



# NOT SO IDLE TIMES

**Retford U3A Newsletter - MAY 2026**

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

As I write these, my first comments as Chairman, I am about to set out on my third U3A Military History May trip, this year extended from 2 to 3 overnight stays. This has become the highlight of my U3A year, and nothing (for me) exemplars more the importance of this wonderful organization and its motto – Learn, Laugh, Live.

As a schoolmaster for over forty years, I am well aware that true, rich learning takes place, if we allow it, only after we have left school! It is a life-long adventure of enquiry and development. I know that I learn every month from my fellow members, with their experience, expertise and passion. The opportunity to share these, in interest groups and the friendships and support we form through them, in hearing and questioning speakers, in understanding different perspectives built up over a life-time, is without price.

During my term of office I am planning to visit as many of the groups as

possible, so please expect a note from me asking if I might join you for one of your meetings. I have already started with a most enjoyable session with the Friday Music Making, an enthusiastic and talented group of musicians and singers focusing on the songs of the 60s and 70s. As a child and teenager of those years, I was astounded to hear what I had missed while I was listening to Beethoven and Tchaikovsky!

## FROM THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

As you know, we have recently trialled a slightly different structure for our Thursday meetings. Having listening to comments from members, the Committee has decided to revert to the former arrangement.

- 1.30 Notices and Chairman's comments etc
- 1.45 Coffee/Tea break
- 2.00 Visiting Speaker, with Q & A

*Daniel Toyne*

## 2026 SPEAKER PROGRAM May - November

| Date                       | Speaker         | Title of Talk                                                     |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> May       | Pat Hall        | Life can be a Laugh Observational comedy, poems and anecdotes     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June      | Martin Rowley   | Can electric cars save the planet? Are they as good as they seem? |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> July      | Keith Parkinson | History and Life of the River Trent                               |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> August    | Stephen Booth   | Where Bodies are found. Crime novels set in the Peak District     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September | Chris Matthews  | Nottinghamshire Coal Fields                                       |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> October   | Chris Perkins   | Blood Biles. Volunteers who use motorbikes to deliver blood       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> November  | Paul Lille      | Story of the Beatles                                              |

## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

### WATERCOLOUR PAINTING GROUP



Our topic for April was Turner. Very interesting and good progress was made, though all works will need more time to complete. In May, our topic will be "Sweet Peas", a change of scale and technique.

If you are interested in coming along please contact Andrew Young via the group's page on the U3A website." Thanks, Andrew

### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



These are the photos from the May meeting of the Photo Group. The theme was CLOSE UP.

### FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP



The theme this month was "The Birds and Bees and a few other Creatures".

Can you spot them in the beautiful arrangements. Sally.





## INTEREST GROUP NEWS

## ARE YOU COMPUTER SAVY?

Could you run a Group aimed at helping out Retford u3a Members with basic IT skills.

A few members have approached your Group Co-ordinators Lizzie and Lin asking if such a group could be established.

If this attracts you at all please contact us via email :-

Co-groups@retford-u3a.org.uk



## u3a Festival in Sherwood Forest

Wednesday June 17 2026

Visitors Centre,  
Edwinstowe, NG21 9RN

10.30am-3.00pm

A free event open to all.

Join us for games, musical performances  
and guided walks.

Cafe on site or bring your own picnic.

For a fun filled day of entertainment,  
great company and plenty of spaces to unwind and  
enjoy the beauty of nature together.

Please visit the Arts and Crafts Centre  
and RSPB Gift Shop.

North Notts Neighbourhood Group

Ashfield, Bolsover, Dukeries, Forest Town, Mansfield, Rainworth,  
Retford, Sherwood, Sutton, Warsop and Worksop

Enquiries: slhu3a@gmail.com www.rspb.org.uk

All Day Car Parking £7  
Free to RSPB Members



## UKULELE GOUP

Retford U3A's Ukulele Group 'The Idle Frets', formed last September.

The group continues to go from strength to strength, please note the addition of the 'double bass' team on the end.

These may look like guitars but are actually bass Ukuleles which greatly enhance the overall sound of the group. For more information on this and Retford U3A'S other groups, please visit <https://retford.u3asite.uk/groups/>



## NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The next edition of the newsletter will be June 2026 and the last date for receiving articles will be Friday 19th JUNE 2026



## COME AND PLAY CROQUET 2026

**FRESH AIR, FUN, FIRST SESSION FREE  
TASTER SESSIONS 1pm ON THE FOLLOWING  
WEDNESDAYS (1 hour)**

**MAY: 6, 20.**

**JUNE: 3, 17.**

**JULY: 1, 15, 29.**

**AUGUST: 12, 26.**

**SEPTEMBER: 2.**

**Plus Evenings Wednesdays 5.00-6.00pm  
and Sundays 1.00-2.00pm – Tuesdays 12.00-1.00pm  
if preferred and booked.**

- **Croquet is FUN and SOCIAL**
  - **Great for GENERAL HEALTH and WELL BEING**
  - **EQUIPMENT PROVIDED**
  - **YOU WILL NEED FLAT SOLED SHOES**
    - **THE VENUE, ROSES SPORTS GROUND,  
NORTH WARREN ROAD, GAINSBOROUGH**
    - **Book with Tony on 01427 677111**
- Or Paul on 0781 3710076 email [prockall2004@gmail.com](mailto:prockall2004@gmail.com)**
- Or Lorne on 0781 2891011**
- **Season Runs April to September weather permitting.**
  - **2 further free club sessions available, after a Taster.**
  - **Club Days Tuesdays 1.00-5.00pm  
Wednesdays 2.00-5.00pm,  
Sundays 2.00-5.00pm**
  - **[www.facebook.com/gainsboroughcroquet](https://www.facebook.com/gainsboroughcroquet)**

For an evening of good food with bar and table quiz! Here are the details for the next Big Night Out! Friday 26th June 2026. Should the event be full then Sue will operate a waiting list.

A night out with our friends! Arrive at 7:00 pm and sit down at 7:30 in the Retford Golf Club Members' Bar and Dining Room.

- Members are welcome to bring a non-member guest but there are only 64 places and every event so far has sold out, so book early. £21.00 per person
- Park securely in Retford Golf Club's gated carpark.
- Sit down to a delicious two course meal in the club's dining area. Quench your thirst at the wet bar. Contact Sue Paul at [Social@retford-u3a.org.uk](mailto:Social@retford-u3a.org.uk) or on 01777 705008 to book a place and make your menu choices.