

# BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

## *Chairman's Chat*

As we prepare for the best possible Christmas in the circumstances, I have been reflecting on this strange year. For some, the pandemic has been the biggest challenge ever faced while others have found comfort in the garden and a new routine. The end of our social lives has made it a quiet year, and yet many of us have been very busy catching up with those domestic jobs we put off in more normal times. For some of us, the U3A has taken a lot of time and provided a welcome distraction.

Since March, the Committee have provided information on local delivery options and community support in addition to transforming the Newsletter into the bi-weekly Viral Times and revamping the website. We have offered advice and financial support to groups trying to navigate the Government regulations in addition to buying a Zoom Pro licence and encouraging groups to use it. Advice and training has been offered to members new to internet meetings and we have established monthly General meetings online with some interesting speakers. The Committee and many Group Leaders have worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep Bourne U3A functioning and ready to return to normal operation as soon as possible. All that work will continue into the New Year as we wait for the restrictions on our lives to be safely lifted.

But for me, all that activity misses the really important point of our organisation. Bourne U3A is a vibrant and caring community that has continued to offer interesting talks and activities in the most difficult circumstances. It has offered friendship and support and kept all of us in touch with the wider community. Tony Burke's article elsewhere in the Newsletter is just one example of how groups and individual members have pulled together to support each other. Tony Gray's article is another example of how the U3A can support groups and help people return to normal when we are allowed.

We are developing some exciting ideas for what we can do if restrictions continue well into 2021 and are getting prepared for a return to normality later in the year when the vaccine and Test, Trace and Isolate allow. We continue to offer interesting talks and opportunities and will make the return to physical meetings as smooth as possible. Interest, community, and friendship must be a bargain at the reduced renewal fee of £10.00 for 2021.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the private video of Hexachordia's Christmas offering, In Frost and Snow – you won't see it on YouTube or anywhere else. All members of the Committee wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas. Let's hope 2021 allows us to return to normal.

**Malcolm**

## *Committee Page*

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to Christmas. I would just like to remind you that January is U3A Membership renewal time.

Due to the restrictions the Covid Virus has put on us all, we as the committee have looked at our finances and decided we can afford to reduce the annual full membership fee to £10 for the year going forward. Associate membership is reduced to £5.00.

There is a membership renewal form attached to the back of this newsletter one can also be downloaded from the Bourne U3A Website – <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>

If you do not have access to a printer you can pick one up from Sam's Convenience store on Abbey Road, Bourne. They are open from early morning to late evening every day.

Once completed the form can be posted or dropped off at my address, which can be found on the form.

Not forgetting the payment of course and could you please tick the box for Gift Aid if you currently pay income tax. Renewals are due by the 31st January 2020.

Many Thanks John Owen Bourne U3A Membership Secretary.

## *Virtual Monthly Meeting*

### **Masters of Mirth – The Sequel**

Our next Zoom General Meeting will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm when Mike Storr will entertain us with tales of the early days of the Music Halls and some of his favourite characters. This will be a light-hearted entertainment and a good start to Christmas. Lots of you have signed up already but there are still some places left. If you would like the Zoom invitation please email Malcolm Scriven [chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com)

## *U3A National Newsletter*

Each month U3A publishes a National Newsletter which is sent completely free to subscribers. You will need to sign up for it at: <https://u3a.org.uk/> and scroll to the bottom of the page. You can unsubscribe at any time.

A “bitesize” version can be found on our website each month at: <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk/latest-news> click the link on the page.

You can find some interesting online learning events at: <https://u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> many are delivered free via “Zoom”. You love it or you hate it!

Here's a little something I found to pass some time away in our lockdown state.

### **Cheltenham U3A Puzzles**

A member at Cheltenham U3A has been creating virtual jigsaws with a general theme of Cheltenham or Cheltenham U3A, with pictures of the landscape or of members. You can have a go at the puzzles [here](#). Give it a try.

### **A plea from the heart!**

How many of you have had to cancel a holiday this year? Quite a few I suspect. But have you happy memories of a previous holiday, either in the UK or abroad?

Why not write about it so that I can add it to our website. A couple of A4 pages plus some photos is all I need. No computer, not a problem, write it out in longhand and let me know and I can arrange to collect it.

Or how about some childhood memories of your place of birth. Many of our members are not from this area so tell us about where you went to school and grew up or about your working life. Some of it must be interesting!

Were you involved in an industry that's no longer around or did you have an unusual job? We're all raring to read about it!!

Our website is at: <https://bourneu3a.org.uk> or you can email me at: [websitebourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:websitebourneu3a@gmail.com)

Martin Adkins - Webmaster

## ***FINANCIAL HELP TO KEEP IN TOUCH***

At the time of writing this we do not know when we will be able to resume our normal level of activities. In addition, we are waiting to learn the tier level that we will be given after December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

However, as we go into winter our U3A has an important role to play in keeping people in touch and talking with each other. The Committee want to help this to happen and have earmarked an amount of money to assist Groups to get together and see other members however they choose to when we know which rules will apply.

The financial help on offer to groups is in two areas: -

- To ensure that they have enough space to meet in safety following the social distancing requirements.
- To assist groups who may wish to hire a speaker and use the Zoom system for their meetings.

There are several small groups who would normally meet in member's houses but who have not been able to do so because of space restrictions. If any of these groups would like to hire a room to comply with the '2 metre rule' the cost of the room hire for the first meeting will be paid for by the committee. This will allow the group time to collect the appropriate funds from the group members for subsequent meetings. It may be that the group meets less frequently than usual but that is a decision to be taken by the membership of each group.

Other groups may be inviting speakers on Zoom to keep their meetings running. If the speaker requires payment, the committee will pay an amount towards the cost of the speaker for the first

meeting. In this way the committee hopes that it will also allow a group that need speakers time to raise its own funds for subsequent meetings. Don't forget that Bourne U3A have taken out a better version of zoom which removes the forty-minute time limitation.

In both instances above, given the strange situations that we find ourselves in please give as much help as possible to our Group Leaders, who are doing a splendid job in keeping groups together. If for example you are conversant and comfortable with computers then please offer to help your group, or other group members who may not be so familiar with IT. It will be appreciated by all. Remember, things are not always perfect the first time and if it isn't - it doesn't matter anyway. It's often the best way to learn!

If as a group you are trying to keep going in any other circumstances that we can help with financially, please contact me, my 'phone number is in this Newsletter and on our spanking, new Bourne Website – please check it out.

The intention and spirit of this assistance is to ensure any groups that need help to adjust to the current situation can do so and that our U3A continues to perform its valuable role in keeping Bourne members in touch and active. Let's Live, Learn and Laugh **TOGETHER** as soon as we are allowed to.

**Tony Gray - Treasurer**

### *Photography Challenge*





The challenge was to take photos on the subject of “Autumn”. Selected as the best were those above from Sandy Love, Vaughan Roberts & Diane Hinchliffe. Other photos were sent in by Richard Linning, Colin Avery, Alan Palmer, Alan Douglas and Marianne Robinson

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

**The next challenge is " Post Box Red " (entries by 30-01-21)**

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

## *Group News*

### **The Railway Group.**

We Plan to “ZOOM” through the winter!!

We are just finalizing arrangements for having talks on railway matters on Zoom over the next few months. One speaker definitely “tied-up” is from the Mid-Norfolk Railway on 17<sup>th</sup> November. (By the time you read this, the event will be over). He sounds a super catch as he gives talks most weeks and is his own “host” with extended time slots and expertise in showing images and Power-Point presentations. (It is worth noting that U3A has this extended time slot, but currently under the control of one U3A member, only – the free slots only last 40 minutes).

With our usual meetings taboo at the moment, as are our usual monthly trips and visits, we are having to scabble around to keep our group together and motivated. To this end, two of our members have hosted small groups at their model railway layouts. These have been enjoyed and we are looking at more such ventures. We also have 3 more speakers in the wings – but their arrangements have not yet been finalized. One speaker is from the preserved Great Central Railway, another from the preserved railway on the south coast and one talking about London Transport.

If you would like to take part, or just watch, any of these Zoom events, just let me know as I have to submit your e-mail address to the host (such that he can send you a formal invitation to the event which gives you your personal link into the event).

If you are not familiar with Zoom, and would like to try it, I would be happy to assist by setting-up a trial Zoom meeting with you.

Another slither of humour which greatly amused me and which is worth passing-on. “A chap walks into a supermarket and seeks-out a staff member. He asks her in which isle would he find the Irish sausages. She asks him if he is Irish. What has that got to do with anything, he asks? If I asked for bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German? Or if I asked for Spanish sausages, would you ask me if I was Spanish? So, why ask me if I am Irish? Because you are in Halfords, Sir!!

### **A Member's Special Day.**

With us not meeting for some nine months, we had forgotten that member Joe would be 90 in November. Luckily one of our clan DID remember and put in motion a plan to get him a gift and birthday card. Joe lives on his own out in Pointon and his closest relatives live out in Australia. Joe had booked a flight to Australia such that he could spend his birthday with his kith and kin but Covid19 caused the airline to cancel the flight. To get to 90, not out, and be lonely could not be ignored. So, after much mulling and muttering a most marvelous organization swung into action. A group of volunteers known as “LinkWell” (based in the Pointon Area) bought Joe a card and present and delivered them in time for his birthday.

In addition, a zoom meeting was set-up for the morning of his birthday and six of us were able to wish him “Happy Birthday”, almost in person. It was a very worthwhile exercise and one which Joe much enjoyed. It was all worth the effort.

**Tony Burke -Railway Group.**

## **Creative Writing Group 2.**

Wishing everyone well during the second lockdown

Limerick 1 (on the art of writing limericks)

The construction of limericks is onerous  
And the pitfalls incredibly numerous.  
Every metre and rhyme  
Must be right every time  
And the ending should aim to be humorous.

Limerick 2 (on writing limericks in an inebriated state)

I'm inspired to write lim'ricks divine  
After drinking a bottle of wine  
But that makes me keep  
On falling asleep  
So I never complete the last ...

I once knew a girl with a sickle  
Who got herself in a bit of a pickle  
Whilst cutting the wheat  
Gave the Farmer a treat  
And wasn't averse to a tickle

We used our Bull to pull the plough  
When the tractor broke down then and now  
The Bull didn't do things by half  
As evidenced by a brand new calf  
And a saucy wink from the cow

A clueless young fellow from Crewe  
decided to try making stew.  
His mum said, “The taste  
is like wallpaper paste.  
Did you thicken it with flour or with glue?”

After living ten years-plus in Berkshire  
they thought they might move up to Perthshire.  
They looked every day  
at Right Move, but stayed,  
defeated at length by inertia.

There was a young man of Japan  
whose limericks just didn't scan.  
When asked why this was,  
he replied, "It's because  
I always try and cram as many words into the last line as I possibly can."

There was a young man called Fred  
Who enjoyed poached eggs on fried bread  
When cracking an egg  
A mouse bit his leg  
So he had his eggs scrambled instead

There was a young lady from Bourne.  
Who, alas, was sad and forlorn.  
She always was flirty  
And often talked dirty  
But remained a maiden in Bourne

## Garden Group



While our Garden Group have not been meeting because of Covid 19 we had a look in the NGS book and found that there were still gardens open that we could visit.

So, on a Sunday in August we went to Redhill Lodge, Seaton Road in Barrowden. We had to book a time slot on the NGS Website and pay online. <https://ngs.org.uk/book-a-visit/>

The garden is a large contemporary design with formal lawns, a grass amphitheatre and a grass viewing mound for the adventures. There are also herbaceous borders and a cutting garden.

One of the unusual features of this garden was a natural swimming pond with a large deck and wooden bridge over.

Although the weather was blustery and threatened rain it stayed dry. There were the usual refreshments served, very well done, with all the restrictions in place.

Unfortunately, all the gardens are closed now until next year. But if things continue as they are it may well be a good idea for some of you in the spring.

**June and John Owen**

## **Music for Pleasure**

This group was able to hold two meetings between the lockdowns as we are a very small group anyway and 3 of our members preferred to stay at home to shield themselves. This left just 4 of us to meet in houses as we were able to stick to 'the rule of six'. At both meetings we shortened our normal time by half an hour so that we were able to omit refreshments. The first meeting was at my house and the second at Deirdre's and in both cases we were able to keep to the correct social distance. It was lovely to return to a sort of normality and to be able to enjoy each other's company for 90 minutes.

The founder of our group many years ago was Hubert Foster and, at the beginning of Lockdown, his son had sent me 100 discs put together by Hubert especially for the group. I used one of these for the programme at my house so it involved no preparation on my part and we were able to share memories of Hubert and his wife Sylvia as well as enjoying the music. For our second meeting Deirdre had compiled a delightful programme with the theme 'Love, hearts and roses.' Most of it was orchestral rather than choral and Deirdre delighted in seeing who could guess the name of the piece first as she played it. In my case I can usually recognise the piece but can't remember the name, but it was great fun and very relaxing. We look forward to the days when the Covid restrictions are removed and we can meet again.

**Margaret Shephard**



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

**The copy date for the December issue is  
9am on Saturday, 2 January 2021**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to [editorbourne3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorbourne3a@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.*

### ***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.*