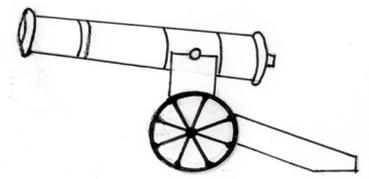




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Retford U3A

Membership No. 822/801/10

www.retford-u3a.org.uk

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - JULY/AUGUST 2020

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

We have now had our Annual General Meeting, and these are very strange times when we are having to explore new ways of being sociable and dealing with life's little problems.

Initially we as a group of people have to thank Chris Clifford for his service as our Chair for the last three years, and also a brief mention should be made thanking Norma Taylor for taking on the role of Chair, for the few months when Chris was indisposed. Our Membership Secretary Paul Bacon has completed his three year term on the committee and has been replaced by Sue Paul, with his duties as the custodian of the Beacon database being passed over to John Orledge who manages our website. My wife Kate has now stood down, after spending four years as Treasurer and the last two years as Deputy Treasurer.

Geoff Marsh is remaining as Treasurer, and Brenda Wilson the Interest Group Coordinator. Pippa Ramsey is still the Secretary and an invaluable help to all the committee. We have two trustees, Sue Ross, who looks after the crossing of T's and the dotting of 'I's and is our unofficial coordinator with the North Notts U3A groups. She has attended their meetings in person and on Zoom presentations. The other trustee is Bryan Gladstone, who has been seconded onto the committee. He has been instrumental in setting up the fortnightly Zoom presentations, which Adrian Sumner and I have been assisting with for the Military History group. These presentations have been 'broadcast' to not only our Retford U3A, but also to Dukeries at Ollerton, Southwell, Worksop, Gainsborough and West Bridgford U3A's. We have even had a couple from Chicago and a chap from Paris and another from Liverpool join us for our 'live' Zoom

presentations.

It is our intention to start running general Meetings again but electronically, and if you do not know how to set your computer up to receive or take part in these meetings, we will let you know how to do it. Other U3A's in our Region of Nottinghamshire are now running their meetings using Zoom, so it is our intention to hold a meeting on Thursday 27th August, just to see if it will work. Then depending on your collective response, we can run further meetings, so that we can see each other and use this as a method of keeping in regular touch with each other.

A short piece now about my background. I worked as a Management Trainee when I left school for Bowaters the paper makers, then for a Printing Ink manufacturer, with the aim of working in the printing industry. Both were incredibly dangerous places to work and fire was a constant problem. I was a retained fireman attached to Watford Borough Council's fire brigade, then a salesman of Breathing Apparatus. I then became a training officer showing firemen how to maintain and service their equipment. I worked for 15 years with the Chubb Group spending the last six attached to the MOD, working at Farnborough, Colchester Barracks and the Royal Naval base at Gosport (Haslar). For the last 25 years of my working life, I ran my own Fire Protection company, which my eldest daughter now runs. I have written eight books with three of a series of ten Aviation Industry books currently being printed. I also run my own publishing company, based in Clarborough.

My aim is to be a pro-active Chairman, in these very difficult times, and look forward to the next year.

Roy

AGM

Chris Clifford gave his final address, followed by Geoff Marsh with a brief look at his Treasurer's Report. Brenda Wilson then mentioned her Interest Groups Report. All three of these had already been sent out to all members. There were no issues raised from any of these, and Chris then stood down as Chairman and I was elected in his place. Paul Bacon stood down as Membership Secretary and administrator of the U3A Beacon database. Sue Paul was elected onto the committee as the new Membership Secretary, and those of you who have yet to pay your subs, should send your cheque for £15 to her at:-

Sue Paul (Membership Secretary)
[37 Monckton Road, Retford. DN22 7XY](mailto:SuePaul@u3abeacon.org)

John Ortledge, who runs our website, has taken over the Beacon database.

Bryan Gladstone has been seconded onto the committee. He will liaise with Dave Lee who is standing down as the Speaker Finder. Bryan has been instrumental in arranging Zoom presentations for the Military History group. These have been taking place for the last 18 weeks, and we intend to start running the monthly General U3A Meeting on Zoom, starting next month on the 27th August.

We will give detailed instructions as to how you can load Zoom onto your computer, and depending on how many people want to get involved, will depend on how often we run a meeting. It is now considered very unlikely we will have a 'live' meeting before Christmas, and in all likelihood not before next Easter, so Zoom will be the way we will keep in touch.

We have now had nearly five months of shut down and isolation, and the new committee will try to be pro-active and help you get through the next few months.

SINGING GROUP

Like all of our Retford U3A Groups the Singing Group has not been able to meet during Lockdown. However, I have been running Zoom Singalong sessions for Retford Community Singers, which have been quite well received. Community Singers are having a break for the summer, but I would like to continue doing Singalongs, so I shall be hoping that some members of the Singing Group might be interested if they are able to Zoom. However, to run a full session I could do with some more participants, so I am offering the chance to take part to other Retford U3A members.

To take part you need to be able to use Zoom on your device – lots of you will have done this by now! If you would like to take part please contact me for further information. If you want to take part I will then send you the code for the session and also the words for the songs we shall be singing. I am planning to run sessions on Tuesday 4th and 18th August and 1st September. They will be at 7pm and will last for about an hour. There will, of course, be no charge.

As you will all realise, you will be singing by yourself (or with your family group perhaps) as you won't be able to hear anyone but me singing, but you will also be able to hear and sing along with the recordings I play.

Examples of songs we have sung along to are *76 Trombones*, *Consider Yourself* and *What the World needs Now is Love, Sweet Love* to name just a few – this will give you the idea about the kind of things we can 'singalong' to.

If you are interested please get in touch as soon as possible

phone 01777 704154

email: patricia.barnett@talk21.com



INFORMAL COFFEE MORNING

I just thought I would get in touch with you all, who come to the Coffee Morning at the West Retford Hotel on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30am.

We had our April's meeting cancelled due to the start of Corvid-19 pandemic, so later I went into the West Retford Hotel and asked them to keep the money we had paid for our meals, until we were allowed to hold our meetings again. This they agreed to do.

I feel the first time we meeting we will be doing a lot of catching up with each other. So if it is ok with you all, we will have the meal on the second of our monthly meetings, whenever they recommence. I will put the start date onto our Web page, when I find this out.

Hope you have all stayed safe and kept healthy and look forward to the time we can meet again.

Stay safe and keep healthy everyone.

Pat Trotter

[Tel:- 07973956591](tel:07973956591)

E Mail pat.m.trotter@gmail.com

GROUPS

Although the Committee made a decision that all groups should remain suspended for the time being and group leaders were notified accordingly, the position will be reviewed in September along with Government and Head Office guidelines.

Many of you are enjoying other methods of keeping in touch and hopefully we will be able to meet up in the not too distant future.

Brenda Wilson Groups Co-ordinator

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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

For the foreseeable future I will still be publishing a monthly newsletter and will appreciate any articles etc.

Contact me on 01777 870583. Items for inclusion in the next edition can be sent in any time until things return to normal!!

Keep safe

Christine

POEM - OH TO BE FREE

I feel just like a chrysalis
That's waiting to get out
I want to fly round freely,
I want to scream and shout.



I'm fed up with the Lockdown,
Of staying in at home,
I'm fed up with the garden
And walking round alone.

I'm fed up finding jobs to do
Of flicking round a duster,
The energy to do it all,
I really just can't muster.



It's not about 'new normal'
Or even rainy showers,
I want to entertain again
Have people here for hours.

I want to stride up hills again
Not wander on the flat,
And have a picnic on the fells,
Not distanced where I'm sat.



I know I'm being picky,
There's lots more worse
than me,
But oh to be that butterfly
And be entirely free.

Brenda Wilson July 2020

TV LICENCING

On 1st August, the BBC will be scrapping the free TV licence for older people – a licence is needed to watch live TV on any channel. Only those who are over the age of 74, and receive Pension Credit will be eligible for the free licence. In Nottinghamshire, we know that thousands of older residents are entitled to Pension Credit (and consequently a free TV licence) but have not applied for it.



You can apply for Pension Credit online, by phone or by submitting a paper application.

Submitted via Tom Bell

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

In June the Wine Appreciation Group strayed from their usual Zoom gathering with a glass or two of wine, and had a murder mystery play instead.

The play, 'Stiffen Very Carefully', had characters closely based on those in the old popular television series, 'Allo Allo'. The plot involved the murder of an RAF pilot named Johnny Upstairs in an upstairs room at the Café. Everyone dressed for their part and we had German Gestapo and RAF officers, an Italian Captain Bertolli, a busty vivacious waitress and a British spy posing as a French policeman with the well-known dreadful accent – "Good Moaning, I was just pissing by." The headgear was varied and interesting, with a red beret, a policeman's kepi, a couple of trilbies and a few wigs. There were several moustaches which tended to be a bit mobile, sometimes ending up on the bridge of the nose and looking more like sunglasses!

Those wearing uniforms found themselves sweltering on one of the hottest days of the year so far and the singing of "Non je ne regrette rien" left a lot to be desired. Certainly none of us will be treading the boards at Retford Little Theatre when it re-opens, but my goodness it was fun.

Pauline Crawshaw



FACE MASKS

For most people it is now mandatory to wear a face covering in shops as well as on public transport. A face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. You can buy reusable or single-use face coverings. You may also use a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face. There are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. However please be aware that people who are deaf or have hearing loss may

struggle to communicate if people wear face coverings. This is because they rely heavily on visual cues, including facial expressions and lip-reading. When you wear a face covering make sure you:

- Fully cover your nose and mouth
- Don't touch the front of it
- Wash your hands before and after putting it on or taking it off
- Wash the face covering regularly with your normal laundry.



Submitted via Tom Bell

Retford Heritage Open Day

RETFORD HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Retford Heritage Open day celebrates the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower Pilgrims with the theme of 'Journeys'

Bassetlaw Museum, Retford Civic Society, Retford business forum and other local organisations will be working in partnership with North Notts Lit Fest to create new and innovative ways to access Retford's heritage. Join our online event for a variety of activities such as virtual tours, competitions, podcasts and more!

The theme of 'journeys' will weave together a fabulous program of online content. Find out fascinating facts about some of Retford's beautiful heritage sites, take a relaxing virtual trip along the Chesterfield canal, enjoy the peal of church bells and live Facebook events all within current social distancing guidelines!

The event will be hosted on the Retford Heritage Open day Facebook page, with links to YouTube videos and downloadable activities. 'Like' our page on Facebook, 'Retford Heritage Open Day' to be able to access all the events!

No booking required.

12th-19th September

Additional Information

Contact for the day

Bassetlaw Museum



Bassetlaw Museum

YOUR MUSEUM | YOUR DISCOVERY

