

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford U3A Newsletter - June 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I continue to be surprised and encouraged by the variety of experiences U3A offers our members, and the levels of enthusiasm, expertise and commitment contributed by group leaders, committee officers and the general membership, offered freely on a weekly/monthly basis. Since I last wrote I have chaired my second committee meeting and attended gatherings of Current Affairs, Book Group 3, Military History and – as a guest – Philosophy. I look forward to further visits planned over the next several weeks.

For those interested in theatre, opera and ballet while somewhat deterred by the travelling and/or cost of London visits, may I recommend the Events programme at the

Savoy, Worksop (home of the monthly U3A screenings)? In the last month I have attended matinee screenings of *Siegfried* (Royal Opera), *All My Sons* and *Playboy of the Western World* (National Theatre) and am now looking forward to *Aida* (Australian Opera).

Congratulations and thanks to Angela Grant, Vice-Chairman, for hosting the first General Meeting of the *nouveaux regime* with a well-received talk by Pat Hall. At the next meeting I will be introducing Martin Rowley and his talk – *Can electric cars save the planet? Are they as good as they seem?* – which I'm sure will give us much to reflect upon. Daniel

FRENCH GROUPS

"*Entente Cordiale*" is alive! Yesterday the 3 French groups met together for the first time and enjoyed a meeting full of "*bonhomie*". Not a single "*faux pas*" occurred, it was quite an "*avant garde*" meeting but we quickly formed a good "*rapport*".

It was full of "*joie de vivre*" as we grappled with a guessing game complete with actions to interpret the more unfamiliar French words. Although we had no need of a "*sommelier*" (this time), we enjoyed the creations of many "*chefs*" with delicious "*hors d'oeuvres*" combining to make an amazing meal. On the "*menu*" there was a lot of "*variete*" but no "*escargots*" or "*foie gras*", no "*souffle*" or "*pain au chocolat*". Instead we enjoyed "*une tarte à la tomate*" "*du taboulé et Sfouf*" (Lebanese Turmeric cake) "*blinis avec du saumon fumé*", "*crudités*" and "*vol au vent salé*" "etc etc", a "*mélange*" of tastes as we tried a "*soupçon*" of each one.

Too soon it was time to say "*au revoir*". It was an "*occasion*" to remember, it had been a "*fait accompli*"; we are all now friends "*au naturel*" with a common interest and will "*rendez-vous*" again before too long - thank you Retford U3A!

If you are interested in keeping up your French, please contact me, Lesley Sumner, through the U3A website



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING GROUP



For our May session our topic was "Sweet Peas" with colourful and varied results. In June & July our topics will be "Boats" and "Roses en plein aire". Which we do when will depend upon the weather. If you are interested in joining us please use the link from the group's web page to make contact."

FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP



June's idea was to use a garden container, accessory or something related to gardening. Lovely arrangements were produced in pots, trugs, wellies and gardening clogs!!
Sally

CYCLING GROUP

The cycling group has made the most of the recent fine weather with outings to Burton Waters in Lincolnshire, along trails, canal paths and minor roads around Retford and into South Yorkshire along minor roads around the "Hilly Hoottons", each including an essential cafe stop. Here's the group at the high point near Carr enjoying distant views across the South Yorkshire countryside.
Gill



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



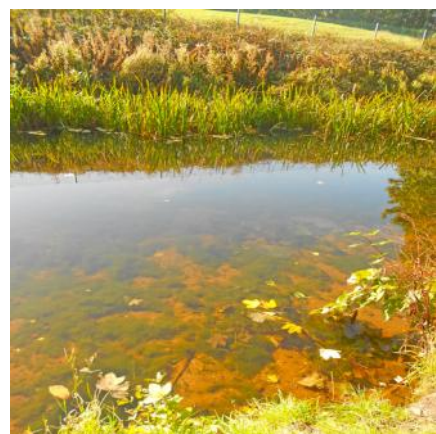
Andy Paul



Adrian Hetherington



Christine Dixon



Sally Telfer



Pippa Ramsay



John & Christine Dunn



Marie Thompson

Pictured are images from this months meeting of the Photography Group the theme was "Countryside" Marie



2026 SPEAKER PROGRAM June- November

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
25th June	Martin Rowley	Can electric cars save the planet? Are they as good as they seem?
23rd July	Keith Parkinson	History and Life of the River Trent
27th August	Stephen Booth	Where Bodies are found. Crime novels set in the Peak District
24th September	Chris Matthews	Nottinghamshire Coal Fields
22nd October	Chris Perkins	Blood Biles. Volunteers who use motorbikes to deliver blood
26th November	Paul Lille	Story of the Beatles

STROLLERS WALKING GROUP 16th June 2026

On a cloudy, overcast but thankfully mild June day 9 members of u3a Walking Group Strollers met up for a walk of 3 miles from the starting point at the War Memorial at Laneham, just outside Retford.

Many thanks to Ruth for leading our small but happy troupe around the environs, including one small but accidental diversion before getting back on track!!!! We even got to meet some locals (see photograph).

The next walk will be on Tuesday 21st July when we will be visiting Bevercotes



RECORDER GROUP

We have been really busy this spring having performed with the Dukeries Community Band and at The Grove on Charter Day. In addition we organised a playing day for four local U3A recorder groups at St Joseph's Church Hall.

Our practices continue to be very well attended with usually about 25 players. Most arrangements are for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass our basses being backed up by Janet, our contrabass player. This plays an octave lower than the basses. We always welcome new members.

Our next and perhaps most demanding performance will be on Saturday 11th July at 7.30pm at Worksop Priory where we are playing at a concert of mainly traditional folk music organised by Ryton Chorale.

Perhaps some U3A members would like to attend?

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The June meeting of Wine Appreciation was hosted by Anne Beeby and Paul du Toit. The weather was good and we were able to sit in Anne's beautiful garden. The photograph shows Paul telling us about June's topic "Looking for Floral Notes".



GARDENING GROUP

Its hard to believe that the third visit of the season for the Gardening Group took place last week – the months seem to be flying by!

Last Thursday we visited Quinton Old Rectory near Northampton, a beautifully designed, tranquil, 3 acre private garden, with a very calming colour palette, and several different planting areas, including a natural swimming pool. We were warmly welcomed by Emma, and were able to spend the morning wandering through her garden, and enjoying her homemade cakes and coffee – always an important part of our visits! From there, a brief journey to Northampton Garden Centre, for a little retail therapy, before returning home.



Going back in time - in May we travelled south of Birmingham to John's garden, at Ashwood Nurseries which is one of our favourites. The weather was perfect again to wander through Johns beautiful canal side garden, and to see the work of a true plantsman.

Our first visit of the season, back in April, was to the Festival Gardens and Springfields Shopping Outlet in Spalding. This venue was chosen with changeable weather in mind, but we need not have worried, as the day was perfect, and we enjoyed a very interesting tour of the gardens, followed by some relaxed shopping....and food !

We now look forward to a visit to Mount St Johns, near Thirsk, and The Rutland Flower Show, before meeting up again at The Well on Thursday 15th October, to begin our 'winter sessions'. Irene

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The next edition of the newsletter will be July 2026 and the last date for receiving articles will be Friday 17th JULY 2026