



NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - MARCH 2021

CHAIRMANS THOUGHTS 8

Well Spring is now officially here, the sparrows are feeding on the bird seed we have put out and my neighbours blue tits are in full song.

We seem to be steaming ahead with the vaccine and are beginning to be hopeful that in the autumn things will start to return to some kind of pre-covid normality. We still have to sit on our hands though when it comes to running a meeting. You may want to go walking, and there is obviously nothing wrong with doing that, but do be careful when considering walking with others. The same applies to cycling. Again obviously nothing wrong with doing that as with walking they are both activities carried on outside.

If you're thinking of hosting an event in your back garden, again remember the Government Guidelines about people 'outside your bubble' entering your home to go to the loo or about giving anyone any food or drink. Of course if you are invited to attend a gathering in someone else's home don't forget to carry out your risk assessment, to ensure your and everyone else's safety.

We need to follow social distancing if we gather outside in a park, but until the committee advise you, this cannot be an official U3A meeting. We are guided by Government in London and also Bassetlaw Council in Worksop.

There are National Guidelines laid out on the You Gov website that relate to the Government's 'Road Map'. From the 29th March (if all goes well) six people will be allowed to meet outside (even in your garden), but as yet toilet facilities may still be off limits. From 12th April, limited use of Community Centres may be allowed.

Locally Bassetlaw District Council will do all they can to re-open both Westhill and Hallcroft Community Centres, but with restrictions laid down in the road map. Two of these for instance are the use of face coverings and the 1 metre rule of social distancing. There is no guidance yet as to if the toilets or kitchens will be available to us.

On the assumption that all of you will have had your first vaccine injection during January or February but some of you may not get your 2nd vaccination until 23rd May (12 weeks after the end of February). We then have to wait 3 weeks for the vaccines to become effective.

Bearing this in mind, we should be as safe as we probably can be when we have our National U3A Day event on 3rd June in Retford Market Square.

Bearing all these things in mind, you as members can see how difficult a decision it will be to just re-open everything. It's not a case of 'well we've had the vaccine and tough on those who haven't', we have to think of all the membership and there will be some who have decided not to have the vaccine either on medical, religious or personal grounds and their wishes or opinions must be respected. We also have to remember that even if we have had the 2 injections and waited 3 weeks for them to take effect, they will not give 100% protection.

We continue to keep in touch with each other using Zoom. Those of you who have not downloaded the software or tried to join an interest group yet, please try and you will find many of your friends. We are starting our 12th group this month when Pat Trotter will be running her Coffee Mornings on Zoom. She

CHAIRMANS THOUGHTS - continued

intends running these on the last Wednesday morning of each month at 11.00 am.

If you have not yet registered with Pat to join her group please do so, on pat.m.trotter@gmail.com

The Gardening and Military History Groups continue to grow in numbers and you can reach both on:-

Gardening – Irene Lewis on irenelewis@dsl.pipex.com

Military History – Roy Evans on roy@rowasfhs.com

Of course, don't forget we are now running a Zoom presentation on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm. We are now getting on average between 70 and 80 members attend these talks. The 4th Thursday afternoon remains the 'General Meeting', but because they have become so popular, we have introduced additional meetings for you all.

Our AGM is held this Thursday 25th March at 2.00pm, and I have to tell you that the

committee have really worked very hard for you the members over this last year. I would just like to say, once again, through their hard work my job as Chairman has been made a lot easier. If you have not yet registered to join us for the AGM please contact me and I will add your name to the meeting database. roy@rowasfhs.com

We still have over 500 members in Retford's U3A (despite the virus and all the restrictions imposed on us) but for a number of us this 2021/22 will be our last year on the committee. I am telling you this now, as we will need a new Chair, Vice Chair, Group Coordinator and a Trustee to be nominated and elected at next year's AGM. If these positions are not filled, I am afraid that will be the end of the U3A in Retford, so members it's up to you. One would hope at least 4 of you out of 500 would step forward, if only for a year, to serve on the committee. Roy

AGM - REPORTS

Treasurer's Report for Retford U3A AGM 25th March 2021

This report covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 January 2021. This is because we are holding our next AGM before the end of the current financial year on 31st March, and also so we can allow time for everyone to have sight of the documentation before the meeting which once again will be held electronically.

The total cash assets of Retford U3A as at 31 January 2021 were £7930.77. Made up of current account £6662.67, petty cash £89.01 and deposit account £1,179.09. Interest group funds held amounted to £9956.80. These funds are restricted for payment of group expenses only.

We have collected membership subscriptions during the current year on the basis that the payment would cover two years until March 2022. This means that Retford U3A will have little or no income from membership fees in respect of the period April 2021 to March 2022.

During the current year to date expenditure amounts to £3817.39, and is unlikely to change materially in the last two months. Of this amount £3450.70 covered the membership levy to National U3A, Third Age Matters magazines and the cost of using the Beacon membership system. As these costs are directly related to membership numbers next year's costs will be less as our membership is lower than it was last year. I expect the combined figure to be around £3000. On this basis cash assets currently held exceed projected expenditure over the period to 31 March 2022, and Retford U3A remains solvent.

The projection given above takes no account of the resumption of General Meetings at The Well due to the Covid19 restrictions. If physical meetings restart before April 2022 then further consideration will need to be given at that time to the financial position of Retford U3A.

*Geoff Marsh, Treasurer – Retford U3A
31 January 2021*

Retford U3A Chairman's Report 2020/21

Since we had our last AGM in July last year, the committee has worked tirelessly to keep this branch of the U3A running.

Geoff Marsh has been our Treasurer for the last 3 years and has managed the finances in an exemplary manner. He has decided not to stand for re-election this year and will be stepping down from this post.

Pippa Ramsey has been an absolute rock as the Branch's Secretary and provided much needed support to the committee when we have needed it.

John Orledge is stepping down as a trustee from the committee but will remain as an associate committee member looking after our website and Beacon membership database. We have 2 other associate members of the committee, Christine Cook who is editor of our 'in house' newsletter 'The Not So Idle Times' and Mick Morrill who keeps the list of equipment the Branch owns. Without the work these 3 have put in during the last year your U3A would be a poorer Branch.

Brenda Wilson has managed to do a magnificent job working with Interest Group Leaders during the shutdown. It's a thankless task chasing people up and encouraging them to try to use new technology to keep the individual groups running, but as we now have about ten groups meeting electronically, she must have done a great job.

Our new Membership Secretary Sue Paul was very much dropped in at the deep end last year when she took on the role. However she grasped what was needed very quickly and has been a great

Annual Report – Interest Groups. 2020/21

Although we started out in the Pandemic and Lockdowns without any meetings at all in any of the Groups, we now have a pleasing number who meet regularly via Zoom. Whilst most are not suited to non group members joining the Zoom meeting those that are can be accessed by contacting the Group Leader as follows;

Military History – Roy Evans

Gardening – Irene Lewis

Classical Music – Marie Thompson

Groups are a vital part of the U3A, offering new learning opportunities and the chance to socialise and make friends. We have almost 50 groups to consider, some based in member's homes, others in community centres or public halls. Most are free to join for paid up members, other attract a small fee to cover costs.

addition to the committee with concise information when it has been needed. It was Sue who arranged for members not on line to be contacted by phone to see how they were just before Christmas.

Sue Ross has spent the last year monitoring the work and meetings of the North Nottinghamshire U3A Group. At their meetings there are a number of other U3A's who participate and Sue monitors these meetings and advises the committee what was discussed.

Bryan Gladstone has really been an unsung hero this last year. Last April the Military History Group were looking at ways to keep in touch, and it was Bryan who said don't worry we'll use Zoom. With one or two exceptions we all looked totally blank, but Bryan was able to walk us through the process of arranging and running a meeting. From last April when we had 15 people attend our first attempt, at the Monthly Zoom General Meeting in January we had nearly 90 people attend.

Certainly last but not least Roger Stenson who once again organised the U3A Diaries which were sold at Christmas. Roger has the role on the committee of marketing products sold Nationally by the U3A. When we get back together again holding live meetings any new items produced which Roger thinks suitable will be offered.

So you can see how easy it has been for me in these difficult times to have a team around me who are so adept at what they do. Remember their efforts benefit us all.

Roy Evans

We are so fortunate to have Group Leaders who both want to help in this way but also share their home. Without that warmth and enthusiasm the Groups would not run at all.

We did have a couple of new Groups about to start when we all went into Lockdown and I am hopeful they will commence when we are able to meet again, maybe in September this year.

I am in several groups and have also run them in the past. It is very rewarding and there is always help to get started, so – whilst we are 'on pause', why not think of a group we do not have yet and consider a new project in the Autumn.

I am always available for a chat either by telephone 01427 848852 or email

brendawilson16@outlook.com

Remember the Queen said "We will meet again".

Best wishes to you all,

Brenda Wilson, Groups Co-Ordinator. Jan 2021

AGM MINUTES

Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting of Retford U3a held on Thursday 30th July 2020 using Zoom Technology

Chairman Chris Clifford welcomed everyone to the meeting that for the 1st time was being held virtually using Zoom technology due to Covid 19

1. Minutes of AGM April 25th 2019

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed by John Jones and seconded by Andrina Jones

2. Matters Arising There were no matters arising**3. Annual Report from Chairman.**

The report was not read out as it had been sent by email earlier. Copy is attached. Chris Clifford thanked the committee and other members for their support while he was in the Chair for the final period of 12 months and also for the work of the retiring members of the committee. The report was submitted as a record of the 10th year of the Retford U3A

4. Treasurer's Report

The report by Geoff Marsh was not read out as it had been sent by email earlier. Copy is attached. Geoff reported in addition that the Charity Commission report and Annual return were all up to date. Thanks were given to Geoff. Proposed by Adrian Sumner, Seconded Lesley Sumner

5. Approval of Independently Assessed Accounts

Proposed by David Lee, seconded Dawn Madine

6. Interest Groups Progress Report

The report by Brenda Wilson was not read out as it had been sent by email earlier. Thanks were given to Brenda for her work as co-ordinator.

7. Election of Committee Members

Volunteers for some of the vacated committee posts had been proposed and seconded as follows

Chairman - Roy Evans. Proposed Mick Morrith, seconded Sylvia Morrith

Membership Secretary – Sue Paul. Proposed Andrew Paul, seconded Wendy Hall

The vacant positions of Vice Chairman and Vice Treasurer remain unfilled.

The following committee members had agreed to serve for a further year

Secretary – Pippa Ramsay

Web Master – John Orledge who will also manage Beacon system

Interest Groups Co-Ordinator – Brenda Wilson

Treasurer – Geoff Marsh

Committee member – Sue Ross

The following ex officio committee members agreed to stand again & will attend meetings as necessary.

Margaret Gee - Special Communications

Chris Cook - Newsletter

Mick Morrith - Inventory Keeper

David Lee - Speaker finder has stood down.

Bookings for the rest of the year are being cancelled and rescheduled for 2021. The position of Speaker Finder remains vacant

Thanks were given to Kate Evans for her long service as Treasurer and Vice Treasurer, to Chris Clifford - Chair & Paul Bacon - Membership Secretary and Beacon)

Pat Trotter proposed that all the above nominations should be accepted en bloc. Seconded by Sue Ross

Any other business

In the 4th week of August 2020 a U3A General Meeting will be held using Zoom, a trial, with a speaker from the membership. Indoor meetings will not resume this year due to Covid 19 or for the foreseeable future. It will influence the AGM also. This raised a question regarding members who do not use the internet. It was decided to start meetings with members who have access to the internet and to provide support for those needing to install Zoom.

Bryan Gladstone is due to join the committee as a Trustee and has offered IT support to members.

Date of next AGM Thursday 22nd April 2021

I confirm that these are the minutes of the 10th Retford U3A Annual General meeting held by Zoom conference on 30th July 2020

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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

For the foreseeable future I will still be publishing a monthly or bi 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.

Thank you all for the lovely comments I have received and also for all the contributions.

Keep safe

Christine

THE NOT SO IDLE TIMES

SWEETS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. | Wobbly infant | Jelly Baby |
| 2. | Wise guys | Smarties |
| 3. | Refined people live here | Quality Street |
| 4. | Edible fastener | Buttons |
| 5. | For a job well done | Reward |
| 6. | Wee Willie Winkie | After Eight |
| 7. | Alcoholic dentures | Wine Gums |
| 8. | Occult perhaps? | Black Magic |
| 9. | Fallen fruit | Pear Drop |
| 10. | A sport for a prince | Polo |
| 11. | 100% metal | Old Gold |
| 12. | Flowers | Roses |
| 13. | A carrier for cream products | Milk Tray |
| 14. | Relaxing kind of whiskey | Maltesers |
| 15. | For being good children | Treets |
| 16. | Seen on race courses | Tic-Tac |
| 17. | Miscellaneous blacks | Allsorts |
| 18. | White insect | Humbug |
| 19. | Weapon herb | Spearmint |
| 20. | Greasy nuts | Buttered Brazils |
| 21. | A shaving | Flake |
| 22. | Mutineers ship | Bounty |
| 23. | Stars street | Milky Way |
| 24. | Mum serves drinks here | Mars Bar |
| 25. | Miss Parton's selection | Dolly Mixture |
| 26. | Eastern promise | Turkish Delight |
| 27. | Tree gives a lashing | Walnut Whip |
| 28. | Arias | Tunes |
| 29. | 26 miles and 385 yards | Marathon |
| 30. | North country man | Yorkie |

ANOTHER QUIZ TO TRY

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|--------------|-----|-------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | 1953 | = | CY | 18. | 25 | = | Y for a SA |
| 2. | 20 | = | FO in a P | 19. | 29028 | = | H of E |
| 3. | 27 | = | B in the NT | 20. | 10 | = | C |
| 4. | 21 | = | S in a G | 21. | 70 | = | TSY and T |
| 5. | 9 | = | L of a C | 22. | 2001 | = | SO |
| 6. | 6 | = | S of a C | 23. | 90 | = | D in a RA |
| 7. | 2 | = | W in a F | 24. | 6 | = | W of H the E |
| 8. | 360 | = | D in a C | 25. | 88 | = | PK |
| 9. | 1815 | = | B of W | 26. | 32 | = | DF at which W F |
| 10. | 7 | = | DS | 27. | 12 | = | S of the Z |
| 11. | 101 | = | D (WD) | 28. | 13 | = | BD |
| 12. | 1471 | = | to find WTPM | 29. | 57 | = | HV |
| 13. | 10 | = | GBS on a W | 30. | 4 | = | Q in a G |
| 14. | 15 | = | P in a RUT | 31. | 30 | = | D in N |
| 15. | 5 | = | O in the W | 32. | 65 | = | A of R for M |
| 16. | 6 | = | B in an O | 33. | 147 | = | MB in S |
| 17. | 4 | = | B in a J | 34. | 1926 | = | Y of the GS |

THANKS

We would like to give a big thank you to Margaret Gee for all her work she has done over the years in sending out Get Well Soon and Bereavement cards to members.

She now feels it's time to step down and the Committee would like to give their thanks for all her hard work over the years.



WATERCOLOUR PAINTING

As we, hopefully, get let out a bit more we are restarting our watercolour sessions in Wellow. In May we can have up to 30 people meet outside so we are meeting in our garden on Thursday 27th May at 9.30 a.m. (weather permitting)?

Jon Lovell (our expert) is hoping to be on a cruise in June so the next time, 9.30 on Thursday 22nd July we can meet in the Memorial Hall.

Anyone interested can contact me on 01623 863327 or Email andrewdouglasyoung@gmail.com
Andrew Young

COFFEE MORNINGS



Pictured at West Retford Hotel

We have missed seeing and chatting with people as we used to each month as Covid – 19 came and these stopped. We are starting up something with a difference.

Now we are inviting you to stay at home with your coffee or hot chocolate and meet with each other via a Zoom meeting link, which will be sent to you when you request it.

You will have the opportunity to chat to each other in small groups, just as if sitting at a table with friends. This is just a way of keeping in touch whilst in your own homes.

Hope you will be able to join us, not just those who used to go to the West Retford Hotel, but this is open to anyone who wishes to chat.

Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month from 11.00am – 12 noon.

Pat Trotter

Tel 07973956591

E Mail pat.m.trotter@gmail.com

u3a DAY - WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021



Is your u3a making plans for u3a day? We do not know whether lockdown will be over and you can have publicity events with visitors or whether what you do will have to be virtual - you could make plans for either eventuality. The idea is to publicise the u3a movement and its benefits to as many people as possible. u3a Office is planning to contact the national media, but your u3a can do its bit to help by contacting your local press and radio. There is information available on the website to help with planning and publicity material will be available via the office.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/u3a-day>



I think this is my last poem, don't want to sound too formal,
But Covid is receding and we're getting back to normal.
So, now I'll write of cheerful things, my latest pan of soup,
Yes, another squash & lentil, but it's tasty, cheap and very, very good
(do you know how hard it is to rhyme with soup?)

The garden's looking stunning, it gives me quite a thrill
To see the sunny brightness of my favourite daffodil.
I fell in love with this plant when just a little child,
When we moved into Walnut View, they were simply growing wild.



They grew under the walnut tree, huge armfuls, sunshine yeller,
The dainty scent drowned out the smell of damp from down the cellar.
But character abounded there, and life was never bland,
Just joy and freedom every day whilst playing on the land.

A tiny school I went to, the teacher she could talk,
But best of all was when she said "let's go a nature walk"
We learned the names of flowers, and became supremely able
Of labelling and arranging them on our old nature table.



I'm sure that's where I learned my love of all of nature's bounty,
Quite simply, as we walked the lanes, in our small rural county.
And also I learned baking every Friday afternoon,
Victoria sponge sandwich, stirred with a wooden spoon.

I played up at The Cedars, a haunting, listed pile,
Antiques there were aplenty, the house was full of style.
Well, some of the rooms were empty, you would never have
the cramp,
But just like our old farmhouse, it too was full of damp.



That's when I knew that old things and old places were my thing,
You can keep your new IKEA, M&S and all that bling.
Just give me old mahogany, or rosewood I can pardon,
It looks so good when polished sporting flowers from the garden.

And so dear readers it's farewell, I hope no more to write
Of lockdowns, vaccines, politics, of rancour, fear and spite,
Instead let's just appraise the year that we have all survived
And thank our lucky stars and just be glad to be alive.



Happy Easter.
Brenda Wilson March 2021.

