

BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

Chairman's Chat

Last month for me was one of different experiences. The beginning of the month of course was just the same as the last 14 Months, with lockdown being the deciding factor on what we could or could not do. Attending the Battle Proms at Burghley House was something we do every year. I confess, I have a love for The Royal Albert Hall and the Proms Season. In the past I have been to four concerts during one proms season, alas the financial and time constraints have put restrictions on my indulgence. Burghley House and the Battle Proms is a replacement and a very enjoyable one.



With half the normal audience and with less money for the organisers to spend, they still managed to put on a very good evening.

The following week we went to see the Stamford Shakespeare Company at Tolethorpe Hall. Again, there was an audience reduced by half. The Performance was "Loves Labours Lost".

As usual we had a picnic first in the grounds and then the performance in the evening.

Now of course the Covid rules were relaxed, and we did not know what to expect for the rest of the month.

For me I certainly did not want to go completely back to how we were before the pandemic, more of a steady adjustment back to normal.

The following week we had some tickets for a jazz night at Strays Café, located in the High Street Stamford. They had kept to the Covid restrictions, and we had plenty of room around our table. With good food and excellent Jazz, we had a very good evening out.

Now I am not suggesting that you go out every week as we have done, only do what you personally feel comfy with. As far as U3A groups are concerned we have a lot of groups already meeting and some just starting out. So, if you have not yet started but would like to, contact your group leader to see if your group is meeting yet.

Later this month I will be emailing you all asking if you would be happy to go back to the Corn Exchange for Monthly General Meetings. Have a think about it now and reply to my email when you receive it. As a committee we have already discussed this and pencilled in October as the date.

John

Committee Page

New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members this month - Christine Collins and Richard Perrett and look forward to meeting them at future meetings.

Jackie Searl Membership Secretary

Photography Challenge

The challenge was to take photos on the subject of “**Heatwave**”.

Unfortunately no results are available for this month at the time of publication, hopefully I’ll be able to provide them next month.

The new challenge is " Freedom " (entries by 07-09-21)

The next challenge is " Golden Leaves " (entries by 05-10-21)

Entries to :- vasmroberts@gmail.com

A Special Message

Dear U3A friends

I would like to thank you for all the support that you have given to me either through cards, phone calls or visits following the loss of my husband Jim.

Many of you knew Jim for the cheeky chappy that he was but many of you didn’t, but you still offered your support and condolences.

You cannot imagine the help it has been knowing I had that support. It has made life so much easier on quite a few days.

As you know I have always believed the U3A to be a brilliant organisation not only for learning but for the friendship and companionship that it offers. I am sure all U3A’s are good however these last few weeks have confirmed what I have always thought. Bourne U3A really is special.

Take care and looking forward to seeing many of you in the not-too-distant future.

Pat (Howes)

Group News

Science and Technology Group Returning to (Near) Normal

The Science and Technology Group will hold its first post lockdowns physical meeting on Tuesday 7th September at 10.00am at St Firmin’s Church Hall, Thurlby, PE10 0EH. Robert Ankersen will give an updated talk on Night Vision Aids. We hope to provide tea and coffee from 9.30am but would ask members to respect others’ sensibilities and take advantage of the available hand sanitisation, wear a face covering when standing and moving about, and observe social distancing. All members of Bourne U3A are invited but SciTech members will have priority if high numbers compromise social distancing.

Malcolm Scriven

Creative Writing Group 1.

(Firstly, an apology from the Editor as this should have been in last month's Newsletter)

Having seen a forecast threatening heavy rain & thunder Group Leader Janet Dowse prepared her house for a "Covid" safe indoor meeting, but, as luck would have it, 6 members enjoyed cool drinks in her sunny garden.

The chosen themes of "Freedom" & "Escape" produced a great variety of responses, including a serious essay about "Freedom", an acrostic about the freedom of daily walks, personal regrets about loss of freedom and a tirade against the necessity of wearing masks.

How good it was to have the freedom to at last meet friends locally and have a most enjoyable afternoon.

Railway Group – September Meeting

The Rail Group is having its 1st "Face-to-Face" meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at Wake House in the Conference Room at 14.00Hrs. There will be no refreshments, but people can take their own, if desired. The main objective of the meeting will be to discuss arranging all the visits and events we have missed over the past year. We also may have a film to show.

Social distancing will be observed in line with local rules and sanitising will be provided in the room. One presumes masks will have to be worn whilst moving around the building.

I would like the word about this to go to all U3A members, as I believe our "move" will encourage other Groups to start meeting again. In addition, all the local "Hall Hire" people desperately need income which "Face - to- Face" meetings will generate. I have a feeling that the U3A committee has agreed to "supplement" hall hire fees for a limited number of gatherings, until we reach "full speed" once more.

Tony Burke

Poetry Group

(Firstly, an apology from the Editor as this should have been in last month's Newsletter)

In June, the Poetry Group opted to do something different: we watched Alan Yentob's excellent Imagine documentary about Maya Angelou (1928-2014). Angelou was an accomplished dancer, singer, actor, writer, producer, activist, campaigner and poet. She was a personal friend of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. U3A Members may recall that she read one of her poems, 'On the Pulse of Morning', at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton in 1993. She has a particular, inspirational, resonance in the post-George Floyd world. Three of her best-known poems are 'Phenomenal Woman', 'The Caged Bird' and 'The Mask', all of which can be found online.

Early today, June 14th, I sat in my garden under a heavenly-blue sky with the faintest of cirrus clouds while a robin sang from the hawthorn tree; here are a couple of verses from 'The Caged Bird'.

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays

and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The Poetry Group's July meeting saw just four members meeting at Janet Dowse's home. There we discussed poets whose lives sometimes exhibited surprising contrasts - whose art was sometimes at odds with their lifestyle. Janet chose John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester (1647-1680), well known for his rakish ways, about which he wrote, but who also wrote satire, exposing the hypocrisy of the rich, the powerful, academics, churchmen, etc.: Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose ('The more things change, the more they stay the same').

Gail contrasted the 'famous' poetry of T. S. Eliot (e.g. 'The Waste Land') with the playfulness of 'Cats' by reading us 'Macavity: The Mystery Cat'. Eve reminded us of the poignant genius of Spike Milligan (he of The Goons - beloved by many a U3Aer) - see below. I contributed by reflecting on the tendency of many poets to become less radical, more conservative as they grow older. William Wordsworth, for example, was a firebrand in his youth but accepted a sinecure from the government and later became Poet Laureate, thus forfeiting the respect of later, more edgy poets.

Growing Up I - Spike Milligan

Even tho 'they are my tomorrows
Do they know my yesterdays
 are wrapped up in them?
Those golden yesterdays.
Was there ever a sound
 like child laughter,
Was there ever such talk
 as theirs,
That lily pure truth on their lips?
Grown you are, yet I only see
 the child in you.
It is past reality, it is a haunting,
I cannot live without the
 memory of it.
At the going of those yesterdays
 my todays ended.

Philip Dunkerley - Group Leader.

Snooker Group 2

The above group has vacancies for new members to join them on Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm at the Bourne Snooker Club, Cherry Holt Lane.

Derek Pollard – Group Leader

Garden Group

The group visited Aswarby on 2 trips to keep numbers manageable, on the 15th July & on 22nd July, your editor was on the first visit and we were made very welcome.

Margaret and I had often wondered about the history of this little area as we travelled north on the A15 so it was a great opportunity to visit it and find out about it.

Firstly, we were treated to a brief talk on the history of the estate by the present owner George Playne.

The estate was in the Whichcote family from 1723 when Sir Francis Whichcote (3rd Baronet) bought Aswarby Hall from Sir Robert Carre-Hervey. The old house was demolished in the 1950's when it's upkeep became too expensive. The old stable block was converted into a family home after this and as the last of the Whichcote's, the 10th Baronet, had no sons it passed by marriage into the Playne family's possession, and they live and work the estate now.

The current head gardener then leads us on a leisurely guided walk around the gardens. Amongst the treats were the game larder, the rose walk and the recently refurbished greenhouse with its 300 year old grapevine.

On our return to the main house, we were treated to some lovely cakes, strawberries and tea or cold drinks.

We then drove a short distance to what had been the estate managers house, this had been purchased by the current owners about 3 years ago and has been transformed from a rather rundown and overgrown garden into a lovely peaceful site. Some plants were on sale here.

I will assume that apart from somewhat warmer weather the second visit was much the same.



The gardens are open on behalf of the National Gardens Scheme so get hold of the yellow book to find out when!

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2020 – 2021			
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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

**The copy date for the September issue is
9am on Saturday, 4 September 2021**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to editorbourneu3a@gmail.com
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.