

RETFORD U3A TIMES

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break and found time to get out and about despite the disappointing weather.

I cannot believe how quickly the last year has gone since I took over as Chairman, admittedly not knowing what was in store. It's been an interesting twelve months and I certainly have learnt a lot during that time – which is always a good thing! The committee has helped a huge amount and I am forever grateful for their continuing hard work and enthusiasm – it makes my job so much easier. Of course some of them will be stepping down this year but luckily, apart from one position, we have other members coming in to take their places. However, we must never take for granted that this will always be the case. I urge those of you that are interested in any of the positions to let us know so we can tell you more about what's involved. So come on, don't be shy!

I am pleased to report as well that our membership has continued to grow – it's now around 650. Furthermore, the vast majority of the Interest Groups have also continued to grow and thrive with many new ideas for new Groups in the pipeline. This is all down to the time, commitment, and efforts of the Group Leaders, ably supported by Norma Taylor and

WELCOME HOSTS WANTED



If anyone would like to be a Welcome Host please see Norma Taylor at the General Meeting. Two more would be good ...two friends to share. A very pleasant thing to do.....say hello, smile, and answer any little questions.....like what is upstairs, where is the loo etc.?

her team of Co-ordinators. We are so lucky to have such enthusiasm in our ranks, and with so many different groups to choose from there's something for everyone! We must always remember that the U3A is for the members by the members.

On that note, just a gentle reminder that if you have not already renewed your membership you can do so either by post, enclosing a cheque made out to Retford U3A, or preferably at the General Meetings where Paul Bacon will be only too pleased to take your £15! In addition, we will be encouraging members to always wear their membership badges at the General Meetings, and at the Interest Group meetings, for obvious reasons. Just a couple of more things: firstly, the Ceilidh will definitely go ahead on 22 September providing we get the numbers - you'll find more details in the Newsletter and, secondly, on the subject of the Newsletter, Martin Finch has stepped down as Editor so we are looking for someone to fill that post to help Christine Cook who does a great job in pulling it all together. If you are interested please let me know.

Don't forget that the April meeting is the Annual General Meeting so I hope to see you there!
Cheers, Chris

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A couple goes out to dinner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On the way home, she notices a tear in his eye and asks if he's getting sentimental because they're celebrating 50 wonderful years together. He replies, "No, I was thinking about the time before we got married. Your father threatened me with a shotgun and said he'd have me thrown in jail for 50 years if I didn't marry you. Tomorrow I would've been a free man!"



GARDENING GROUP

As the gardening group looks forward to its first visit of the season to Ashwood Nurseries, it is hard to believe that the five winter months of speakers is over – especially looking out of the window at the weather!

Steve Routledge kicked off the gardening year, with a practical demonstration of planting up winter displays in containers and baskets, and as usual imparted lots of practical advice. Alan Clements from Cascades Garden followed, with an illustrated talk on the history and development of his garden near Matlock. The Group looks forward to 'seeing it in the flesh' next month!

The New Year began with a lively talk by Stella Exley, who specialises in growing Camassia, (rather like large spikey bluebells) and her trials and tribulations about growing hundreds of them for Chelsea Flower Show in 2015. The garden won a Gold Medal.

In February Shirley Roberts, senior gardener at Clumber park, was welcomed. She spoke with great passion about the history and development of the Walled Kitchen Garden from 1795 to the present day. The indoor meetings concluded with a very practical talk about all aspects of gardening by Rachel Barrowcliffe.

The Group is now looking forward to visits to Ashwood, Cascades, Newby Hall, Burnby Hall, and Dove Cottage Nurseries. The new Gardening Group year begins in October, and members 'old and new' will be very welcome.

Contact: Irene Lewis

email: gardening@retford-u3a.org.uk

Tel:01777 707109

PROPOSED NEW SNOOKER GROUP

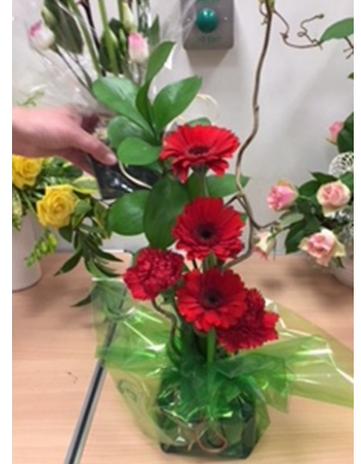
Grove Mill Snooker, in Retford, is offering its facilities for a proposed new U3A snooker group.

If you are interested please send an email to Paul Bacon at membership-deputy@retford-u3a.org.uk and he will organise a meeting to discuss costs and when and what time to play.



FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP

This session's topic was "Twists and Turns". A delightful array of designs were produced incorporating contoured willow, curls of leaves, wire coils, and flower placements"



VISITS

Friday May 11th

Visit to Birmingham Jewellery Quarter for a guided tour of the museum and Newman Brothers Coffin Works followed by lunch and free time. Cost is around £35 which includes lunch. See Andrina at this month's General Meeting or call 01777 707260.

SPEAKERS

26th April

Annual General Meeting
'Music' Janet Wood

May 24th Unfortunately due to major family illness issues, Alan Lavender - the Chef has had to cancel all his speaking engagements for the foreseeable future!

Alan will be replaced by Neil Bennison - the man in charge of the Theatre Royal and Concert Hall in Nottingham. His talk will be based around his work at the Theatre and Concert Hall.

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. Items for inclusion for next edition no later than 12th May

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM INTEREST GROUPS

Scrabble

Thelma Britz has taken over as Group Leader for Scrabble. Meetings will now take place in her home.

Contact scrabble@retford-u3a.org.uk
Tel. 01777 948676

Family History

The Group is suspended for a year from June 2018. More details from Roy Evans.

Contact family-history@retford-u3a.org.uk
Tel: 01777 702097

Carpet Bowls

The Group is no longer run by the Retford U3A and is now the responsibility of Retford Bowling Green Limited. U3A Members are still very welcome to participate at the Bowls Club as before.

Seated Exercise

This Group with Doreen Brothwell has been cancelled.

Dowsing

This new Group is going well. Any members interested in joining should contact Brian Cane on 01777 838528 or by email at post@briancane.free-online.co.uk.

Musical Instruments

This new Group now has 5 members and so will go ahead from Craig's home at Welham. Contact 01777 701337

Line Dancing

There are four names on the list but a caller is neededdo we have a caller amongst our members willing to volunteer?

Knitting

There are already twelve members but the Group will not meet until September. More details to follow.

Patchwork and Quilting

The first full day on Saturday 08 April was a great success and will be repeated on an alternate month basis. More details available from Dawn Madine at patchwork@retford-u3a.org.uk; Tel: 01777 949712

Note: A new Interest Group sheet showing all changes will be completed after this month's AGM.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Date for Your Diary - 22nd September 2018 at Clarborough Village Hall.

What is it?

A Ceilidh (Gaelic folk music, dancing, and food - pie and peas) from 7.30pm till 10.30pm. Please bring your own drinks.

Music is being provided by Lambskinnet - <https://www.lambskinnet.co.uk/>

Tickets are £7.50 each and can be purchased at General Meetings or by contacting Glennis Evans - social@retford-u3a.org.uk

Numbers are limited for this event so don't delay to avoid disappointment.



WORKSHOP U3A CINEMA GROUP

The film for May 10th is :Love, Simon showing at the Savoy in Worksop



Everyone deserves a great love story, but for 17-year-old Simon Spier, it's a little more complicated. He hasn't told his family or friends that he's gay, and he doesn't know the identity of the anonymous classmate that he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, terrifying and life-changing..

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.

WINE OF THE MONTH



Aldi's New Zealand Wairarapa Pinot Noir from their Exquisite Collection, £6.99.

When holidaying in California a few years ago we were enjoying a meal at an Italian restaurant in Napa Valley and asked the waitress if she could recommend a wine to go with the meal. We preferred something light and fruity for which the recommendation was a Pinot Noir, a wine that until then was unknown to us. Please bear in mind that we are not wine connoisseurs but as the saying goes we know what we like.

It went down very well, so much so that we managed a couple of bottles between the four of us! Since then I have been hooked on Pinot Noir and there is an increasing range of choice in most supermarkets and wine stores these days from relatively cheap to quite expensive. It is a light delicate wine with lots of fruit and goes well with most meals especially pasta dishes, or a nice fillet steak, or to just enjoy on its own.

Having tried many Pinot Noirs since Napa, I keep going back to my favourite, in terms of taste and value for money, and that is Aldi's New Zealand Wairarapa Pinot Noir from their Exquisite Collection, a snip at £6.99. It's described as beautifully fragrant with ripe cherries, fleshy raspberries, and red-fruited plum flavours. An elegant streak, indicative of the mineral-laden soils in this cool-climate region of New Zealand, adds freshness, complexity and an enduring finish. Their words not mine – I just know I like it! **Chris Clifford**

TRIVIA CORNER

* The London Eye is the tallest observation wheel in the world, and each rotation takes about 30 minutes. Its hub weighs 330 tons, more than 20 times the weight of Big Ben.

* Robin Hood was most likely never a real person. He was a composite hero, based on real outlaws in the English medieval period whose stories were woven together by minstrels and storytellers. It was only at the end of the 16th century that playwright Antony Munday elevated Robin Hood from a yeoman to a displaced Saxon earl as a symbol of the gentry's dissatisfaction with the crown.

* On the chilly day of his execution, England's dethroned King Charles I reportedly wore two shirts to avoid shivering and being regarded as a coward.

Editor's note

In last month's Newsletter 'Trivia Corner' claimed that the oldest pub in Britain was the 16th century Ye Olde Fighting Cocks in St Albans, Herts. However, Moira Ruff contacted the Editor to say that the Bingley Arms in Leeds claims it was first established in the year 953!

Having carried out further research, it seems that there are many pubs claiming to be the oldest. The Old Ferryboat Inn in Holywell, Cambridgeshire makes the most ambitious claim saying that alcohol has been sold on the premises since 560 AD!

WALKERS CORNER



The Strollers walking group will meet on the 15th of May at Everton Church at the same time of 10.30. The nearest postcode is DN10 5BB. The walk will be led by Judith. Refreshments will be at the Ship Inn, Bawtry (right hand side of the road, just before reaching the traffic lights).

Contact: Elaine Hauser, Tel: 01777 705274
email walking-strollers@retford-u3a.org.uk