

NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford u3a Newsletter - August 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I write this I am looking forward to welcoming Stephen Booth, the crime novelist, to our August meeting on 27th. This is one of a series of talks with local links. Mr Booth's well-known Cooper & Fry series is set in the fictional Peak District town of Edendale. Additionally, we have our main publicity event of the year coming up – details below.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Carol Knowles for her valuable contribution to Retford u3a, as Groups Coordinator and, more recently, Minutes Secretary. Sadly, she has decided the time has come to hand over the mantle of Minutes Secretary to another. If anyone is interested in taking over this job, primarily linked to Committee Meetings (1st Tuesday of the month) and the general Thursday meetings, please contact Carol or me.

u3a comes to Retford Heritage Day Saturday 12 September 2026.

This is a reminder that we will have a publicity and information table in Grove Street Methodist Church, from 10am – 3pm as part of the Heritage Day celebrations. There will be entertainment and refreshments during the day. u3a members can participate in a number of ways:

- ♥ Volunteer to man the table for an hour on the day. Please contact the Chairman
- ♥ Contribute information or other materials from your group. Please contact the Group Coordinators, either at The Well, during Thursday's meeting, or via email.
- ♥ Visit the table while you walk round the town.

See page 4 for more in Heritage Day celebrations

NEW RARING TO GO GROUP

A new Retford u3a group inviting you to join other members on trips to places and events throughout the year.

First off is a visit to York for the day on Friday 27th November when we'll have several hours to enjoy some of the many attractions there listed. Leaving Retford at 9.00 we'll travel by Kettlewells' coach arriving after 10.00 am. If you'd like a seat, please reserve your place with me via secretary@retford-u3a.org.uk and send £20 to our u3a account number 42282992, Sort Code 40-40-24 ensuring you use the reference RTGYork+ your name – thank you! We'll also be able to take reservations at the General Meetings, and the first is next Thursday Aug. 27th. Please do contact me if you have any queries.

We look forward to meeting you!!

Future events and outings will be advertised via our group website

https://retford.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/raring-to-go/

In our U3A Newsletter the Not So Idle Times, and at our monthly General Meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month at The Well, Hospital Rd.

York is full of interesting places to visit including the following:

York Minster, the City Walls, Clifford's Tower, the Walking Tour and Boat trips

The Castle Museum, The Army Museum, The National Railway Museum (check access), The Natural History Museum, Fairfax House (historic townhouse), Barley Hall (a reconstructed mediaeval town house) and the Art Gallery;

Lots of book shops and the York Christmas Market, not forgetting Tea at Betty's Cafe & Tea Rooms (best to book!!) and numerous cafes & restaurants.

We look forward to seeing you and having a grand day out!!

With best wishes, Carrie, Angela and Ruth,
Raring to Go, Retford u3a

Following our visit to the local gather florist, who concentrates on season natural flowers, foliage and grasses, our theme was to produce a meadow style arrangement. We have some very talented ladies! Sally



NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The next edition of the newsletter will be September 2026 and the last date for receiving articles will be Friday 18th September 2026

SOCIAL NIGHT OUT

Come and join us for a social night out – two course meal and quiz (with a cash prize). Bar available for you to buy your own drinks.

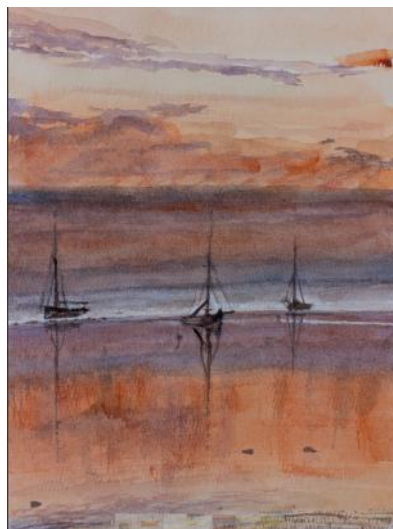
- ◆ Date: Friday 23rd October 2026
- ◆ Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm
- ◆ Cost/Menu: To be confirmed
- ◆ Venue: Retford Golf Club, Ordsall

To book a place please contact Sue Paul on social@retford-u3a.org.uk

If you have already reserved a place there is no need to contact me

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING GROUP



Our subject in July was "Boats". Members produced an excellent variety of compositions. For August, our topic will be a "Tone Composition". If you are interested in joining us please contact Andrew Young using the link from the group's web page.

SPANISH GROUP

Si puedes entender esto (y corregir mis errores), puede que seas justo la persona que buscamos. Retford u3a has 2 groups for members wanting to learn or improve their Spanish speaking. 1 is a successful and long established group that cannot accept more members. So a second group was set up by 2 members, themselves "learners", and has attracted new members from the many who clearly want to learn Spanish. Most of them beginners.

Unfortunately we do not have the knowledge and skills to move forward and desperately need a more confident and experienced u3a member, who speaks Spanish, to help lead our group. At present, the group can no longer continue and has suspended its meetings.

If you are willing to help by acting as teacher or just lead discussion, please contact me. The group has met twice a month on Tuesday mornings, but this can be changed to suit. *Espero que esta petición de ayuda tenga un desenlace positivo.*

John Freeman Email: jamfree3103@yahoo.co.uk



THE NOT SO IDLE TIMES

BRUSH UP YOUR FRENCH GROUP



Pictured are members of the Brush Up Your French Group celebrating France's National Day on 14th July by playing Boules in the garden at Hallcroft Halls.

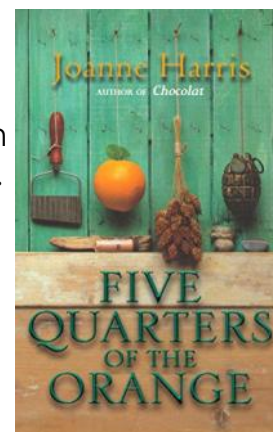
Boules is a collective name for a wide range of games similar to bowls in which the objective is to throw or roll heavy balls as closely as possible to a small target ball, called the jack.

LITERARY SUPPER CLUB



Carol Barker hosted out last meeting to discuss the French themed book 5 Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris. Carol matched the book with a French inspired menu using a raclette. A great fun evening.

Dawn McEntegart Group Leader



RETFORD HERITAGE DAY

Retford Heritage Day takes place on Saturday, 12 September 2026, featuring local history displays, guided tours, and special exhibitions across town venues like Retford Library and the former King Edward VI School. A reminder that Retford u3a will have a publicity and information table in Grove Street Methodist Church, from 10am – 3pm as part of the Heritage Day celebrations



- Retford Library (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM): Drop-in display of hidden treasures from the local heritage collection and an exhibition titled "A Walk Through Retford's Trading Past."
- Bassetlaw Museum: Opening of the "Black Dust, Bright Stories" exhibition focusing on miners' histories and mining artefacts.
- East Retford Cemetery: Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) guided tours starting at 10:30 AM on Babworth Road.
- Sloswicke's Almshouses: Open for public visits on Churchgate from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

2026 SPEAKER PROGRAM August- November

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
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 Bikes. Volunteers who use motorbikes to deliver blood
26th November	Paul Lille	Story of the Beatles