

BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEW WEBSITE : - <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>

OLD WEBSITE : - www.u3abourne.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

Chairman's Chat

Like all of us, I am adjusting to the new normal, and writing this Chairman's Chat for the returning Newsletter is a sign that while the world has changed, life goes on and we just have to get on with it. The Viral Times, under Paul Smith's leadership, has served us well during the chaotic days of lockdown, but it is time to return to the monthly rhythm of Newsletters and General Meetings.

Our General meeting on Zoom in August was successful and showed that we can hold our delayed Annual General Meeting on the 21st September with a good prospect of getting the required quorum. Please let me know if you want to attend and I will add you to the invitation list. Gill Stoneman has been busy finding speakers willing to do Zoom and we will continue having virtual General Meetings at least until the New Year.

As winter approaches, those groups that have been meeting outside must consider what they will do during the colder and wetter months. Zoom offers the obvious solution and the Committee will be happy to help any groups who want to experiment with virtual meetings. Some groups are meeting indoors and carefully following the social distancing guidelines.

The latest Government advice on multi-purpose community facilities show it should be possible for some groups to meet physically. But, it must be said that Government advice is often contradictory and difficult to follow. We all have different attitudes to risk and some of us are more vulnerable than others. For many, deciding to return to physical meetings will be a difficult personal choice, and we must respect everyone's decision. Again, the Committee will offer all the help and guidance we can.

I was delighted to learn from Pat Howse that two new groups are starting. Isn't it wonderful that in the midst of all this chaos we can still expand our offering to members? It just shows how resilient and innovative Bourne U3A can be. It also shows how hard some people are working to keep our community connected. We are all very grateful to those Group Leaders, Committee Members, and others who are keeping the show on the road.

The coming months will be particularly challenging. As the nights draw in and winter weather forces us indoors we must remember that the U3A gives us a way to stay in touch with a wider community. It is different, but we can still Learn, Laugh and Live. We can still socialise with friends and find those things that make us happy.

Stay safe.

Malcolm

Committee Page

New Website for Bourne U3A

Over the last few months Bourne U3A have been working on producing a new website.

The new website for Bourne U3A can be found here: <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>

From this site you can access all Group information that was on the old site, plus there is a link to the Beacon system and the national U3A site.

Both sites will run side by side initially whilst the new site “beds in”. Then gradually the old site will be slimmed down and all the main activity will use the new site. However there will be a link from the old site to the new for anyone coming to us via the national U3A site.

Group Leaders, I require your input. Please let me have up to date details of your meetings and any photos they will brighten your page.

The Committee welcomes your input and if you have a story to tell that we can add to our Blog page feel free to send it in.

Photography Challenge



The challenge was to take photos on the subject of “From the Garden”. Selected as the best 2 were those above from Sandy Love and Diane Hinchliffe. Other photos were sent in by Martin Siddle and Deidre Carter

The new challenge is " Reflections " (entries by 12-10-20)

The next challenge is " Transport " (entries by 09-11-20)

Entries to :- vasmroberts@gmail.com

Poetry Group

The Bourne U3A Poetry Group is resuming meetings in September, initially with a restricted number of participants.

Ask Me - William Stafford

Some time when the river is ice ask me
mistakes I have made. Ask me whether
what I have done is my life. Others
have come in their slow way into
my thought, and some have tried to help
or to hurt: ask me what difference
their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

William Stafford (1914-1993) was an American poet and pacifist. He developed the habit of writing a poem every day and during his life that amounted to nearly 22,000 poems, of which about 3,000 were published. His method of writing consisted of four easy-to-follow steps:

1. Write the date (a given - no thought-process involved, but it gets you started)
2. Write a few lines about the topic you're interested in, e.g. something you did yesterday
3. Write down a 'thought' or aphorism - a hook - this is where the creative process starts
4. Write your poem

Philip Dunkerley
Group Leader

Green Lawn Bowls Group

I am pleased to let you know that the Green Bowls Group will be meeting from mid September twice weekly at the Spalding Castle Complex. The details being planned are as follows:-

Mondays 12:45 to 2:45. There will be 6 Rinks with up to 4 bowlers on each Rink.

Thursdays 12:45 to 2:45 There will be 6 Rinks with up to 4 bowlers on each Rink.

The cost for each session is £3.70 payable in advance.

There are no car parking charges.

Membership is to be extended for existing members for 5 weeks.

Special arrangements will be in place to let bowlers know which rink they are playing on and who they are playing with.

The safety requirements of the Castle Complex to ensure all Government guidelines are to be complied with will be communicated to all our group before they are due to visit the centre.

Any U3A member can join the group and can enjoy bowling for good exercise and friendship. Call me if you are interested

The group has not been able to bowl outdoors at BTBC during the summer although group members have bowled throughout the summer on a very restrictive personal basis. Everyone hopes next year we will be back to Group bowling outdoors.

Music for Pleasure

Before the Covid lockdown we were hoping to have a campaign to find new members but we have postponed this until things return to normal, presumably next year some time. In the meantime we are such a small group that it is possible to resume house meetings without breaking the new Covid regulations. Our first meeting will therefore be at my house, 12 Baldwin Grove, on Wednesday 7th October at 2.30 p.m.

Margaret Shephard

The Creative Group 1

The group met again in Group Leader Janet Dowse's garden on Monday, September 7th. As well as discussing their writings, they had to try to puzzle out where to meet when the weather turns more wintry and are still trying to work that one out! We did, however, have fun discussing how words change and what impact Coronavirus has had on our vocabulary. In addition, Janet wrote a short poem in honour of U3A surviving 6 months since Lockdown began:

THE VALIANT SIX HUNDRED

(With apologies to Alfred Lord Tennyson the author of
"The Charge of the Light Brigade" - there are almost
600 members now of Bourne U3A!)

Half a year, half a year,
Half a year onward-
Battling Corona - the Valiant 600!
Lockdown or Shielding
They're not for yielding!
Battling Corona - the Valiant 600!
Friends sharing phone calls,
Some of them zooming,
Meeting in gardens,
Or painting in parks;
Drama and poems,
Technology too
Shared by computers
And photos on phones;
Helping the neighbours,
Bringing them shopping,
Medicines needed
And gossip from Town.
Half a year, half a year,
Half a year onward -
Battling Corona - the Valiant 600!
Lockdown or shielding,
They're not for yielding -
Battling Corona - the Valiant 600!
Janet Dowse, September 2020

Birdwatching and Natural History Group

Being a U3A group which meets outdoors has meant that we have been able to continue our monthly walks, with due reference to the official guidance, after the initial “lockdown” period. We have the added bonus that nature and the seasons are constantly changing so that every month is different as we enjoy both looking for new arrivals as well as appreciating those more regular sightings, which is a bit like meeting up with old familiar friends.

At our September meeting we found that, as expected, the leaves were still on the trees so, although we could enjoy the sounds of the woodland birds, they were difficult to spot. I do wonder why so many interesting birds disappear behind leafy twigs the moment we get our binoculars out! We did however relish good views of nuthatches and families of mixed tits as they passed through the canopy above.

After appreciating the huge size of some of the ash trees giving shade to the badger sett below we turned our attention to some of the smaller, less flighty, residents of the wood. We looked at the sori of the Male Fern and noted how they, along with the arrangement of the stems and fronds, facilitated their differentiation from the Bracken. The latter is now declining in height- again a remarkable cycle as the huge biomass returns to the woodland floor. On the overhanging hazel branches we noted the tiny catkins, all ready to mature as winter arrives. We examined the tiny “cheerio” shapes which the silk button gall wasp left on some oak leaves (at least that is what we think made them- difficult to be certain without a microscope or an expert entomologist to hand). So much to look at and so many wonders of nature at our doorstep! We are looking forward to next months meeting when we can again share our experiences as we appreciate the diverse ecosystems around Bourne.

A NEW GROUP

On a dull winter's day would you like to share your happy travel memories with like - minded friends?

Then this could be the group for you. **Pauline Pickett** is planning on starting a new group -

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

The plan is to share your memories and explore some new places of interest through DVD's and photographs .

The venue will be Pauline's home so the group will be restricted to 6 people.

Once the group has formed they will be able to decide between a Thursday morning or a Sunday afternoon for the monthly meeting.

If you are interested please call Pauline on 01778 394995

Local Charity Events

These events are neither organised by the U3A nor are they for commercial gain. Any member may suggest a suitable entry for this page on similar lines but publication will be at the discretion of the Editor. There will be just one page per month.

Answers to the “Chocolate Quiz” in “The Viral Times” Iss 11

Questions		Answers
1.	Emblems of England	Roses
2.	Talk quietly	Wispa
3.	Wobbly infants	Jelly Babies
4.	Dark and mysterious	Black Magic
5.	Thief	Bandit
6.	Different shapes and sizes	Mis-shapes
7.	Content of conversation	Topic
8.	Delicious fastening	Chocolate Buttons
9.	Tiny jewels	Midget Gems
10.	Bright kids	Smarties
11.	Small dog	Yorkie
12.	The right side of town	Quality Street
13.	Royal sport	Polo
14.	Three in a row	Trio
15.	God of war	Mars
16.	Where big cats drink	Lion Bar
17.	Public transport	Double Decker
18.	The Unigate man’s round	Milky Way
19.	Pirates treasure	Bounty
20.	Conversation killer	Gob Stoppers
21.	Caveman’s weapon	Club
22.	A sheik’s pleasure	Turkish Delight
23.	Ten pin bowling	Skittles
24.	An American coin	Dime
25.	Mr Parton’s wife’s concoctions	Dolly Mixtures
26.	20.01pm	After Eight
27.	Snow	Flake
28.	Shirley Temple’s hair do	Curly Wurly
29.	Singing insects	Humbugs
30.	Cab	Taxi
31.	Make waves	Ripple
32.	Worm’s glue	Wrigley’s Chewing Gum
33.	Songs	Tunes
34.	Holds our solar system	Galaxy
35.	Travelling musicians	Minstrels
36.	Nut fetish	Walnut Whip
37.	Essential for the transport of goods	Wagon Wheels
38.	They pick on little Malcolm	Malteesers
39.	45,760 yards	Marathon
40.	How do you eat yours?	Cadbury’s Cream Egg
41.	Good ideas	Inspiration

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2019 – 2020			
TITLE AND/OR JOB	NAME	PHONE 01778	E MAIL
CHAIRPERSON	MALCOLM SCRIVEN	426483	chairman@u3abourne.org.uk
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JOINT GROUPS AND NEW MEMBERS CO-ORDINATORS	PAT HOWES		groups@u3abourne.org.uk
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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

**The copy date for the October issue is
9am on Saturday, 10 October 2020**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to newsletter@u3abourne.org.uk
or post to *Paul Smith, 21 Northfields, Bourne, PE10 9DB*

*I reserve the right to either bring this date forward or retard it if my personal
circumstances dictate.*