

NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 16 October 2023

BOURNE u3a

Learn, Laugh, Live

WEBSITE: <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1100094

The Chair's Chat

Hello there

October already and as I write this the sun is still shining. If only the temperature remained like this I would be a very happy person.

Once again I have been hearing great reports about the ATO group and their recent trip to Bressingham. Lovely gardens, interesting steam exhibits and the best thing of all for some people was the chance to ride the merry go round. How many of us walk past a playground and just long to pop in for a swing or a go on the slide. I know I do and I also know that it would not be a pretty sight.

Looking at the September Newsletter we really do have some great Group leaders who make life very interesting for their members. What would we do without them.

Talking about groups if you fancy a good laugh and would like to try acting but not in front of an audience or on a stage why not try your hand at Play Reading. You will find the details under the Groups with Vacancies in this Newsletter.

On the 26th September the Bourne u3a had a stall in the Corn Exchange at the Health and Wellbeing Event. It felt good to be back in the public eye again as we have not taken part in anything since before the Covid outbreak.

Thanks to a great team of u3a volunteers our day was very successful. Lots of people stopping to chat and take information away and I am sure we will have some good results from it.

It was, as always, surprising to realise how many people have absolutely no idea of who we are.

Hopefully this will be the start of more publicity events so a big thank you to the team.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the next monthly meeting and as always just contact me if I can help in any way with any u3a matter.

Best wishes
Pat



Speakers for 2023

Date	Subject	Speaker
16 October	So Far So Good	Malcolm Wells MBE
20 November	The Battle of Towton	David Skillen
18 December	The Ukulele Orchestra of Spalding	

Desk Clerks, Meet and Greeters

Desk Clerks	16 October	Jennie Coley	Pam Smith	Jeanette Marshall
Meet & Greet	16 October	Philip Pavier	Colin Peters	Susan Hadfield

New Group Coordinator

Richard Linning has kindly taken on the role of Group Coordinator. Richards's details can be found under the committee list in this newsletter. I know you will give Richard the same support that you have given to me over the last few years and on behalf of everyone I say thank you Richard and hope that you get as much enjoyment from this role as I have done.
Pat

Annual Parade and Service of Remembrance 12th November 2023

Bourne u3a will be taking part in the above parade and service and will be placing a wreath at the Bourne War Memorial.

If you would like to take part in the parade would you call me please on 01778 425786 or email at james_howes@sky.com for further details.

Thank you
Pat

8 new members have been welcomed since the last new members meeting on the 23 August

Jean Parsons – Membership Secretary

Anytime Out – Coach Trips

We run coach trips to places of interest within about 3 hours of Bourne. Contact Stewart Goldsmith on BU3A_ATO@Yahoo.com or 07944203092. Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens.

After a day of torrential rain on the eve of our trip, we were blessed with a dry, sunny day for our monthly excursion.

Almost a full coach (but there was room for more) we set off from Bourne bus station @ 08:40, settled down for the 2hr ride & were soon on the A1 tootling merrily along to Bressingham in the experienced hands of our driver, Alan of A&P Travel.

On arrival we were all given maps and entry tickets, which gave us unlimited rides on the 3 narrow gauge passenger railways, with 3 miles of steam railway around the gardens & woodland.



The tickets also allowed us 3 rides each on the magnificent Victorian Gallopers, built by Savages of Kings Lynn in 1897. Who could resist the nostalgic call of the ride, especially whilst watching on from the outside seating of Carriages Cafe, all waving furiously to our friends?



The Steam Museum has been featured on "Inside The Steam Train Museum" and the Steam Engine Collection does not disappoint enthusiasts, displaying a wide variety of engines.

The gardens are breathtaking, as you would expect from the worldwide renowned Bloom's reputation. Across almost 20 acres

are four linked gardens with 8,000 species of plants, we were absolutely smitten and could easily have lost ourselves in their beauty & tranquillity.

But we still had the Dad's Army exhibition to visit, where we strolled through Walmington-on-Sea, saw the original props & vehicles, Jones' butchers & Frazer's Funeral Parlour but not, sadly, Captain Mainwaring ("stupid boy!").

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Anytime Out – Coach Trips

Then on to the Garden Centre with it's restaurant, indoor & outdoor plants, greetings cards, gifts and, wait for it, Christmas paraphernalia! Jingle all the way!



Finally a browse around the shop for any mementos before boarding the coach again for our homeward journey, relaxing & chatting about another fantastic day out with u3a ATO & A&P Travel.

A resounding success was the collective verdict.

Next Trips

On 19th October, we are going to Crich Tram Museum and Village. You will be able to ride on a wide range of trams from

places all around the country but also the obvious places like Blackpool.

The village has a range of rescued buildings associated with the trams or just interesting period pieces.

If you would like to join us, please contact Stewart Goldsmith, please do not just turn up. The cost will be £38.

For November we are planning a Christmas Shopping trip to Rushden Lakes near Wellingborough. The cost will be no more than £20. Bring a £15 deposit to Wake House or contact Stewart.

We will soon be announcing our plans for the ATO Christmas Meal.



Our Speaker for November is David Skillen—"The Battle of Towton"

Ask people to name famous battles in Britain and you get Hastings, Bosworth and occasionally Waterloo! Yet few have heard of Towton, one of the most decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses and, possibly, the bloodiest battle on British soil.

On a bitterly cold day in March 1461 the Houses of York and Lancaster struggled for the Crown on a snow covered plateau in Yorkshire. Here fought Kings, Dukes, Lords and ordinary men. And here they died.

In this talk you will learn about the two kings who fought, walk the Bloody Meadow and cross the Bridge of Bodies and see how one Yorkist Lord had "a cunning plan".

David describes himself as a "consumer of history" and is an engaging, animated and entertaining professional speaker on a variety of historical subjects. David worked for 35 years in the Civil Service speaking to audiences from 5 to 500 people. Since retiring in 2012 he has travelled extensively across the UK giving fully illustrated talks to numerous groups including, Local History Societies, Probus, WI, National Trust, Car and Aviation Clubs and u3a.



Drawing and Art Group

The Drawing and Art Group, as always had an August break from weekly meetings in the Abbey Church Hall but some of us continued to meet in the Memorial Gardens on a Tuesday morning to do some outdoor drawing and sketching. Saying this there is no shortage of submissions for this months monthly Brushstrokes entries in this u3a magazine expertly compiled and submitted by Wendy Hodson. We welcomed some new members over the last few weeks and they have immediately settled in to our group. Unfortunately we are now at our maximum membership numbers but as always we invite u3a members to drop in to one of our meeting for a coffee and chat and look at what we do on a Tuesday morning at 1000 to 1200 at the Abbey Church Hall. Our current group theme is Harvest and Autumn so golden oranges and browns are being used in various types of mediums.

Peter Gillatt

Drawing and Art Group Leader

Bourne Brushstrokes - October Gallery

Peters "Harvest Table"



Peters "Autumn Gold"



Lesleys "Autumn Riverside"



The colours of Autumn and Harvest

Wendys "Autumn Lake Reflection"



Janets "Harvest Basket"



Creative Writing 1

A Sonnet for Time

The endless wait for Christmas as a child;
Impatient pacing in the hall to hear
The letter box disgorge a billet doux,
Or envelope with news of pass or fail;
The absence of a loved one overseas;
The months of longing till a child was born;
The everlasting years of daily toil.
As time unravelled slowly like a snail.
But now the Third Age brings a quicker pace.
The lives of family and friends flash by,
Like faces in the windows of a train;
While weeks are morphing seamlessly to months,
Time hurtles headlong like a waterfall;
Years plunging past will never come again.

Janet Dowse

IF ONLY I'D HAD

Is it possible that our maker, got it slightly wrong?
After all he gave us Strictly, chips and sweet birdsong.
But I have felt unfinished since I left my teens.
I wasn't quite complete, something missing from my genes.
It wasn't missed on purpose he doesn't work that way.
Nor was it an essential that you need to use each day.

I do have all my senses, hearing, smell and sight.
Why have I this feeling that all is not quite right?
The arms and legs all function, unless I try to dance.
The hips are getting creaky, the limbo - I won't chance.
The Mastermind black chair won't be my chance to shine.
The Brain and Mind are working, though not at the same time.

So, what is it I'm missing? What do I think I lack?
What is this extra feature to keep my life on track?
Wisely I'd have used it, my words I'd quickly weigh.
I'd stun folk into silence - they'd withdraw in disarray.
What is the gift I crave? It would have had no cost.
To let me always have the perfect witty, sharp riposte.

Tony Gray

Science and Tech Group Meeting September 2023

The Subject of the September meeting was:-

A visit to the Bourne Community Fire Station.

For the September meeting we had been invited to the local Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue facility, Bourne Community Fire Station.

Tuesday September 5 was in the middle of the late summer heatwave and so a good day for a visit that included some time outside. We were first invited to a presentation by Watch Manager Alex who gave us a comprehensive run down of the operation of the station and of the other 38 fire stations that constitute the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service. He explained that the rescue aspect is more prominent than actual



firefighting with road traffic accidents providing the most requirement and the most time and effort but the Bourne station has water rescue capability and the ability to pump flood water when necessary.

He explained that the fire service also help with animal rescue although they will only go to the classic cat trapped in the tree if requested by the RSPCA. He also touched on further developments that are being tried such as drone technology, currently in conjunction with the police service.

Bourne Fire Station operates with a minimum crew of 11 firemen and is a 24/7 service, most of the crew have primary jobs and so are called to the station as required when a call out is required, the fire engine operates with a maximum crew of 6.

The presentation prompted a long discussion on various aspects of the fire service with many questions that were all answered by Alex and his two crew members who he had brought in to share their experiences. They also provided some very acceptable coffee, tea and biscuits.

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Science and Tech Group Meeting September 2023—continued

The second part of the visit was out in the sunshine to see the fire engine and all its ancillary equipment. A modern fire engine carries a considerable amount of firefighting and rescue equipment and the service has a comprehensive capability, in addition to the fire hose capability that includes lightweight equipment as well as the standard hose that can be fed from a fire hydrant or open water, there is equipment that can penetrate buildings to assist firefighting.



The rescue equipment for road traffic accidents is also comprehensive with the capability to cut open crashed vehicles and reform panels to assist the removal of injured victim. The fire engine also carries portable equipment that can be used when access of the fire engine itself is not able to access the rescue site. We were shown all the equipment carried including emergency food rations.

This was a particularly instructive visit to give us an insight into how the service operates and was

made all the more interesting to be given by people who are very obviously enthusiastic about what they do and the equipment they handle.

The next meeting will be a visit to the British Model Flying Association at Buckminster on Tuesday November 7

Report by Michael Thorpe

Our Speaker for October is Malcolm Wells MBE "So Far So Good".

Light hearted stories of my time at Canine Partners as their National Speaker including working with Sir Terry Wogan and how to teach a dog to use a washing machine !

My experience of 24 years in the Army as a musician playing cello on state occasions and banquets at Kensington and Buckingham Palace – amusing stories including the occasion when we played the wrong National Anthem !

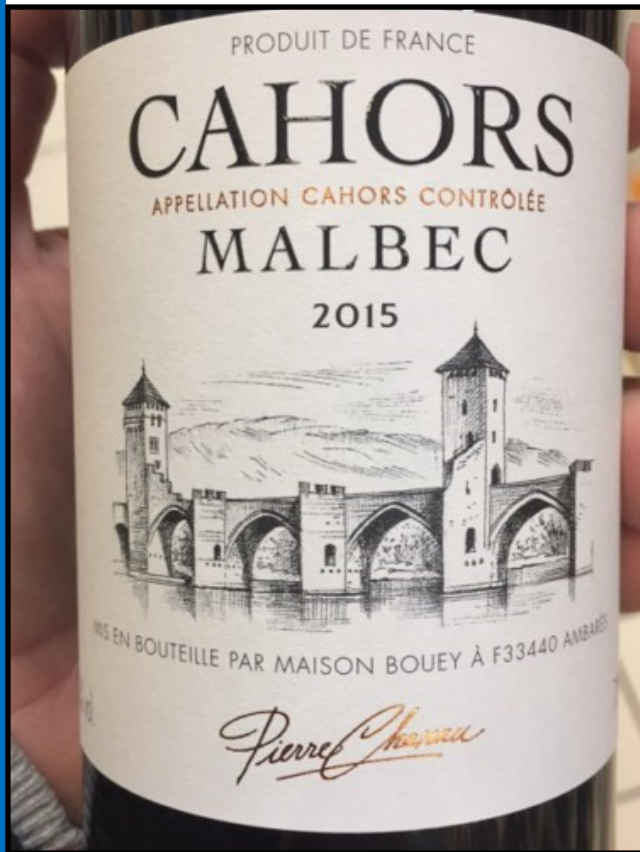
As a medical assistant in the first Gulf war – nothing gruesome – again light hearted stories of things that could have gone better.

I finish with the "behind the scenes" experience of receiving the MBE at Buckingham Palace including when I was mistaken as a member of the Royal Household.



The presentation is kept fast moving, informative and entertaining.

Wine Appreciation Group 2



At our September meeting, 8 of us met up on a lovely warm evening. It was hosted in garden room with fans to keep us cool. We were continuing our theme of old world versus new world.

Our first wine was a rich red colour with some legs. Only 1 or 2 people sensed a fruit aroma, suggestions were apples and black fruits. As to flavour dry, some black fruits eg. blackberries.

The second wine was also a rich red colour but with more body. It had a fruity, plummy taste and someone thought a hint of pepper.

The second wine was the majority's preference, but all agreed that food was required to fully appreciate them. We all had a guess at which grape variety and finally Malbec was suggested.

The first wine was Cahors, an area to the south east of Bordeaux. The area where Malbec is grown. The wine we sampled fitted the description and the suggested food pairings included duck. It was 13%.

The second wine also Malbec, Yellowtail from South Africa. It fitted the description of ripe berries, a hint of spice and also dark chocolate. It was 13.5%. The wines were purchased from Morrisons, both a reasonable price.

We enjoyed some lovely cold meats, cheese, crusty bread, cheese and salad. The group exchanged holiday plans and experiences and had a good catch up.

Our evening finished with teas and coffees. A very enjoyable evening.

Pam Smith



Friday Striders

Seven members of Friday Striders took advantage of the pleasant warm weather and met on the 8th September at Billingborough Playing Field.

Heading South through the village before taking the footpath over fields to Sempringham Church to view the Memorial Stone for Gwenllïan of Wales, daughter of the last Prince of Wales, captured in 1283 as a baby by King Edward I and sent to the Sempringham Priory as prisoner and paying guest - ending her days 54 years later.

Sempringham Priory (now demolished) was founded by Saint Gilbert the only English Saint in 1131.

The walk continued South over fields to Pointon Village turning West on highway to join the Roman Road from Threkingham. Turning North East onto path over fields towards Sempringham passing the ancient Fish Ponds of Sempringham Priory. Turning North to join the highway to Birthorpe Manor, passing Grange Farm then following field path back to Billingborough a total of 6.5 miles.

Group Leader Janet Cartwright



GROUPS WITH VACANCIES 01 October 2023

Group	Leader	Meets	Venue
Abbey Church Garden Group	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483	Last Tuesday afternoon of each month or as notified	Outside Church in Church Walk
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 07947 741842	4th Thursday afternoon every month	Wake House
Birdwatching / Natural History	Vaughan Roberts 01778 426255	1st Friday of the month	As Notified By Group Leader
Church Visiting	Sue Hadfield 01778 426417	4th Thursday morning Monthly	As Notified By Group Leader
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Gerry McLean 01775 750544	The first Friday of every month	As Notified By Group Leader
Creative Writing 2	John Boss 01778 424153	3rd Wednesday of every month	At Members Homes
Desk Clerks	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings	
Drama Workshop	Malcolm Ranson 01778 423834	2nd Wednesday every month	Methodist Church Hall Thurlby
Friday Striders	Janet Cartwright 01778 344831	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 Steve Froy 01778 393017	Currently Tuesdays and Thursdays Outdoors BTBC	As Notified By Group Leader
Handicrafts	Carol Robbins 01778 217028	Tuesday p.m 14.00 - 16.00	Butterfield Centre
Jazz	May Slater 01778 425525	On hold until the New Year but please contact leader if you are interested	Check with Group Leader
Litter Picking Group	Vaughan Roberts 01778 426255 Pat Howes 01778 425786	3rd Friday morning	As Notified By Group Leader
Local History	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483	1st Monday of every month at 1400	Wake House
Meeters & Greeters	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings	
Play Reading	Marylyn Black	1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings each month	Members homes
Railway	Mike Morgan 07638 622288 Paul Gosden 07946 397192	First Wednesday of each month at 14.00Hrs	St.Firmins Church Hall Thurlby
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

GROUPS WITH VACANCIES 01 October 2023 continued

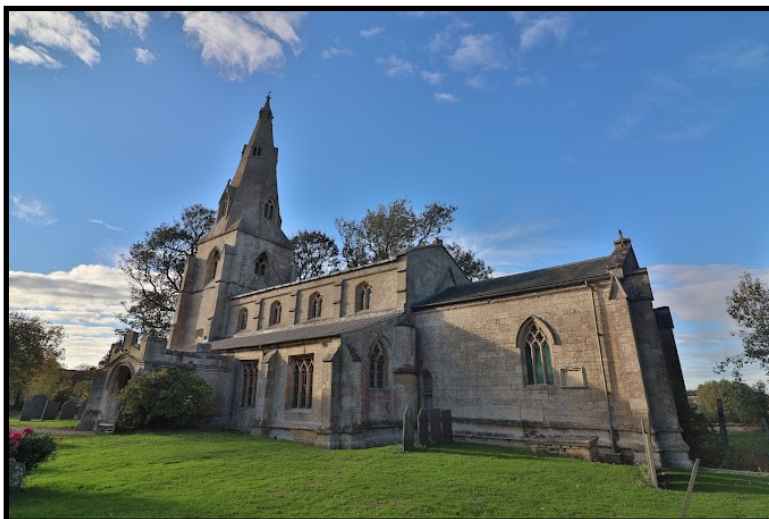
Snooker 3	George Brown contact gw.b@btinternet.com	Every Thursday 13.30 - 16.00	Snooker Harveys Gym
Theatre Group	Janet Burton 01778 426462	2nd Monday afternnon each month	Wake House
Table Tennis	David Moisey 01778 421864	Every Tuesday and Friday Afternoon	Harveys Gym
Ten pin Bowling	Dave Rippon 01778 422101	Every Wednesday Morning	Hollywood Bowl Peterborough
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

Church Visiting Group

25 members of the Church Visiting Group found their way to the Church of St. Andrews at Pickworth, north west of Folkingham on 28th September. We were met by Peter Thomas who made us all welcome and told us about the history of the Church and the village.

Pickworth was a minor Manor with no particularly wealthy residents so the church was saved from the updating and modernisation often undertaken during the Victorian era. The Domesday book refers to "half a Church" at Pickworth. Apart from the tower which is much older what we see today is a Church built in about 1358 by the Pickworth family built almost entirely in the Decorated style of English Gothic architecture of the 13th/14th century.

A broached spire was added to the tower at some stage but they have no record of when or who paid for this work. What visitors to the church find when entering through the 600 year old south door is an unrestored interior of old pews and a plain font which has been in use for over 700 years. There is a rare double-deck pulpit and the rood screen which is over 600 years old. Much of this was restored in 1966. Wall paintings from the 14c are still in evidence, they had been lime-washed and hidden in 1547 but were re-discovered after the 2nd WW



when a bomb exploded in a field near the church, shaking off some paint and plaster.

Like a lot of rural churches the lead was stripped from the roof in early 2020, a temporary covering was provided and later a new turned steel roof at great cost was fitted. £14,000 has been spent conserving the wall paintings considered by many to be the finest in Europe.

Pickworth is a village with a population of only 180 people and 5 enthusiasts look after this lovely building. Only 5 services are held a year. A well worth visit.

Susan. Group Leader (01778 426417)

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2023—2024

Title and/or Role	Name	Email
Chair	Pat Howes	chairwoman@bourneu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Kevin Grewcock	vicechair@bourneu3a.org.uk
Secretary	John Boss	secretary@bourneu3a.org.uk
Treasurer & Equipment Loan	Mike Alexander	treasurer@bourneu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Jean Parsons	membership@bourneu3a.org.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Richard Linning	groups@bourneu3a.org.uk
Speaker Finder	Gill Stoneman	speaker@bourneu3a.org.uk
Publicity Officer	VACANT	
Raffle Organiser	Val Shuell	raffle@bourneu3a.org.uk
Rotas	Bill Reid	rotas@bourneu3a.org.uk
Webmaster and Meeting Display	Martin Adkins	webmaster@bourneu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Martin Adkins	newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk
Committee Member	Yas Fairbairn	committee1@bourneu3a.org.uk
Committee Member	Jacqui Linning	committee4@bourneu3a.org.uk
NON--COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
Data Manager including Beacon Administrator	Phil Pavier	data@bourneu3a.org.uk

I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.
The copy date for the next issue will be 9am on the first Monday in November
Please e-mail your copy and pictures to: newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk
or post to: Martin Adkins c/o Wake House, 41 North Street, Bourne, PE10 9AE

**Please Note—All copy to be emailed using Microsoft Word or similar.
All photographs to be emailed separately as JPEG's.
PLEASE Do NOT embed photographs in your word document.**

Quote of the Month

"Never underestimate the power you have to take your life in a new direction."