what is involved please contact Patricia Everitt treasurer@retford-u3a.org.uk

Following the AGM Bryan Gladstone, our Vice Chair, will talk about The Highwaymen on the Old North Road – Romantic Heroes and Blackhearted Villains.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting or at interest groups during next month. Pippa Ramsay Chair@retford-u3a.org.uk 01777 704550

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The last date for receiving articles for April edition is

Friday 19th April 2024

REMINDER

**The clocks SPRING
forward by one hour on
31 March 2024.**



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

FUN WITH FLOWERS

March's theme was all green, Either all foliage or using green flowers, thinking of St Patrick's day. Some interesting designs were made using different shapes textures and shades of green! Sally



WATERCOLOUR GROUP

Our February topic was "Abstract(ion)" which we all found to be well outside our comfort zone. That said, a wide variety of very interesting paintings came out. Next month we are back in our comfort zone with "Animals" at 9.30 on Thursday 28th March in Maypole Court Community Centre, Wellow. If you'd like to join us please contact Andrew Young on 01623 863327 or via the link on the group's U3A website page. Andrew



MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

This last month has seen an upturn in the numbers visiting our site either to see 'live' presentations or those repeated on Zoom.

Taking January and February we had 41 members attend Adrian Sumners 'live' talk covering the history of the Royal Naval Air Station base at Howden near Selby. Combined with January we have had 73 members joining us on Zoom. Remember Zoom talks are free to access for all of Retford's u3a members, just look at the Events section of the Retford u3a website and if anything looks like it might be interesting drop me an email and I'll send you the invitation.

We have also had 32 members of other u3a groups from around the country join us. The National Coordinator, for u3a Military History Groups, Mike Fox is a strong supporter of our meetings and regularly joins us. Mike also runs Banstead u3a Military History Group. We have regular members from North Norfolk, Selby, Malvern, Gloucester, Godalming, Aylesbury, Corby, Dukeries and Worksop u3a groups joining us on Zoom, along with four families from the United States and one member in France. In fact Retford u3a have three or four members living in Chicago, Holland, Michigan and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

This last month saw Bryan Gladstone give a presentation on the Battle of Midway. This in

reality was the United States response to Pearl Harbour. As always Byran's talks are very well researched and well presented. At his Zoom presentation we had a number of new members from around the country join us. Over 70 members either saw his presentation 'live' or on Zoom. Next month a new speaker will be joining us to give a presentation on the Glider Pilot Regiment. These chaps were associates of the Parachute Regiment and flew the Horsa and Hamilcar Gliders into battle. One of the most difficult flying techniques for a pilot is a 'dead stick' landing (i.e. one without the power of an engine to control your speed). Bomber Harris said it would be impossible to do unless you were a fully trained pilot. These 18 to 20 year old boys soon learnt the technique. Of course once they had landed they became fighting paratroopers.

If you want to join us live for this talk at Hallcroft or want to see it on Zoom, just let me know. For your interest we now have over 150 members (not all from Retford) who are on our Military History database and they regularly receive emails each month covering our group. All are welcome, with no limit on membership of the group. For more information email me on roy.clarborough@gmail.com Roy Evans

HISTORY GROUPS

The History Group held its inaugural meeting recently in Hayton Village Hall. Well over 20 members of Retford U3A attended. We discussed at some length the future direction of the group.

We examined what History can tell us, as well as its limitations and pitfalls (there are plenty!). A quick dip into some actual history was undertaken by looking at the background of the founding members of the U3A, one of whom, and its earliest proponent, Peter Laslett, was a leading Cambridge University historian in the widely different fields of 18th & 19th Century political philosophy and Mediaeval social structure and then in the 1970s discerned that the rising number of people of pensionable age would form (his words) a Third Age.

In order to cover as wide a range of topics as possible, as well as involving as many group members as possible, the whole world of 'History' has been divided into five subject areas. There is a Team Leader for each of the subject areas with other members of the group backing them up. Teams will make a presentation on a topic drawn from their subject areas on a rotating basis.

In this way all members of the History Group have the chance of becoming involved in the running of the group rather than leaving it to one individual. Further it enables a wide range of topics to be covered.

If you feel that you may like to take part, please contact me, Vernon Davis by email veldavis@gmail.com. Vernon

THE NOT SO IDLE TIMES

GARDENING GROUP

Fortunately our visit to RHS garden Harlow Carr, was blessed by fine, warm, although rather dull weather back in February – but we were so fortunate to get a day without rain, which meant strolling around the gardens was very pleasurable. It was lovely to see so much winter colour and shape from the trees, shrubs and bulbs and to enjoy Betty's refreshments, inside or out!



A visit in winter was a break with tradition, and at our latest meeting we were back to a speaker meeting

when Colin Ward from Swines Meadow farm Nursery gave us a very detailed, illustrated talk about Hosta's. He started off by explaining ways to rid them of slugs and snails – some very gruesome – and then went on to show slides of so many different varieties, some with amazing names – who knew there were so many!

Members were also able to sign up for 2 more of our summer visits. Our final speaker of this session will be Ray Creek on April 18th - 'Indoor orchids and how to make the blooming things grow!' Here's to drier days, and Happy Gardening!
The gardening team.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - 3 interpretations of the Theme of SHARP THINGS



- 1 Holly Prickles
Pippa Ramsay
- 2 Pins
Andy Paul
- 3 Embroidery Scissors
Marie Thompson

2024 SPEAKER PROGRAM

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
March 28 th	Lucy Kennedy Fraud & Cyber Protect Officer	How to avoid the fraudsters In a time of many scams how to spot them and stay safe
April 25 th	AGM The 2023 Chairmans, Treasurers & Group Co-ordinator's reports (which form part of the Minutes) can be found on Retford U3a's Website under the heading Committee. A draft copy of the new Constitution referred to in the Agenda can also be found on the Website. A hard copy of the Constitution will be available to view at the 28 March general meeting.	Talk by Bryan Gladstone Talk about The Highwaymen on the Old North Road – Romantic Heroes and Blackhearted Villains.
May 23 rd	Dinah Wilcox	Workhouse Storytellers with some songs.
June 27 th	Andy Smart	What Ruddy Cucumber - notes on a life in journalism.
July 25 th	Bob Blatchford	"A Justice in the Arctic" This about about his trip to Northern Canada.
Aug 22 nd	Dr Tim Gray MBE Chairman - EMICS – East Midlands Immediate Care Scheme	Talk about EMICS, a network of volunteer doctors with specialist training in pre-hospital emergency medicine.
Sept 26 th	Alistair Littlewood	"Grimm Tales" which looks at the life of the Brothers Grimm.
Oct 24 th	Peter Slater	Stories from a BBC Sports Reporter, meeting the rich and famous.
Nov 28 th	Retford U3a showcase	TBC
December	NO MEETING	