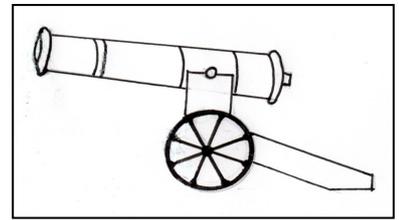




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Retford U3A

Membership No. 822/801/10

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# NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - FEBRUARY 2020

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Hi everyone - I hope you are all well and welcoming the lighter nights as we look forward to Spring which is just around the corner!

I have just received my copy of February's Edition of the Third Age Matters magazine which makes quite interesting and worthwhile reading. I know that many members have signed up to receive copies as well but if you haven't then please let us know and we can arrange for this to happen. The magazine is full of ideas and achievements by other U3As but one underlying theme is that a large proportion of them have the same issues and challenges that we all face to one degree or another ie. how to attract new members/how to retain members/how to engage members once they have joined/how to plan succession etc etc.

This was brought home to Sue Ross and me when we attended a Nottinghamshire Network meeting at the end of January. There are 33 U3As in the Network and 29 were represented at the meeting and most of the discussion covered these issues in one form or another. We came away with one or two ideas but it was also interesting to hear how others were planning to take part in the National U3A Day on 3rd June. This will be the

first such event and I have to say the response was very much a mixed bag with some finding it difficult to get members engaged whilst others had grandiose plans of hiring out leisure centres! I must admit that our idea of a more subtle approach by making 'Bags for Life' - each of which will contain an information sheet about the U3A - and distributing them in the community struck just the right chord so well done to Dawn and the gang for coming up with the idea. The overall aim is to spread the word about how joining can change lives for the better.

As far as new members go then we have shown steady growth in numbers over the last few years and indeed over the last two months we had 26 new members signing up - so we must be doing something right! The problem is that we don't really know what it is since we don't ask the questions as to how they got to know about us and why they decided to join! Maybe that is something we should consider doing in the future.

Anyway we are in good shape and all the more reason for celebrating our 10 year anniversary later this year. I hope as many of you as possible will come along to that to toast our success!

*Cheers Chris*

## KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Our group which is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Lawn Tennis Club 1pm - 3pm. Please come and join us, we are a very friendly group, a lot of nattering as well as knitting, tea, coffee and biscuits are at the ready. We knit for neo natal baby units at Queens Medical and City Hospital Nottingham and Doncaster, we



also knit squares to put together to make knee blankets for residents in local care homes. We will also be pleased to receive donations of any wool that you may have, we can put it to good use. Hope you will come along and join us.

*Marjorie Gibson*

## NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

### MILITARY HISTORY GROUP

- 12th March The British SS - The Men who fought for Hitler Eric Noel-Farthing
- 9th April Military Dogs of the British Army Pam Farquhar
- 14th May When Escaping was no longer fun Betty Merrick (Dukeries U3A)
- 11th June Small Air Forces of the British Empire Bob Massey
- 9th July Field Trip to RAF Museum - Hendon Hawker Tempest Mk.5/TT – NV778 £12.50 per person - Kettlewells
- 13th Aug Field Trip Colossus Computer Government Communications Centre Bletchley Park. £27.50 per person. - Kettlewells

I just thought I'd let you know that our ex member Pete Hall's son Richard has just taken part in rowing the Atlantic. It took 37 days 13hours and 53 minutes to row from the Canary Islands to Antigua.

Richard is a great lad, and I am hoping to get him to come and give us a talk sometime. His 'day-job' is running the Army Foundation College at Harrogate, where Kian is a student

Pictured below are the crew from L to R Lt Col Richard Hall, Capt. Chris Hamesw, Pt Kian Helm and Capt Alex Walsh.

Kian now holds the World Record by being the youngest person ever to beat 40 days in crossing the Atlantic.

*Roy Evans*



### SPEAKERS

- February 27th Paula Cornwell  
Early Motoring - " Fun !!!"
- March 26th Phil Cooper  
Travel and History

### AIM HIGH

A new venture is being set up at the Elizabethan High School which we may join in if we wish.

#### Climbing Wall

A new climbing wall is opening @ £30 per hour and our group is invited. Full training will be given. If anyone would like to give this a try, please let me know 01427 848852 or [brendawilson16@outlook.com](mailto:brendawilson16@outlook.com)

### ORAL HISTORY GROUP

#### To all Retford U3A members – we need your help!

We have decided on two themes for our group – the first is Memories of VE Day. As members will be aware, there will be a nationwide celebration of this event on May 8th. We know that some members of our U3A will remember VE Day on May 8th 1945 (although they will have been quite young!) and we hope some of them might be willing to come and tell us about their recollections (and we will make sound recordings). These could be used in venues around town to give extra authenticity to the Day. Perhaps members who do not remember VE Day may know of neighbours or friends who do and could ask whether they would be interested in getting involved with our project.

The second theme is 'Journeys'. This will tie in with the big Mayflower 400 events which will be taking place in November. The interpretation of 'Journeys' will be very broad. More details about this will be released shortly.

As we have such a large membership – our U3A 'community' - we want to start our projects within our membership. We would welcome your involvement, and if you know U3A friends who could relate to any of these topics, please persuade them to get in touch.

If you are interested in joining the Oral History Group please come along to the Museum in Grove Street at 10am on the 4th Tuesday of the month or contact me to find out more about the group.

*Pat Barnett 01777 704154*

## NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

### ARCHITECTURE GROUP

This is the oldest of all our Interest Groups at Retford U3A. It began when some of us were members of The Dukeries U3A, which meets in Ollerton. However, our Group meetings were held in Retford at the home of recently deceased David Atkins. Most of the members lived in Retford and so, when Retford U3A started in May 2010, it made sense to continue as we were. Inviting new Retford members to join brought the size of the group beyond the capacity of house meetings.

We were fortunate in having Hal Kinsey participating as a very active member. His love and knowledge of English Churches was enormous. He was a Brother at Trinity Hospital and was able to arrange for us to meet in the Audit Room at the top of the lovely old building. He organised an open morning when we had a guided tour of the Hospital and a visit to a Brother's home. When Hal died we thought we would lose the privilege of using this unique location for our monthly meetings. However, the Governor and Trustees generously allowed us to continue.

Whilst climbing up to our meeting room we could see from the landing window the Garden Room being erected. We were shown plans of the structure and were excited and interested to see the development each month. When the Darrel Room was completed we were invited to hold our meetings there, overlooking the lovely gardens. Not only is the outlook pleasant, the Room is extremely comfortable. As it was designed for the pleasure of the Brothers the chairs are large and luxurious. However this restricts the number of places we have available. Probably 35 people is the maximum we can accommodate.

Another downside was that, after many years of meeting on a Monday morning, we were asked to change due to clashes with the Brothers' needs for the Garden Room. We now meet on the fourth Wednesday in the month from 1345. Our autumn and winter talks have ranged far and wide, mostly researched and presented by members (always volunteers, never cajoled). We sometimes have lecturers such as from Sheffield and Nottingham Universities and Notts County Council.

During the spring and summer months we visit places of architectural interest, using Kettlewells coaches or car sharing. We have been as far as Saltaire, Brigg and Halifax and as near as Worksop (the Priory and the Old Library) and Lincoln Castle. We have had walking tours of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire villages, and of Retford market town. This summer we plan to visit a mosque in Sheffield, Papplewick Pumping Station and Beeston Canal Heritage Centre.

Ivan Bradder ran the Group in the early days but when he had to stand down I took over its organisation. I seem to have been doing it for a very long time and would welcome a replacement co-ordinator. Everyone gets stale and it would be nice to have a fresh outlook. Meanwhile, we seem to be pleasing our members, and we have a waiting list too. We ask them to be patient; people do move on, and they are welcome to join our outings. Our News Sheets give details of the topics of the monthly meetings and the visits planned. They can be viewed on-line or e-mail/call me for a copy.

*Thelma Britz Architecture Group Co-ordinator*

### COSMOLOGY GROUP - Galaxies to Atoms

Just a reminder that we still have some spaces for this talk. If you would like to come along to Grove St Church Hall on Tuesday 7th April from 10am till noon. Dr Susan Cartwright will provide a presentation shining some light into what many people perceive as the mysteries of how our Sun, our Earth and eventually us,

evolved. Our understanding of such 'mysteries' grows continuously as scientists have stood for countless generations 'on the shoulders' of their predecessors to extend our knowledge. If you are interested call

John Kelly  
Email

01777 838637 or

[kellyjng22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kellyjng22@yahoo.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

### FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP

February birthday flower is Iris. The brief was to include Iris in our arrangements.

Iris is the symbolic flower of the Greek goddess Iris, who was the messenger of love!

Traditionally, Iris symbolise eloquence, faith, wisdom and hope. In ancient times iris roots were used in perfumes and as folk medicine remedies. The juice of its roots has been used as a cosmetic to remove freckles!!



The group chose to do a funky upright arrangement on a round base. *Sally*

### QUIZ NIGHT

A quiz night has been arranged for Friday 24th April 2020 at Babworth Road Social Club (7.00 for 7.30pm start). Cost is £5 – to include a light buffet. Come as a team (6 people maximum) or individually and make some new friends!!



Please contact Sue Paul (sue.paul01@talktalk.net) or 01777 705008. Tickets will be on sale at the February & March meeting.

### SUMMER SOIREE

We have now booked the West Retford Hotel for our summer event on August 27th 4-6pm. Tickets are on sale in March cost £5, to include Strawberries & Cream, bubbly, birthday cake, musical entertainment, a poem and little presentation. Bar will be open as will the grounds. Prize for the lucky ticket and for best hat and best button hole. Sign up sheets are available at any main meeting. Brenda Wilson.

### WORKSOP U3A CINEMA GROUP

Thu Mar 12th at Savoy, Worksop Showing starts 1400

Car parking for 4 hours £1.50 refunded with voucher against ticket price if parked in either car park behind the Town Hall or Newgate Street East.

#### EMMA

Jane Austen's beloved comedy about finding your equal and earning your happy ending, is reimagined in this delicious new film adaptation of EMMA. Handsome, clever, and rich, Emma Woodhouse is a restless queen bee without rivals in her sleepy little town. In this glittering satire of social class and the pain of growing up, Emma must adventure through misguided matches and romantic missteps to find the love that has been there all along.

### WALKING GROUPS

<b>Strollers</b>	Jean Winder 01777 817777
Email	<a href="mailto:walking-strollers@retford-u3a.org.uk">walking-strollers@retford-u3a.org.uk</a>
Next walk	17th March
<b>Moderates</b>	David Richardson 01427 891500
Email	<a href="mailto:walking-moderate@retford-u3a.org.uk">walking-moderate@retford-u3a.org.uk</a>
Next walk	Monday 2nd March, led by Imelda
Meeting	Blue Bell Inn, High Road, Carlton in Lindrick S81 9DT
<b>Striders</b>	Contact Tom Bell 01777 710969 or Geoff Marsh 01777 702634
Next walk	16th March
Email	<a href="mailto:walking-striders@retford-u3a.org.uk">walking-striders@retford-u3a.org.uk</a>

### ASTHMA UK FUNDRAISING

A letter has been received from Asthma UK for the generous donation of £125 following the Mike Storr talk. Due to lack of space this month I will include the full letter in the March edition, with examples of how the money could help.

### NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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It may not always be possible to include all articles that are submitted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit or discount any submitted articles.  
Items for inclusion in the March edition can be sent in any time but no later than Thurs 19th March 2020.