



NOT SO IDLE TIMES

Retford u3a Newsletter - September 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly, I would like to thank Committee members and all others who helped with the u3a display at Grove Street Methodist Church on Heritage Day. A really interesting and colourful presentation with publicity materials and – I think more importantly – examples and photographs representing many of our Group activities, really showed us to best advantage. We had several people interested in joining us and one joined (and paid!) on the spot. I hope that this will become a regular event in our calendar.

Unfortunately, my health issues have meant that I have been out of action

for the last few weeks. I am very grateful to the Vice-Chairman, Angela Grant, for taking over responsibility for chairing the last Committee meeting and hosting Steven Booth at the last Thursday General Meeting, which I understand went very well. Also, thanks to my colleagues on the Committee for keeping calm and carrying on!

The September 24th speaker, Chris Matthews, will continue our local interest series (following on from the Trent and the Peak District) talking to us about the Nottinghamshire Coal Fields. I hope to see many of you there.

Daniel

DINNER & QUIZ NIGHT OUT

I am in the unusual position of still having a few places spare for the dinner/quiz night on **Friday 23rd October 2026**.

If you are interested please contact me on social@retford-u3a.org.uk or 01777 705008 or I will be at the September General Meeting.

If you have already reserved/paid for a place you do not need to contact me.

Regards Sue

2026 SPEAKER PROGRAM July- November

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
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



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP



Adrian Hetherington



Andy Paul



Sally Tefler



Cheryl Finney



Chris & John Dunn



Christine Dixon



Marie Thompson



Pippa Ramsay



Margaret Womack

The theme for September's photography group was Kitchenalia.

FUN WITH FLOWERS GROUP



A selection of arrangements made in our last session.

Line arrangements and hand tied.

Sally.

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING GROUP



For our August session, we created tonal compositions using a single colour. Topics for our upcoming sessions are:-

September - Horses

October - Autumn trees in mist with reflections

If you would like to give watercolour a try please contact Andrew Young using the link from the group's page on our website Thanks, Andrew

BRUSH UP YOUR FRENCH GROUP

Visite au restaurant francais a Sheffield



En route pour le restaurant a Sheffield



Devant le restaurant "Aux Bon Vivant"



Sante! a table

Nous avons passé une bonne journee Merci a ceux qui ont pris les photos
We had a great day. Thanks to those who took the photos

Sheena Harling

Some players from the recorder group will be joining forces with a u3a choir from Sheffield to perform in the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Clumber Park on Saturday 2nd October at 2pm. If you fancy a trip to Clumber Park why not call in and listen to all or even part of the concert?

Carol Woodward



PROPOSED NEW

Phip Ramsay, Kevin Murphy, Sue Kyle and Carl Woods are hoping to set up a new Learning, Discussion and Participation Group, the sessions very much planned and arranged around members' interests. Initially about 8 sessions a year, as everyone is so busy.

It will most certainly be an opportunity for laughing and maybe even some performing, as a Group. Maybe also including 'special' guests and perhaps linking with other u3a groups?

We haven't yet decided on a name for this group.

How it could/would work is in the final planning stages at the moment. Initially we will be delving into how Rock and Folk Music has been such a part of our lives during the last 60 years or so.

We would love to chat to anyone inquisitive and/or intrigued by our plans, at the final General Meeting/Talk, in November (coincidentally about the Beatles), where we hope to have a Table set up.

We hope to proceed if interest makes it worthwhile.



U3A FESTIVAL

The event officially kicked off with an opening ceremony on Wednesday 1 July, where special guest Johnny Ball, cut a blue ribbon. Known for his career in which he championed a fun approach to learning, Johnny Ball is the perfect guest for u3a and delivered a talk about his life.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Iain Cassidy said, "This event showcases the u3a spirit on a national level. People across the UK have come together to learn, to laugh and live. A huge thank you to the volunteers and the staff - a special shout out to Karen, Margaret and Julie - without whom this event would literally not be happening."

Across three days, over 120 activities took place covering sport, music, art, history, and learning. There is a range of talks as well as interactive workshops, providing members with a variety of different ways to learn. Some of the more unusual activities members can sample include laughter yoga, a walking cricket tournament, and shinrin-yoku, more commonly known as forest bathing.

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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The next edition of the newsletter will be October 2026 and the last date for receiving articles will be Friday 16th October 2026