

# NOT SO IDLE TIMES

**Retford U3A Newsletter - APRIL 2024**

## CHATTER "FROM THE CHAIR"

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Not So Idle Times.

Yet again the weather has been 'Unusual and Unprecedented' with record amounts of rain during March and probably for April too. I've snatched windows of opportunity to do some garden related jobs but the grass never dries out enough to be cut. It's about to gain meadow status I think. The rare sunny day have been a treat and the longer days are welcome too since the clocks went forward.

As the 14th Retford u3a AGM will be held on our next meeting date 25th April, it brings home to me that I have been in post as the Chair for a year. Apart from the initial technological blips it has been a very good one. I have had the support and innovation from all of the trustees on the committee and that makes my role a pleasure. You will all have received information by email, or hard copies, relating to the Special General meeting that will be held immediately prior to the AGM. The draft Constitution that we will be voting on, and the current Constitution, can be found on the Retford U3a website, in the committee section. The only trustee who will be standing down at the AGM is Sue Paul, Social Secretary. Sue has done a great job along with Bryan Gladstone at running the Social evenings Dinner and Quiz. Although Sue will not be on the committee she will continue to arrange the Social evenings that have become so popular. Big thanks go to Sue and Bryan for all their work behind the scenes. We are actively seeking a Vice Treasurer as the post has been vacant for several years. Please contact Patricia Everitt the Treasurer if you would like to find out what is involved. In years past there was a Social Secretary who organised trips and visits to places of interest. It was very popular. If members would like to organise something on these lines please see me or liaise with the group coordinators.

If you have any suggestions to further enhance your enjoyment and participation as a member of the Retford U3a please contact any member of the committee.

I look forward to seeing you at the Special General meeting and the Annual General Meeting. The speaker following the formalities will be Bryan Gladstone whose talk is The Highwaymen of the Old North Road: Romantic Heroes and Blackhearted Villains  
Pippa Ramsay Chair Retford U3a  
Chair @retford-u3a.org.uk 01777 704550

## MAKING MUSIC GROUP

- Do you enjoy making music either playing or singing? (Particularly 60's/70s music.)
- Would you like to join a like-minded group of people playing and singing together in a relaxed and friendly environment?
- We meet together on alternate Friday afternoons 2-4pm at The Wellspring building, The Well, Hospital Road, Retford, DN22 7BD.
- There is just a small charge to cover the cost of the room each session, pay as you go. Free coffee, tea and biscuits provided.

Contact: Angela 07591988945 or email [angelavintagerose@hotmail.com](mailto:angelavintagerose@hotmail.com) for a chat and further information.

## BRUSH UP YOUR FRENCH

Parlez-vous français? If you learned some French in the past, and would like to pick it up again, there are a few places available in the "Brush Up Your French" group. We have been using a BBC Course called Talk French and have covered introductions, giving details on where you live, learning directions, booking a room and learning the alphabet in French. If interested, please contact me through the Retford u3a website. Sheena Harling.

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

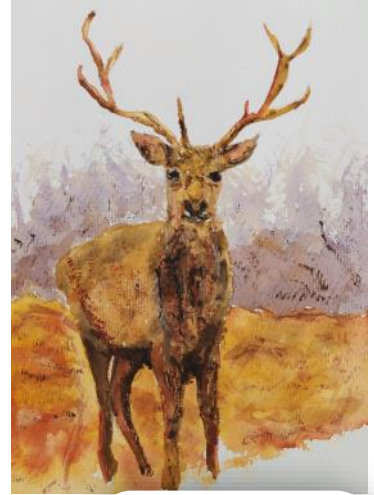
### FUN WITH FLOWERS

"Our theme for April was to incorporate wood for texture into the design. Using bark twigs and twisted willow adds interest to the arrangements. Sally.



### WATERCOLOUR GROUP

Our subject in March was "Animals" and everyone excelled themselves with the quality of work. Our next session is "Monochrome" on Thursday, 25th April at 9.30 in Maypole Court Community Centre. If you'd like to join us please contact Andrew Young on 01623 863327 or via the link from the group's webpage.



### NEW HISTORY GROUPS

We had our first 'proper' meeting this month when we looked at the history of how humans (and others) have made music since the Old Stone Age, some 60,000 years ago. From Neanderthal flutes (pretty much like a recorder!) to virginals and from Grecian lyres and lutes to self playing pianos, we followed the trail of woodwind, stringed and percussion instruments right through to today's synthesisers and other electronic instruments.

Along the way we also looked at a hydraulic organ complete with keyboard from the Greeks dating back 2,500 years and met the Persian engineers that automated it over a thousand years ago – a technique not reinvented until the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

Next month's topic, entitled 'Aftermath'

illuminates an altogether darker episode in human history. The surrender of Germany took place on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 1945 and VE Day was proclaimed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. This was, however, not the end of the misery for millions of people. We'll be looking at the forced migrations, continuing battles and starvation that marked the following couple of years and how decisions taken then are still causing conflict and uncertainty today.

If you're interested in history that isn't preoccupied with regal family squabbles or the dusty houses of the aristocracy then come along and join us. We meet at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday of the month at Hayton Village Hall, or contact me, Vernon Davis, at [veldavis@gmail.com](mailto:veldavis@gmail.com) or through the contact button on the 'Groups page' of the website.

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP - SKIES



Sally Telfer



Marie Thompson



Adrian Hetherington



Tony Crawshaw

### WINE APPRECIATION GROUP - 3

Wine Appreciation Group 3, also known as Even More Wine, met at the home of Janice Gill for our April gathering. Janice had chosen four wines from Spain for us to sample starting with a bubbly Cava. This was followed by a white Rioja, an organic red Rioja and finally, and our favourite, an organic Jumilla. What a great way to spend a wet and windy afternoon, thank you Janice! We have decided we could welcome an additional couple of members, please contact the Group Leader Pat Lockett via the website.



### CYCLING GROUP

An excellent turnout for our first group cycle ride of the year – on 8th April - which started from Carlton in Lindrick and covered 23 miles of undulating and varied landscape, including an excellent café stop.



### NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The last date for receiving articles for May edition is

**Friday 17th MAY 2024**

### MENS SOCIAL GROUP 3

Initially the group was aimed at men who live alone and may have become isolated. Since the announcement of the group, friends have pointed out that male carers could also become similarly isolated. Pippa Ramsey - u3a chair, kindly invited me to say a few words about the group at the March members meeting. From this a number of members spoke to me about joining and that there were other men who would find such a group helpful. So, responding to u3a members good ideas, this group is now aimed at any man, and a member of Retford u3a, who feels some male company would be good for them. If this is you, or you know anyone who might be interested in joining me, please get in touch. An inaugural meeting was held at the Honey and Fig on 6th of April. My contact details are 07866747065 initially a text please or email [michael.colborn@icloud.com](mailto:michael.colborn@icloud.com) I undertake to reply to all enquiries within a few days and keep enquirers up to date on progress.

### SINGING GROUP

We meet at Hallcroft Community Centre on the 2nd & 4th Friday mornings each month from 10.30 until 12.15. Why not come and join us – we are a friendly group and so much enjoy singing together. We start with a vocal "warm-up" and continue with singing some rounds and then simple harmony songs. You don't need to read music – everything is learnt by ear and words are provided for the songs. We often finish the session by singing along with a recorded track of a well-known song.

The cost is just £1.50 to cover the hire costs for the Hall and tea/coffee and biscuits. Sessions are April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. (No meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> due to holidays) Pat Barnett 07810 521879



## KATE EVANS

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of my wife Kate who lost her battle with Cancer on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. I was with her when she passed, holding her hand as she slipped away. She fully aware of what was happening to her and was at peace, comfortable and in no pain.

She started her involvement with Retford u3a around 14 or so years ago and worked with Ivan Bradder as his Deputy Treasurer. She took on the role of Treasurer and held that post for six years, working with John Jones, Adrian Sumner and Chris Clifford who were all Chairmen at the time. She was invaluable helping me with both the Family and Military History Groups and in her own right was a member of one of the Book Groups, Quilting, French and Strollers Walking Groups. I know already from a number of responses she will be sadly missed by the u3a family.

Her Cremation is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 10.00am at Barnby Moor Crematorium. And the Wake will be at the West Retford Hotel from 11.00am. All her friends are welcome to come to the service and afterwards to the wake. Attire will be informal; the family agree she was never one to stand on ceremony. Can I ask you to let the membership know at the General Meeting next week that rather than folk sending flowers we would prefer donations be made on line to Cancer Research UK. I have added the link to the Retford Times obituary.

[Funeral Notices - Kate EVANS \(funeral-notices.co.uk\)](https://www.funeral-notices.co.uk)

*Roy Evans*



*We are so sorry to announce the death of Kate Evans on Saturday 13th April. Kate was a long standing member of Retford U3a and had held the role of Treasurer. She will be known to many members through the Family History and Military History groups and will be missed by all who knew her. We send condolences to her husband Roy and family at this very sad time.*

*All at Retford u3a*

Many of you will remember Terry Hitchen's daughter, Siobhan, who was a member of Retford U3A, being a keen photographer & quilter. Sadly, Siobhan has died in Sheffield Hospital aged 68 years. She had struggled with health issues for some time but continued, as did her father, to be cheerful, interested in others and very gifted with art & craft. Siobhan continued to visit Retford each year and catch up with friends, so many of whom will miss her vital personality.

## 2024 SPEAKER PROGRAM April - August

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	AGM The 2023 Chairmans, Treasurers & Group Co-ordinator's reports	Talk by Bryan Gladstone about The Highwaymen on the Old North Road – Romantic Heroes and Blackhearted Villains.
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dinah Wilcox	Workhouse Storytellers with some songs.
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Smart	What Ruddy Cucumber - notes on a life in journalism.
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Blatchford	"A Justice in the Arctic" This about about his trip to Northern Canada.
Aug 22 <sup>nd</sup>	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.