

# BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

NEW WEBSITE : - <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>  
OLD WEBSITE : - <https://u3asites.org.uk/bourne/home>  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

## *Chairman's Chat*

Two things have helped me survive the miseries of Covid-19. The garden has been a great source of comfort; not only providing a good supply of vegetables, but a refuge to meet friends and family, and the wildlife spectacle of squabbling starlings, bashful blue tits and tiny frogs emerging from their tadpole life in the pond.

The other saving grace has been music. The newly formed 'Let's Make Music' group has had to shut down for the duration, but Lesley and I have continued with our music lessons. Our teacher, Ruth, was quick to start Zoom lessons back in April. We had never used Zoom, but with Ruth's help, we picked it up quickly – it was a good experience that I have been able to use in the U3A. With the local easing of lockdown, we went back to physical lessons although the Zoom alternative will have to be used from now on.

Lesley is making steady progress with the clarinet while I continue to abuse a perfectly good descant recorder. I am not very good. But the remarkable thing is not that I play badly but that I play at all. Three years ago, I had no musical knowledge and could not tell a crotchet from a quaver. Now, I try to practice most days and start with a calming plod through the grade three scales and arpeggios before trying to master the latest study piece.

It's not all hard work. Sometimes I just cannot be bothered wrestling with a particularly difficult couple of bars and will just play one of the folk tunes I am familiar with. Sometimes Lesley will abandon her clarinet and pick up her recorder to join me in a duo. I suspect it sounds awful, but we keep the windows closed and have great fun.

So, music has given me something in common with Lesley, a distraction in difficult times, and a mental challenge that keeps the little grey cells jumping about and provides a lot of fun. It has also given me a greater appreciation of real musicians. When I go for my lesson on a Thursday morning, Ruth is just finishing with a gentleman who is learning the Saxophone. She then switches to the descant recorder with me, before switching again to the clarinet with Lesley. Before lockdown, she would finish the morning with another lady, learning the flute. She plays all instruments like a dream.

So, if you feel oppressed by Coronavirus, why not dig out that old instrument from the cupboard and start playing again. Or, if like me you have never played anything, buy a second-hand school recorder, and get experimenting. I can always recommend a very good teacher.

Malcolm

## *Committee Page*

### **Bourne U3A – Government Coronavirus Regulations**

Following the failure of the Government's policies to control Covid-19 the whole country is in lockdown. This has the advantage of being clear – no U3A groups can physically meet in any number until at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Given the Schools and Universities are continuing physical classes, it is likely that there will be significant restrictions until well into the New Year.

This will, at least, enable us to avoid the confusion that surfaced last month. Contrary to the advice given to Pauline O'Brien, reported in October's Newsletter, U3A Groups were not exempt from the Rule of Six. The Third Age Trust issued clear advice, based on discussions with Government, that all U3A Groups are subject to Government regulations and there are no exemptions. Pauline's advice came initially from the Trustees of Wake House (not the Committee, who are the Trustees of Bourne U3A). Wake House may see us as an educational organisation but this, sadly, has never been the Government's view.

Acting in good faith, Pauline checked with our MP, Gareth Davies. It is very unlikely that Gareth Davies was aware of the conversations between Government and the Third Age Trust and it seems his office assumed we would have exemptions because we provide some 'classes' and a service. I think we would all agree that is a sensible interpretation of the regulations, but it is not the case. No U3A group could physically meet with more than six people in one room.

When lockdown is relaxed it is essential that all groups check with the Bourne U3A Committee that their plans comply with Government Coronavirus regulations. Those regulations have been complex and contradictory in the past few months and we have relied on the Third Age Trust for guidance. That will continue to be the case when lockdown is eased, and I request that all members ignore any guidance given by non U3A sources until it has been confirmed by the Committee.

Finally, I give heartfelt thanks to the Group Leaders and their helpers who have tried so hard to keep things going since March. The current lockdown is a set-back, but we have learned a lot and demonstrated impressive resilience. We will continue our Zoom meetings and keeping in touch and supporting each other. Let us hope for a return to some form of normality in 2021.

Malcolm Scriven

Chairman Bourne U3A

### *Virtual Monthly Meeting*

Our next General Meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm. Andy Stone will be talking about the work of the Canal and River Trust. They are responsible for the Grantham Canal, Woolsthorpe Locks, and the River Witham closest to us, but work across the country. They have a website: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us>

Please email Malcolm Scriven if you would like an invitation to this Zoom meeting. The numbers attending our Zoom General Meetings are steadily increasing so I will be adding you to the list on a 'first come, first served' basis.

## *Photography Challenge*



The challenge was to take photos on the subject of “Transport”. Selected as the best were those above from Diane Hinchliffe, Vaughan Roberts & Paul Smith. Other photos were sent in by Paul smith and Janet Burton.

**The new challenge is " Autumn " (entries by 07-12-20)**

**The next challenge is " Winter's Light " (entries by 09-01-21)**

Entries to :- [vasmroberts@gmail.com](mailto:vasmroberts@gmail.com)

## *IT Advice*

### **Scams and Threats to avoid.**

As we go into another lockdown more and more people will be buying products online for Christmas, but be aware there are scammers about.

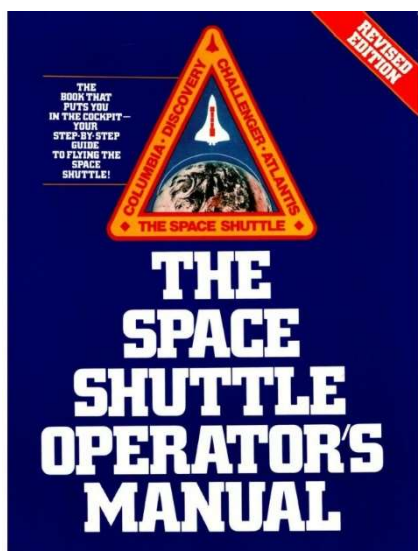
One of the latest scams to hit the headlines is Amazon “account issue” email scams. Scammers are stealing Amazon customers’ details by sending emails that claim they need to “verify” their account to fix a problem.

The emails contain Amazon logos and are written in a similar font and layout to those used by the company in official messages. They say that Amazon has prevented you from buying on the site because of an “account issue”. It then asks you to click a “Verify Account” button. This take you to an official looking form. **However** it is fake. Scammers will steal any details you type into it. The scammers add urgency by saying if you do not respond within 24 hours your account will be closed permanently.

Typically, as with a lot of online scams it has a grammatical or typing error. "We took this action, because the **billinhg** information you provided did not match the information in the card issuer file". Needless to say there is nothing wrong with your "**billinhg**" information.

What is important is that this scam was first reported in early October. Action Fraud reported 270 cases within 24 hours.

There is nothing wrong in buying items online if you are careful. If it looks too good to be true it probably is. Be particularly cautious in the run-up to Black Friday (27 November) when many retailers will cut prices.



### Now where did I put that Instruction Manual

Instruction manuals, like phone books are a relic from the past. Most of our electronic devices such as smartphones and laptops routinely come without them. You normally get just a few small pages to show you how to get started and are then left to sort out any problems yourself. But there is another way.

Try searching the manufacturer's website. Most of them still allow access to manuals of discontinued items.

Still can't find what you need. Then turn to an online source. One of the largest sources for hard to find manuals is: ManualsLib ([www.manualslib.com](http://www.manualslib.com)). With 4.25 million manuals covering over 97,000 brands from Acer to Zanussi. All the manuals are free to download.

For even older devices turn to the Internet Archive at ([www.archive.org/details/manuals](http://www.archive.org/details/manuals)). The manuals are divided into categories covering among others, computers, TVs and printers. It's a fascinating resource that you could spend hours exploring at your leisure, especially now in lockdown. Who wouldn't want to read about how tractors work, browse the more than 3,000 manuals for popular cars – both current and vintage – or leaf through the 160 pages of the Space Shuttle Operator's Manual.

Your space shuttle won't launch? Have you tried turning it off and on again?

Click below for the Space Shuttle Operators Manual.

<https://archive.org/details/TheSpaceShuttleOperatorsManual/page/n3/mode/2up0>

## **Poetry Group**

Poetry Group didn't manage a quorum in October, so not much I can offer in that regard for the Newsletter.

With lockdown starting up again, I don't suppose we will be able to meet in November either. No-vember, no-meeting, no-joke!

Philip Dunkerley - Group Leader.

### **A New Beginning** by John O'Donohue

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
where your thoughts never think to wander,  
this beginning has been quietly forming,  
waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
noticing how you willed yourself on,  
still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
and the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
and out you stepped onto new ground,  
your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
a path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
you can trust the promise of this opening;  
unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
that is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
for your soul senses the world that awaits you.

## **Drawing and Art Group**

Our route to live meetings

Since the last lockdown, our group started meeting on the Wellhead every week. We were very lucky with the weather and had some good al fresco sessions drawing and sketching in the summer sun. Alas as the summer drew to a close we had to look for an indoor venue.

Our usual venue was the Abbey Church Hall a venue that has served us well over the years but it did not reopen after the first lockdown, so we had to look for a new venue. When we started researching I soon realised that a lot of the suitable venues were not reopening. It is quite understandable with the additional cleaning and restrictions it was not possible. Then I found that a couple of venues that were opening but they were not safe for us. The main reason being lack of ventilation. We are a large group with many classed as vulnerable and we had to make sure that if we did start meeting indoors again it had to be done safely.

One of our members suggested the Methodist Church Hall at Thurlby so I went along to have a look. I was met by a member of the church and he had produced a very comprehensive risk assessment highlighting the way we could meet whilst adhering to the Government guidelines. I then produced our groups risk assessment and submitted it to the church which was accepted. My next step was to copy it to our Chairman who after a minor change accepted that we had done as much as reasonably possible to ensure safe meetings.

So, four weeks ago we had our first live indoor meeting, we had to ensure we all wore masks and kept socially (I think it should be unsocially) distanced. We also had to take our own refreshments, but the resulting meetings were very enjoyable. Being able to see the people we were talking to, being able to see actual artwork and get instruction from our excellent tutors made everything worthwhile.

I appreciate we are now entering a second lockdown but with all our processes now in place we can restart our live meetings as soon as Boris releases us from our leashes once again.

These horrible restrictions over the last six months has highlighted to me how much we need to meet and talk to each other so roll on freedom to do it again. With vaccines in their final stages of development and testing things are at last looking rosier.

Stay safe

Pete Gillat     Group Leader

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2020 – 2021			
TITLE AND/OR JOB	NAME	PHONE 01778	E MAIL
CHAIRPERSON	MALCOLM SCRIVEN	426483	<a href="mailto:chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com">chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
VICE CHAIRMAN	JOHN OWEN	420378	<a href="mailto:vicechairbourneu3a@gmail.com">vicechairbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
SECRETARY	JOHN BOSS	424153	<a href="mailto:secretarybourneu3a@gmail.com">secretarybourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
TREASURER	TONY GRAY	394588	<a href="mailto:treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com">treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	JOHN OWEN	420378	<a href="mailto:membershipbourneu3a@gmail.com">membershipbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
PUBLICITY OFFICER	ERIC COOPER	394656	<a href="mailto:publicitybourneu3a@gmail.com">publicitybourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
ROTAS	BILL REID	570234	<a href="mailto:rotas@u3abourne.org.uk">rotas@u3abourne.org.uk</a>
SPEAKER FINDER	GILL STONEMAN		<a href="mailto:speakerbourneu3a@gmail.com">speakerbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
JOINT GROUPS AND NEW MEMBERS CO-ORDINATORS	PAT HOWES		<a href="mailto:groupsbourneu3a@gmail.com">groupsbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
RAFFLE ORGANISOR	JANET BURTON	426462	<a href="mailto:raffle@u3abourne.org.uk">raffle@u3abourne.org.uk</a>
NON-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS			
DATA MANAGER (incorporating Beacon Administration, Webmaster, Meeting Display and Computer loan)	PHIL PAVIER	424984	<a href="mailto:databourneu3a@gmail.com">databourneu3a@gmail.com</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	PAUL SMITH	424554	<a href="mailto:editorbourneu3a@gmail.com">editorbourneu3a@gmail.com</a>

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

**The copy date for the December issue is  
9am on Saturday, 5 December 2020**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to [newsletter@u3abourne.org.uk](mailto: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.*

### **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.*



## THE MAYOR'S REMEMBRANCE WALK

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 In aid of the Mayor's Charities

---



Bourne Town Mayor Cllr Colin Pattison and his wife Fiona are embarking on a walk of the Parish to raise much-needed funds for his three chosen charities:

**Wake House**

**The Butterfield Centre**

**Bourne Town Hall**

Cllr Pattison realised that in these unprecedented times the act of Remembrance will not take the form of previous years and so therefore decided to take 'Remembrance' out to the people. The Parish encompasses not only the town of Bourne but also the Village of Dyke and the hamlets of Twenty and Cawthorpe.

The walk will take place on Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November and the route will cover some 16 miles. Cllr Pattison will be laying a poppy wreath at each of the locations on the route.

Should you feel that you would like to contribute to The Mayors Charities please click on the button below to donate via 'Just Giving'.

[Click here to donate](#)