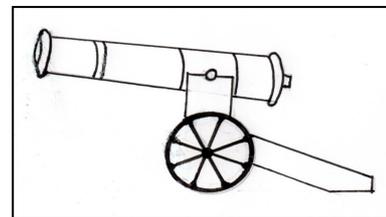




THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



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Retford U3A

Membership No. 822/801/10

www.retford-u3a.org.uk

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - JULY 2019

CHAIRMANS CHATTER

When I sit down to compose Chairman's Chatter and because I don't have a particularly imaginative mind (especially these days!) I sometimes struggle to find something new to talk about. So I thought I'd have a look at what I wrote last year and having read through it, guess what, very much all of what I said then is just as relevant today! So forgive me for plagiarising my own work – with apologies to those who keep back copies - but here goes.

Whether it's the weather – which despite all their sophisticated equipment the forecasters still manage to not get entirely right these days - or sport with football, tennis, netball, golf and cricket in particular getting centre stage or politics or holidays, there is so much for us all to talk about. There is no doubt in my mind that the warm weather coupled with success of our sporting nation have, among other things, lightened the mood of the nation and caused debate between family and friends. (There is definitely a direct correlation between sporting success and increased productivity!). On the other hand the fact that we will have a new Prime Minister and the resolving of Brexit and the ongoing controversy from 'the Donald' on the other side of the pond seem all too familiar

but no doubt cause more serious discussions no matter which side of the fence you sit!

But the important thing is that healthy chats about this and that are good for the soul and it serves as an important reminder that this is what the U3A is all about. Our ethos is to learn from each other and to have fun while we are doing it. Our membership is continuing to grow and we are always looking for new topics for Interest Groups, indeed at the last General Meeting it was suggested that Cryptic Crosswords might be of interest and guess what – it was! More news on that shortly.

Also just to confirm that the Committee has now decided to meet every two months, for the next few months at least, to ease the burden on busy lives. Hopefully things will work OK but if not we will have a rethink. It certainly should not result in any diminution of our work or effectiveness on your behalf as with modern technology things can easily be done in different ways.

Please note that there will not be a meeting or a Newsletter in August but we will resume again on Thursday 26th September. In the meantime I hope you all enjoy the rest of the Summer and chatting about whatever takes your fancy!

Cheers Chris

SPEAKERS

The advertised speaker Linda Hamilton is unable to come on the 25th July.

New speaker for July is Alan Clements who will talk about Tibet and the Dali Lama. Alan has spoken to the gardening group before but this is his first visit to the main meeting.

In April next year I will have completed my 3 year stint as "Speaker finder" and will therefore be stepping down from the role. I

am announcing this early so that people can have the chance to think about it. Whoever takes over will find that the first booking they will need to make will be for January 2021 as I will have filled the whole of 2020 by the end of 2019. The role is not as demanding as I thought it would be so there is no problem in terms of the time commitment, and I would be happy to provide advice over the first few months.

David Lee

NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

ARCHTECTURE GROUP

Thanks to Daphne Sidney for giving us such a lovely day at Halifax in June. 16 people also met for a visit to the Old Library and Museum at Worksop on 13 May, where afternoon tea was enjoyed in the Art Deco cafe.

You responded favourably to my suggestion that we do something locally with an Art Deco theme in August. Consequently, for our 28 August event, I have arranged a visit to the Masonic Hall in Retford for 2pm. Parking is available next door at Aldi, across the road at the Bay Tree Cafe, Asda and all around the town. At 3pm we hope to go to the Majestic Theatre. Both these venues have Art Deco features. Afterwards we can bring a picnic to Kings Park unless you would prefer to take afternoon tea at the Old Police Station, or some other nearby eatery. Please let me know your preference.

We will be making a donation for our guided tours which I would like to collect on the day. What I need to know is how many people to expect. Could you please contact me if you would like to come on Wednesday, 28 August, and if so whether you prefer a picnic or cafe tea.

We start our 'new term' on:

Wednesday, 25 September, with a talk by Jason Mordan, Senior Practitioner for Historic Buildings for Notts County Council. His subject is our Industrial Heritage.

Wednesday, 23 October - Paul Henderson will give us a presentation on Parker Morris Standards.

Wednesday, 27 November - We will hold our Annual Lunch at the West Retford Hotel, followed by a Quiz devised by Michael Costigan. It will start at 1400 to allow us to settle down after lunch.

The committee have not yet drawn up the programme for 2020 so please come forward with offers of presentations. Meanwhile I look forward to hearing from you about our August outing and seeing some of you on the coach to Belper, leaving Kettlewells at 0915. I'm having a lovely summer; I hope you are too. Thelma Britz 01777 948676

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

A large number of U3A members attended, and very much enjoyed the July meeting of the Local History Group.

Sam Glasswell, Curator of Bassetlaw Museum attended, bringing with her a wonderful display of many of the museums 800 Autochromes or photographs taken by Stephen Pegler who formally lived at Amcott House on Grove Street Retford, now home to Bassetlaw Museum. Sam explained his family history at the beginning of the 20th century and the back ground to his photographs which are of many local people from Retford from all sorts of backgrounds going about their daily business and local beauty spots including Kings Park, Clumber Park, Welbeck and along the canal, still used for the carrying of freight. The Autochromes can be seen at the museum using a special framework which gives a 3D effect.

- ♦ August we are looking forward to David Skillen talking about the American Civil War.
- ♦ September, Ann Hickman is coming to talk about the History of The Royal British Legion.

All U3A members are very welcome, second Tuesday morning in the month at 10am at Westhill Community Hall in Ordsall.

BALLET

Please could people booked onto the ballet trip in November, please pay me at the July meeting - £42 50p. Cheque payable to Retford U3A. If unable to attend, please send cheque to Brenda Wilson, Primrose Cottage, 16 Bar Road North, Beckingham, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN10 4NN.

I now have a small supply of Perspex A4 stands to advertise group activities. If anyone would like one or two to put a sheet in displaying a group for placing upstairs at The Well, please see me at the next meeting. Brenda Wilson.

NEWS FROM INTEREST GROUPS

FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP

The theme for July was "all things bright and beautiful".

Some lovely colourful arrangements were made... incorporating a few "creatures great and small"



WORKSOP U3A CINEMA GROUP

The film showing to all U3A members on Thursday August 8th at the Savoy Cinema Worksop, at 14.00 is **THE CURRENT WAR**

Three brilliant visionaries set off in a charged battle for the future in *The Current War*, the epic story of the cutthroat competition that literally lit up the modern world. Benedict Cumberbatch is Thomas Edison, the celebrity inventor on the verge of bringing electricity to Manhattan with his radical new DC technology. On the eve of triumph, his plans are upended by charismatic businessman George Westinghouse (Michael Shannon), who believes he and his partner, the upstart genius Nikolai Tesla (Nicholas Hoult), have a superior idea for how to rapidly electrify America: with AC current. As Edison and Westinghouse grapple for who will power the nation, they spark one of the first and greatest corporate feuds in American history, establishing for future Titans of Industry the need to break all the rules

REMINDER !! the cinema will most likely be very busy for this screening due to the school holidays so please allow extra time for parking and getting served. The screen may not be immediately ready for us due to films in beforehand. Price £4 pp with complimentary tea/coffee.

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.

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

It will be a year in September since we started Knit and Natter Group. We enjoy ourselves and have gone from strength to strength. We knit for charities whether that be one of your own choice or one that we have all agreed upon which includes items for the premature and neonatal baby units such as hats, blankets and cannula mittens.

Also we knit and donate blankets to our local care homes. Your knitting can be as simple or as complicated as you wish giving you every opportunity to be adventurous. You may wish to knit something for yourself as an alternative.

We do not buy our wool from retail outlets. We are offered bags and bags of unwanted wool which would otherwise be thrown away and we make a small donation if required. The chattering goes on whilst knitting or, when coffee arrives, the knitting stops and the nattering continues. We are a friendly, happy group. We learn from each other, swap techniques and ideas even having a demonstration on how to do something in particular.



We meet on the second Tuesday in the month 1.30pm until 3.00pm at the Retford Tennis Club although we may extend this time as members feel one and a half hours is not long enough. The tennis club has full facilities for our use. The saying "time flies when you are enjoying yourself" comes to mind. Come and join us we would really enjoy your company.

Marjorie Gibson

Month	Speaker	Subject
July 25th (Speaker change)	Alan Clements	Tibet and the Dali Lama
August	TBA	TBA
September 26th	David Bell	The Plague Doctor - Eyam
October 24th	Philip Caine	From Barrow to Baghdad
November 28th	Tony Barber	Social History of the St Leger
December TBA	Steelspantastics	Steel Band

MOVE TO MUSIC

On 24th May, Keep fit to Music visited the BBC Media Centre Salford, a very interesting and enjoyable day had by all.



CREATIVE WRITING



The Retford U3A Creative Writing Group is a small and friendly group of people who meet every third Thursday of the month at 10.00 a.m in the lovely café at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, for about an hour.

We set ourselves a writing challenge every month and spend part of each meeting discussing our work and giving positive feedback . The rest of the meeting introduces our new challenge!

But there's no pressure. There's no right or wrong. This isn't school! It's all about a group of people who love writing enjoying themselves and learning from one another. Please contact Julia Hathaway creative-writing@retford-u3a.org.uk julia@windfeather.org

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Design, Production & Printing - Christine Cook
Contact:- newsletters@retford-u3a.org.uk

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.

There is no newsletter in August so items for inclusion in the September edition can be sent in any time but no later than Friday 20th September

MEET THE COMMITTEE



John Orledge - Webmaster
I have a very short history with the U3A, having joined in January 2019, with the intention of joining the walking groups. I currently walk with the Strollers Group, who are all very good company as we stroll across the nearby countryside. However, I hit the

road running when I took over the role of Webmaster in May and joined the Committee at the same time. Although I have had many years of experience of working with computers, website maintenance is a new thing for me and it certainly has been a sharp upward learning curve, but I am definitely enjoying it. If you have any questions/suggestions/thoughts about the Retford U3A website, you can contact me at the general meeting, via webmaster@retford-u3a.org.uk or on 07890892877.

I know I look very scary on the photo, but I really am very approachable !!!!! "

WALKING GROUPS

Strollers

Jean Winder 01777 817777

Email

walking-strollers@retford-u3a.org.uk

Moderates

David Richardson 01427 891500

Email

walking-moderate@retford-u3a.org.uk

Striders

Contact Tom Bell 01777 710969 or

Geoff Marsh 01777 702634

Email

walking-striders@retford-u3a.org.uk

Why not join us on our annual **Summer Stroll** on Aug 5th, this year to Haworth, linked with 'The Railway Children' film. We will be leaving Kettlewell's yard at 08.30 am and return at around 6.00 pm. On arrival in Haworth we will be offering 2 walks, the first which is around 2.5 miles long, the second one following the same circular route, but then adding around another 2 miles of a little more testing terrain.

If you have previously expressed interest in going we'll be taking monies at Thursdays General Meeting from around 1pm onwards. If you can't make it, in order to preserve your seat please get in touch with Tom - 01777 710969 in order to arrange payment of £11 per seat, preferably by cheque made payable to Retford U3A.

Striders Monday 19th August, Cotgrave Country Park contact veldavis@gmail.com for more details.