

# BOURNE u3a

## NEWSLETTER

### JULY 2022

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

### *Chairman's Chat*

Hello All

Didn't our Birthday Party go well. The Hall was full, one of our founder members Margaret Shephard cut the cake in the presence of Bourne Town Mayor Anna Kelly and her consort.



The staff of The Corn Exchange and of the caterers did a fantastic job and looked after us very well. We enjoyed the food a selection of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cakes and scones with jam, cream and strawberry.

There was then a raffle of 3 prizes before the entertainment started.

Our entertainer, Alan Bolt was both funny and very entertaining with his songs, which most of us knew the words to as well!

My thanks go to everybody involved in making this a very successful afternoon, well fitting for our 21<sup>st</sup> celebration.

On the question of people getting involved I would like you to read an article in this newsletter from our secretary John Boss. Please take your time to analyse the figures. Our survival is reliant on new members getting involved in running Bourne U3a. There is not any need for absolute panic. But we must encourage new younger members to become group leaders otherwise we will slowly wither away.

**John**

## *Committee Page*

### **MEMBERSHIP: JULY 2022**

On 1 July 2022, Bourne U3a had 505 members. Our newest member has membership number 1538. We do not reissue previously used numbers whenever anyone ceases to be a member for any reason. This means that a total of 1035 individuals are no longer members. Reasons are of course varied but inevitably for an organisation catering for retirees, death plays a significant role.

On 13 July we celebrated our 21st Anniversary, and paid tribute to the very many individuals who have played leadership roles as committee members and group leaders not least the five founding members still in Bourne U3a.

Will Bourne U3a still exist in another 21 years or even another 5 years?

The following snapshots may give you food for thought:

Bourne U3a Committee: 2022/2023

At present there are 9 elected office bearers and committee members and one co-opted committee member. The position of Vice Chairman is vacant. In addition, two members fulfil non committee roles as

Newsletter Editor and Data Administrator

An analysis of their membership numbers is as follows

Nos. 0-250 1 member

Nos. 251-500 1 member]

Nos. 501-750 2 members

Nos. 751-1000 3 members

Nos. 1001-1250 no members

Nos. 1250-1500 5 members

N.B. Vacancy [ Vice Chairman]

Bourne U3a Group Leaders,

At present there are 44 active groups. An analysis of the leaders of these groups is as follows

0-250 8 group leaders

251-500 7 leaders

501-750 11 leaders

751-1000 11 leaders

1001-1250 4 leaders

1251-1500 2 leaders

Bourne U3a Secretary: Membership No.929: Joined November 2015

606 individuals have become members since that date.

To-day, just 13 out of those 606 be they current or past members are carrying any of the above leadership roles

## **21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Bourne U3A**

I moved to Bourne in the year 1999, at about the same time as my friend, Sylvia Foster. We had both been members of Stamford U3A and Sylvia suggested that it would be a good idea to start a similar group in Bourne. At first, I was reluctant as I knew it would involve a lot of hard work to get it up and running. Sylvia was very persuasive and on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2001 we held an inaugural meeting in the Baxter Room of Wake House. It was so successful that there was not enough room for all those who came and for safety reasons some people had to be turned away.

At that meeting we formed a steering committee with myself as chairman and Mick Wiggins, whom some of you will remember, as Vice Chairman. Sylvia became the treasurer and Pauline Pickett the secretary. Constance Briggs was responsible for refreshments, and we had three other members who sadly are no longer alive.

Our first actual meeting was held in the Baptist Church Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> April and at that meeting various members offered to organise some of the groups. One of the first volunteers was Margaret McGregor who started the craft group which is still popular today and still with Margaret in charge. Congratulations and many thanks to Margaret for all that she has done on our behalf. Constance started a very popular bird-watching group which unfortunately she had to pass on to others because of her own poor health, but she gave us many years of loyal service for which I am very grateful. Pauline Pickett started the antiques group which is still popular today. She moved away from Bourne for family reasons but has now returned and I am happy to relate that she is still an active member of the U3A. The first official AGM was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2001. We very quickly outgrew the Baptist Church Hall and met for a short time at the United Reformed Church Hall, but eventually we transferred to the Corn Exchange and have been well cared for by the staff there ever since.

I was delighted to be able to attend the cream tea held in the Corn Exchange on 13<sup>th</sup> July to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Bourne U3A. It was sad that we were unable to celebrate last year because of Covid restrictions, but with doing it this year we were able to combine it with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national U3A and of course the Queen's platinum jubilee. So, we had three celebrations to combine into one. Many thanks to the committee for organising a delicious cream tea and congratulations to the caterers. As well as stuffing ourselves we were provided with a very nostalgic entertainment by Alan Bolt and were able to join in with a sing-along from the days of our youth. We were even provided with a piece of birthday cake to take home with us. We were delighted to welcome the mayor and her consort to share with us in our celebrations.

Over the years the Bourne U3A has grown and developed, and I am very proud of the association I helped to found, but if it is to continue and to thrive it urgently needs new and younger members to join the committee and to act as group leaders. If you feel you could help in any way, please speak to one of the committee members. It would be a great shame if, after all these years, it had to close, and I know that it came perilously close to doing so this year. For any organisation to flourish it has to have a full committee, for legal reasons as well as practical ones. I hope we will all be able to meet again in four years' time to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Margaret Shephard.**

## New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members during June 2022 and hope everyone enjoys their membership.

Anne Smith, Anthony Taylor, Linda Bolton, Gill Adams, Ann Colyer and Pamela Harle

We look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

## *Monthly Meeting*

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

<b>SPEAKERS FOR 2022</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Speaker Names</b>	<b>Title of Talk</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Graham Short	Art on a pin head
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Jane Barnes	Tales from Dairy Farmer's Wife
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Steve Lovell	Wildlife of Lincolnshire
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Steve Price	Magic
21 <sup>st</sup> November	Paul Robbins	Great British Eccentrics
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Bernard Locket	The Musical Theatre of Gilbert and Sullivan

## *Group News*

### Gardening Group

28 members of the group visited Inley Drove Farm, south of Holbeach St Johns. The farm is owned by Maisie and Francis Pryor, the latter being the archaeologist responsible for the development of Flag Fen.



The farm was bought 38 years ago and pictures of the land at that time show an area of bare fenland fields apart from a single hawthorn bush. Today, as well as a sheep farm, it contains a beautiful



garden surrounded by woodland. The garden has several garden “rooms” and, in particular, two beautiful long borders one containing the star performer *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* var *Gold Rush*.

There are several seats in the garden, especially at either end of the long borders where we could rest to admire the beautiful planting. We were very tempted by some plump ripe raspberries in the vegetable garden where there were also currant bushes and an asparagus bed.

The afternoon ended with tea and beautiful cakes on the terrace under a vine covered pergola.

The garden will be open again for NGS on the weekend of the 17th / 18th September and I can thoroughly recommend a visit.

## Poetry Group

The Poetry Group did something different in July - we held our meeting at the John Clare Cottage in Helpston. We began with a tour round the cottage itself (you can use an audio device, or just enjoy the extremely informative posters), inspecting the various exhibits, such as original manuscripts of poetry, correspondence, and music notation (Clare, besides being a wonderful poet, was a compiler of local folk tunes and an accomplished fiddle player). Then we shared a selection



of John Clare poems in the cottage garden, availing ourselves of scones and tea or coffee (it was a little too early for wine, or beer). We ended by walking the short distance to the John Clare memorial and on to visit his grave in the nearby church yard, where we read yet more verse.

If you have not yet visited the Cottage and Heritage Centre, it's well-worth doing - a really pleasant outing. All the information you need is available at <https://www.clarecottage.org> For those who do not have internet access, the cottage is currently open on Mondays and

Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The entry fee is £4.95, or £4.20 for Concessions. Entry to the shop and tea shop is free, and afternoon tea, etc. is available. You can also buy copies, there, of some of Clare's poems, or books about his life.

John Clare (1793-1864) is now recognized as one of the great English poets of the Romantic period. He was a genuine 'son of the soil' with a great knowledge of nature - he names no less than 147 different species of British native birds in his poems. He wrote more than 3,000 poems, but the one I am sharing with Bourne U3A this month is a sonnet written by one of our own - Janet Dowse:

## John Clare of Helpston

Our modern pressures of celebrity  
he also felt two hundred years ago.  
Born in obscurity and poverty  
at Fenland's edge where seasons' pace is slow,  
in tune with all the rhythms of the life  
that in the fields and woods and streams abounds,  
in village home, he captured joys and strife  
of shepherd's lot, and traced the daily rounds

of toil at plough, in dairy and at mill.  
But though his verse earned riches and brought fame,  
the 'ploughman poet' loved the village still,  
until the fickle crowds forgot his name,  
tossed him aside in search of newer prey  
and madness claimed him till his dying day.

*Group Leader Philip Dunkerley*

## **Church Visiting Group**



For our June meeting, twenty-three members enjoyed a visit to the tiny, remote church of Little Casterton. Many of the group did not know this church existed. The car park, accessed through two farm gates, appeared to have a raised area which could have been a tumulus. We were warmly welcomed by Don, the priest in charge, and Howard, a former but now retired church warden. We were told that services take place twice a month.

It is sited on a small rise above the flood level of the adjoining small river.

The original church dates from the early 12th century and was a similar size to the nave today. The north aisle was added in 1190 with arches from the later Decorated period. The chancel, which is little smaller than the nave was added in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Further restorations took place in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the clerestory was added. As can be seen above, the church has no tower or spire but a bell cote containing two bells.

A lovely carved stone tympanum can be seen above the north door. The altar stone in the north chapel was found built into the church wall and reclaimed. As it contains carved cross is it likely this is an original pre-Reformation altar. Signs of the original painted walls are just visible.

The nave roof is made of wood and contains incredibly detailed, beautiful carvings and bosses.

The stained glass of the east window shows Christ enthroned in heaven with side panels presenting two figures whose originals are not known (think of Robin Hood for one of them!).

This is a little known, gem of a church. Members agreed that it had an atmosphere all of its own and the visit was much enjoyed.

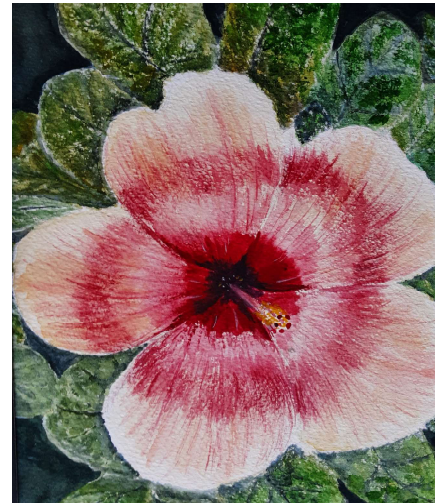
**Jackie Searl, Group Leader**



## ***Bourne Brushstrokes - July Gallery***



**"Colour of the Countryside and Garden"**



This month four different group artists are showing their big, bold and beautiful work.  
Lesley Sheer "Poppy heads" in watercolour (Top left)  
Ingrid Canwell "Bluebells" in acrylic (Top right)  
Brian Corpe "Daffodils" in pencil (Bottom Left)  
Brenda Greatwood "Hibiscus" in watercolour (Bottom right)

It was difficult to select a few pictures for this month with such talent and varied work being produced, so next month there will be some more flowers for you to admire.

We always invite you to visit us on a Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 12.00 noon but in AUGUST we take a holiday, although some of us still meet at the Abbey Memorial Gardens so come along if the weather is good.

## Any Time Out Group



The Any Time Out group on Thursday June 16th travelled to see the "beautiful view" the French name for Belvoir Castle. The English could not pronounce this and so it became Beever Castle as we know it today. On arrival a guide came to greet us and gave us all orange armbands to denote the ATO group. Those of us who wished to be taken around the castle using a guide were also given silver bands. The guided tour was not due to start for half an hour and we made use of the facilities including the restaurant. All the delicate china had the Belvoir motif, and the food was very good. The first port of call

was the Main Entrance Hall, absolutely huge and walls covered with all manner of fighting equipment. One of the photographs shows a large Banner, a couple of Banners used during specific fights and some of the equipment.



Our guide was extremely knowledgeable and for an hour and a half we were immersed in the life of the Castle. Beautiful paintings of the owners and their VIP guests including a number of Kings, James, Charles and an enormous painting of Henry VIII worth over 20 million pounds. The Last Supper, particularly fascinating as it shows half Protestant and half Catholic having a meal together is also worth 20 million pounds. An offer had been made by the Vatican to buy this painting but was turned down. There are several battle flags to be seen. Many many more paintings and so much more history. At the end of the tour some of us had lunch in the restaurant and some of us had a lovely picnic in the grounds of the Castle. We then went for a walk round the gardens which must have needed hundreds of gardeners in its heyday, but money is tight today as we all know!!

At 2pm the coach collected us and we went down to the Engine Yard which has shops cafes and a garden centre. I can certainly recommend chocolate ice cream with choc sauce and a 99 from the shop selling chocolates. My friend

and I sat out in the sun almost licking the last delicious drops of ice cream out of the containers as it was far too good to leave any. A good look around the garden centre and then it was time to be collected by the coach once more. Alan, Father and senior driver of A and P coaches had driven us the scenic way to the Castle and we went a slightly different but beautiful Scenic way home arriving back at 5:30. A hot but lovely day had been enjoyed by all.

**Janet Burton, Group Leader**



## Science and Technology Group



On June 7 the Science and Tech. Group made a visit to the Black Sluice pumping station in Black Hole Drove, West Pinchbeck that is operated by The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board.

“The Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board is an authority set up to control water levels and reduce the risk of flooding within the Board's area. It

operates 34 pumping stations and maintains 500 miles of watercourses within its area and has a policy of undertaking this work with regard to protecting and enhancing the environmental features in these watercourses.”

We met outside the pumping station on a beautiful summer morning, which, if you remember, were few and far between in early June. The site is well away from any built-up area and so had a good, middle of nowhere, feeling.

We were greeted by Ian Warsap, CEO Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board, who gave a comprehensive insight into the need and workings of the sluice and its place in the network of water control that keeps us from being overwhelmed by floodwater. As the natural water level was quite low as May 2022, I believe it was the driest on record and so the pumps did not start automatically so they were started manually to demonstrate how the pumping station could lift the water from its natural level that at the time was below sea level to move onward into the river system and out to sea.

It was very interesting to be able to visit such a site which is performing an essential service but is working away in the background and taken for granted. It was interesting that, when asked the question, who knew of the existence of this sluice, only two or three hands went up from a group of 28 people. A good learning morning.



Bourne U3a Science & Tech Group  
at Black Sluice, West Pinchbeck

## Friday Striders Group

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 15 striders met close to the Red Lion pub in the village of West Deeping.

Leaving the village, meandering toward the Stamford Road before crossing the road and turning towards Market Deeping. Along the way the Greatford Cut was passed, built in 1954 to divert flood waters from the West Glen River into the River Welland at Market Deeping. Passing through a couple of housing estates the walk joined the footpath alongside the river at Market Deeping Bridge.



The walk then followed the river passing Maxey Mill, built in 1779, in the past it had milled both flour and animal feed, before the group returned to the starting point in West Deeping. The weather was sunny and warm with temperatures rising as time went by, nevertheless everyone enjoyed the walk of just over 5 miles before some headed to The Horseshoe at Thurlby for a well-earned bite of lunch.

Janet Cartwright, Group Leader [bourneu3astriders@gmail.com](mailto:bourneu3astriders@gmail.com)

## Litter Picking Group



A picture of our Jubilee weekend efforts

## Bourne Abbey and the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

### The Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance is overgrown with weeds, and we have been approached by one of the church members to see if anyone is interested in helping to tidy the garden and make it a good place to visit again.

I understand that some people from the church do try and keep it under control, but they could really do with some help.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me and I will either find out more details for you or put you in contact with the team.

Thank you

Pat Howes 01778 425786    [groupsbourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:groupsbourneu3a@gmail.com)

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2022 – 2023			
TITLE AND/OR JOB	NAME	PHONE	E MAIL
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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

**The copy date for the next issue will be delayed until  
9am on Saturday, 10 September 2022**

**as I will not have time during August to produce a newsletter**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to [editor@bourneu3a.org.uk](mailto: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.*



GROUPS WITH VACANCIES JULY 2022			
Group	Leader	Meets	Venue
Antiques & Collectables	Steve Froy 01778 393017	2nd Monday afternoon every month	Wake House
Art History 2	Betty Davies 01778 571631	1st Wednesday morning every month	At Members Homes
Aviation History	John Owen 01778 420378	4th Thursday afternoon every month	Wake House
Basic Cookery (for men)	Alan Palmer 07704 830078	Date to suit members	At Members Homes
Birdwatching / Natural History	Vaughan Roberts 01778 426255	1st Friday of the month	As Notified By Group Leader
Caravan and Motor Home Users Coffee and Chat	Contact Group Coordinator Pat Howes 01778 425786		<a href="#">New Group</a>
Church Visiting	Jackie Searl 01778 422518	4th Thursday morning Monthly resume Spring 2022	As Notified By Group Leader
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Gerry McLean 01775 750544	The first Friday of every month	As Notified By Group Leader
Computer Tutoring	Martin Adkins 07852 532276	As required	
Creative Writing 2	John Boss 01778 424153	3rd Wednesday of every month	At Members Homes
Classical Music	Contact Group Coordinator Pat Howes 01778 425786	Date and venue to be decided	<a href="#">New Group</a>
Desk Clerks	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings	
Drama Workshop	Malcolm Ranson 01778 423834	2nd Wednesday every month	St Firmins Church Hall,Thurlby
Friday Striders	Janet Cartwright 01778 344831 Gill Fox	Friday mornings twice a month	
Gardening	Janet Blacoe 01778 393226	1st Tuesday afternoon every month	St Firmins Church Hall,Thurlby
Green Bowls	David Ashby 01778 424137 Mike Alexander 01778 571516 Steve Froy 01778 393017	Currently Tuesdays and Thursdays Indoors Spalding	As Notified By Group Leader
Handicrafts Group 2	Contact Group Coordinator Pat Howes 01778 425786	Date and venue to be decided	<a href="#">New Group</a>
Jazz	May Slater 01778 425525	Thursday evening every 4 weeks	Check with Group Leader
Litter Picking Group	Vaughan Roberts 01778 426255 Pat Howes 01778 425786	3rd Friday morning	As Notified By Group Leader
Meeters & Greeters	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings	
Railway	Tony Burke 01778 426617 Paul Gosden 01778 420292	First Wednesday of each month at 14.00Hrs	As Notified By Group Leader
Reading 4	Chris Ankerson 01778 422391	Last Tuesday morning every month	At Members Homes
Reading Morton	David Mainwaring 01778 571213	1st Friday morning every month	At Members Homes
Science and Technology	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483 Eric Cooper 01778 394656	1st Tuesday morning every month	St Firmins Church Hall,Thurlby
Singing for Pleasure	Marjorie Wright 01778 422252 Jill Gornall 01778 423677	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons every month	Methodist Church Hall
Theatre Group	Janet Burton 01778 426462	2nd Monday afternnon each month	Wake House
Table Tennis	David Moisey 01778 421864	Every Tuesday and Friday Afternoon	Harveys Gym
Ten pin Bowling	Dave Rippon 01778 422101	Every Wednesday Morning	As Notified By Group Leader
Wayfarers Walking Group	Bill Reid 01778 570234	2nd and 4th Tuesday Mornings at 10.30 every Month	As Notified By Group Leader
Wine Appreciation 2	Gerry Blacoe 01778 393226	4th Friday evening every month except December	At Members Homes