

BOURNE u3a

NEWSLETTER

JAN 2023

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

Chairman's Chat

Hello All

I hope that you have all enjoyed Christmas and have celebrated the start of the New Year. My Christmas was a little different this year as we decided to go away over Christmas. As part of our holiday, we visited Chester, somewhere I have never been before and having been now I would highly recommend it.



I hope you are all looking forward to getting back to your u3a groups. I would like to remind you that if you have not renewed your membership yet, you have until the 31st January to do so.

Please if you can, renew on our website at www.bourneu3a.org.uk Please click on the renewal link not the Join link and have a go. If you cannot renew this way, there is also a link to print off a new style renewal form. **Please do not use old forms or the new member form.**

Having been the membership secretary myself I know that this is a very busy time, so please be kind and patient if you have problems.

We have had a few of you re-joining instead of renewing which causes a few headaches for our membership Secretary and Treasurer so please take extra care.

John

Committee Page

**Renewing online with your credit card
is quick, safe and easier.
No membership form to download.**

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meeting is held on the 3rd Monday of each month at Bourne Corn Exchange, the hall is open from 13.45 and the talk generally commences at 14.15

Speakers for 2023		
Date	Subject	Speaker
16 th January	Storm in a Teacup; Waitress' Strike of 1908	Dr Ann Featherstone
20 th February	The Kings Tiger Rag. Story of arrival of Jazz in Britain	Roger Browns
20 th March	Life on the Lincolnshire Saltmarshes	June Barton
17 th April	Must Farm	Mark Knight
15 th May	The Natural History of Scotland	Steve Lovell
19 th June	Police Work. Title to be arranged	Steve Seabrook
17 th July	Maths on the back of an envelope	Rob Eastaway
21 st August	Great British Eccentrics	Paul Robbins
18 th September	The Plague Dr of Eyam	David Bell
16 th October	Farming and Wildlife	Nicholas Watt
20 th November	The Battle of Towton	David Skillen
18 th December	Christmas Entertainment	Alan Bolt

Desk Clerks, Meeters and Greeters

Desk Clerks	20 February	Pearl Rose	Paul Rose	Martin Adkins
Meet & greet	20 February	Jane Christmas	Pat Benn	

Group News

Local History Group

I have thought for a long time that Bourne U3A should have a Local History Group.

Please email me if you would like to join such a group. If there is sufficient interest I will ask Pat Howes, the Group Co-ordinator, to arrange a meeting and to discuss how the group might run. I can be contacted at mpscriven@hotmail.com or by telephone on 01778 426483

Malcolm Scriven

Science and Technology Group

The December meeting of the Science and Tech Group at our home meeting place of St Firmin's Church Hall, Thurlby, and was the Science and Tech. Group traditional pre-Christmas Show and Tell format. This year five group members presented short highly interesting presentations, in most cases coming from their past experiences in working life.

First was Tony Burke who related to his experience while a technician in the RAF, particularly in relation to fault finding to electrical connections in early versions of the English Electric Lightening aircraft. Tony was part of a small team that identified poor manufacturing quality and then pursued their findings through to more senior ranks and eventually to resolve the issues.



Next was Stewart Goldsmith who related his experience with early forms of computers and programming when data was stored on tape and punched card. Stewart told some of the history of these systems and pointed out how surprisingly long ago some of these systems originated.

Dave Richardson brought along a selection of telephone linesman's specialist equipment and explained the functions of each piece along with stories related to using such equipment.

Vaughan Roberts followed with his observations regarding the Kilogram. Apparently, the Kilogram weight held in Paris that is the World standard upon which all weighing equipment is based, is getting lighter. So, the platinum alloy cylinder has been replaced by the force of a magnetic field, apparently to a precise number of silicone atoms.

Last up was Robert Ankerson who presented us with an interesting device and enquired whether we knew what it was, turned out it was an aircraft "black box", in this case the one from the aircraft that Robert was flying in as navigator in 1991 that got into difficulties and from which he subsequently had to bail out with assistance of the ejector seat. Now that's work experience for you.

As this was the pre-Christmas meeting mince pies were available to give a festive feeling to the meeting

Report by Michael Thorpe

Railway Group

At the invitation of Trevor Stoker, Services manager of Nottingham trams, we descended on the headquarters of the operation at Wilkinson Street. We were initially greeted by Connor, the safety and security manager, who took us around the whole site, showing us the servicing and cleaning areas as well as the 17 “roads” in the centre. Impressive.

When Trevor became available, he served us coffee and biscuits in the company boardroom and proceeded to tell us all about the tramway system in Nottingham. There was so much to take-in it was difficult to keep pace with the information being delivered.



The organisation of the facility seems very convoluted. The trams themselves are owned by the Local Authority. The fares collected are gathered by another organisation who then pass the proceeds to the local authority. The local authority then gives Keolis (an international transport agency) funding to provide the service to the city. The local authority determines what the service should be in terms of vehicle capacity, frequency of trams on each route and levelling fines if these parameters are not met. The good side of this is that certain stretches of the routes

are exclusive to trams. This means that they are not constrained by heavy traffic. However, all the parameters cannot be met. For instance, the L.A. wanted 5-car vehicles at certain times of the day. The best that can be done is 3-car vehicles as the 5-car version will not go around all the corners on the routes. The service runs 24/7 and all the vehicles must be cleaned between service runs. One of the unusual aspects of the facility is ticketing. They do not accept bus passes like Delaine do but local people, on showing a “residency” document get reduced fares.

When the trams returned to Nottingham in the 1990’s, the population had to be educated in how to regard trams. For example, a tram cannot just step aside to pass a parked van blocking its passage – if the van does not move, the tram cannot move either. Cyclists have to be warned that they must be careful not to get their wheels lodged in the tracks - the penalty for not being careful is usually a heavy fall. Also, when a tram route crosses a road (main or otherwise) the tram has priority.

When our “slot” as visitors expired, we elected to travel home rather than “ride the trams” on the day. We can always go back on a quieter day.

It was a very interesting day and our thanks were due to Trevor for his invitation and for answering all our questions.

Report by Tony Burke

Creative Writing Group

The photo is of the creative writing group during a Highlights Tour of Peterborough Cathedral. We were there to seek inspiration, divine or otherwise! for our first project of 2023.



Such visits are a common feature of our activities and during our six years in existence we have also visited the John Clare Cottage Museum, Ayscough Hall and Peterborough Museum all of which has led to the production of a wide variety of creative offerings.

Our format remains the same each month. We distribute our individual stories to all members in advance of our meeting at which we offer constructive comment on each other's work. Also, at each meeting we try to include a short exercise which aims to improve our writing skills.

We currently have up to three vacancies in our group. If the above description attracts your interest, please contact me for further information

Group Leader John Boss

Antiques & Collectables Group

The Antiques & Collectables Group had a successful start to 2023 beginning the new year in traditional fashion with a 'Show & Tell' session. This gives members the opportunity to bring along to the meeting an item or items of their own. It doesn't have to be valuable or rare but it helps if there's a story behind the object. It's always a great social event that gets everyone talking.

It's surprising how diverse this year's crop of objects was!

- Several pieces of Chinese funerary pottery possibly 1000 years old to a modern-day vase by a Welsh art potter, plus other 'tube-lined' works by William Moorcroft and Old Tupton Ware.
- An exquisite small, enamelled scent bottle with a vinaigrette hidden in the base.
- A real 18th century 'piece of eight'.
- Some early 19th century calling card cases with fine silver decoration ... were they made of ivory or bone?
- Probably the smallest corkscrew ever made for 19th century invalids to open their medicine bottles.
- A fine gold watch chain now used as a necklace.
- A flower press ... often misidentified as a tie press (or was it for small ties??).
- A recent first day cover celebrating the new King
- A small brass tube with a finely carved image on its lid for holding pen nibs.
- A beautiful blue and white jug that had holes at the lip which after discussion the group decided were for a lid (possibly made of pewter) and was now missing.
- Some early 20th century books illustrated with pencil sketches and paintings of Italy.
- The prize for the most unusual 'show' must go to the collection of bits of metal, leather, and wood, all of which were beautifully worked that had been purchased cheaply at a general stall at an antiques fair ... they turned out to be pieces of Japanese Samurai armour!

Why not come and join us? We have a full programme of speakers for the coming year covering not only antiques and collectables but also local history and social history. We'll even give you a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. In the coming months we have:

Monday 13 February: Steve Guillieri, the Bourne local historian, will talk about his research into Bourne Castle

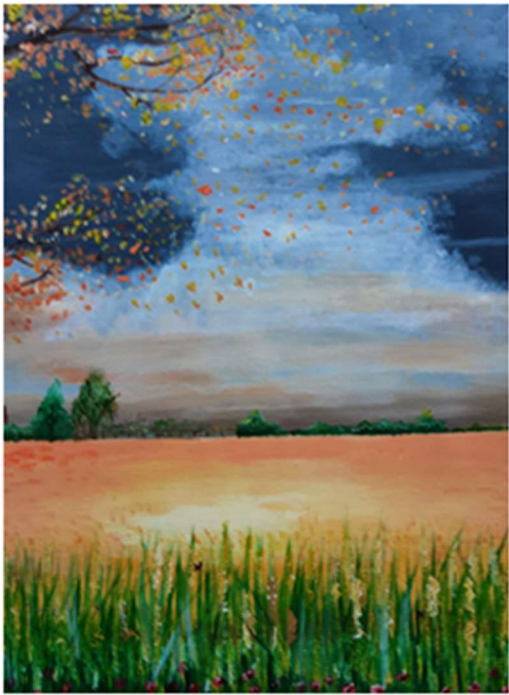
Monday 13 March: Peter Young, a retired auctioneer from Nottingham will talk about his experiences of 'Surprising Discoveries in Unusual Places'

Monday 3 April: Keith Talbot on Restoration of Collectables for Beginners

We meet in the Baxter Room at Wake House, 2pm start

Group Leader Steve Froy

Bourne Brushstrokes - January 2023 Gallery



We start the New Year with a selection of varied work with Peter's bold Cornfield, Margaret's inkwork of a Moors Cottage, Gavin's own experience of rally driving in the snow, Ingrid's chirpy Robin and Eric's Moonlight friends.

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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

**The copy date for the next issue will be
9am on Saturday, 11 February 2023**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to editor@bourneu3a.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.