

BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Chairman's Chat

I am writing this between Christmas and the New Year when the first three months of 2021 look very uncertain. Covid-19 seems rampant and Government ministers are warning about a 'bumpy' end to the EU transition. The weather is cold and grey, and at first glance, there is little to be cheerful about. However, I am sure we are all glad to see the back of 2020 and there is a little flickering candle of light at the end of a long and dark tunnel.

Snowdrops are just emerging. Hesitant little green shoots that seem to be testing the air before they do anything more. The crocuses and daffodils will not be far behind, and we can then all heave a sigh of relief that winter and 2020 is behind us. There are many blackbirds in our garden. I think they are taking advantage of the crab apples and berries on the holly tree. They are very active and seem to be pairing off and looking for nest sites. We also have a couple of sparrows and I hope that the warmer weather will allow them to recover from the virus that decimated their numbers last year. We are not unique in suffering from viruses.

Unlike the poor sparrows we enjoy the advantage of modern medical science and our researchers have developed a vaccine in record time. I know that a good number of you will have already had the first shot by the time you read this. As more people get vaccinated the virus will pose a reducing threat to the population and we will gradually be able to return to normal life. That may take time, but as it gets warmer we should be able to physically meet more of our family and friends. I hope that U3A groups will be able to meet as normal by the middle of the year. The measures the Committee have introduced, outlined by Tony Gray in last month's Newsletter, should help groups return as soon as they feel ready. Meanwhile, Zoom continues to offer a lifeline.

I enjoy dipping into Samuel Pepys' Diaries from time to time – just to see what he was up to at this time of year. London spent most of 1665 gripped by bubonic plague. Covid-19 seems tame in comparison and his diaries record some of the horrors of plague ridden London. Although he was preoccupied with the war against the Dutch he found time to write on 31st August "Everyday sadder and sadder news of its increase. In the City died this week 7496; and of them 6102 of the plague." However, by the 31st December 1665 Pepys was a little more optimistic. He wrote "...Yet to our great joy, the town fills apace, and shops begin to open again. Pay God continue the plague's decrease..." Amen to that.

Malcolm

Committee Page

Virtual Monthly Meeting

The Friends of Nyansakia

January's General Meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday 18th January at 2.00pm. The Friends of Nyansakia are a Bourne based charity founded in 2010 with the aim of supporting the village of Nyansakia in Kenya. Their website at [Friends of Nyansakia – Supporting Nyansakia and poor communities in Kenya \(fonkenya.org\)](http://Friends of Nyansakia – Supporting Nyansakia and poor communities in Kenya (fonkenya.org)) gives an idea of their work. This should be a fascinating talk about a very local charity doing vital work in Africa.

Email Malcolm at chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com to be put on the list and receive the Zoom invitation.

BOURNE U3A ZOOM QUIZ

QUESTION WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING AT 19.00 ON SATURDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

ANSWER TAKING PART IN THE BOURNE U3A QUIZ NIGHT.

VENUE YOUR OWN HOME (*SO NO NEED TO VENTURE OUT ON A COLD NIGHT*)

TIME LOGGING ON AT 18.50 ONWARDS FOR A 19.00 START

REFRESHMENTS WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO EAT OR DRINK

PRIZE A SECRET

DRESS CODE FULL EVENING DRESS (*PYJAMAS AND COMFORTABLE SLIPPERS*)

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF FUN AND LET US TICKLE THOSE
BRAIN CELLS**

Email Malcolm at chairmanbourneu3a@gmail.com to be put on the list and receive the Zoom invitation.

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 2nd.

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 “Winters Light”. Selected as the best were those above from Sandy Love, Patricia Benn & Paul Smith. Other photos were sent in by Alan Douglas, Martin Siddle, Diane Hinchliffe, Vaughan Roberts, Sarah Roberts.

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

The next challenge is " The view as seen by a small animal" " (entries by 06-03-21)

Entries to :- vasmroberts@gmail.com















Group News

The Drawing & Art Group.

As we start a brand-new year the painting below illustrates how I hope most of us will feel. **There is light at the end of the tunnel.**



At Christmas it is customary for our Drawing and Art Group to create a Christmas Card each, historically these have all gone into a hat at the last meeting of the year then drawn out by each of the participating members. The result is that each member gets a personally created card from another member. This of course could not happen this Christmas, but we came up with a work around insofar as each member still produced a card, they were either delivered to me or I collected them. I then put all the cards into a hat at home and my wife Sue drew them out. The cards were then delivered by three of our members to our members houses ensuring every participating member still received their card. There were some really good cards as always and I have copied them below in the hope that you can copy some into the next newsletter. The optional theme for this years cards was ‘groups of three’.

			
Angela's Magical Christmas.	Brenda Christmas Hellebores.	Chris's We Three Kings	Karen's Christmas Reindeer
			
Margaret's Fork Handles, sorry three candles.	Pete's three people in a stable.	Wendy's three Christmas baubles.	
			
Eric's Christmas robin.	Gavin's Antarctic Scene	Lesley's Joy and Peace	Jill's 3 Christmas birds
			
Janet's three chorister's.	Rosie's winter scene.	Ingrid's Christmas flower.	

In the coming months, our group will continue to share their paintings through the media of our weekly newsletter until we come out of these exceedingly difficult restrictions. As soon as it is deemed safe, we will return to our weekly meetings when we can once again talk to real people, look and real art and of course drink real coffee and eat real biscuit's.

Our Drawing and Painting Group wishes all U3A members a much better and healthier new year.

Regards Painting Pete

New Litter picking group for Bourne U3A

Eagle-eyed readers of the national U3A magazine may have noted that other branches have litter picking groups. Well, why should Bourne not have such a group?- after all we seem to have as much litter on the pathways and road verges as anywhere else, if not more! We propose to form a new group which will meet @09:30 on the 3rd Friday morning of each month, once the restrictions implemented as a result of the Covid pandemic allow us to proceed. We shall be out for an hour or two with the aim of getting some fresh air, collecting up some rubbish as we go along, and of course have a chat as we do so. South Kesteven District Council are highly supportive and we will not be infringing on the regular street cleansing service as we shall be concentrating on the footpaths and verges on the edge of the town. I read that the astronaut Tim Peake picked up some ladies pink knickers on his recent litter pick! Are we going to beat that? (If you know who has lost them then please get in touch with Tim!) If you would like to join the group ready for our first outing, whenever that may be, then please let either Pat Howes (01778 425786 or james_howes@sky.com) or Vaughan Roberts (01778 426255 or vasmroberts@gmail.com) know. Happy Wombling!

Growing up in a New Town in the 1950s and 60s – Jackie Searl

I was born in east London just after end of WWII. We lived in a flat in an area of similar converted properties. In the early 1950s my father decided to look for work in Essex, where he and my mother had grown up, and move to Basildon.

In mid-1952, he and Mum were delighted to be offered a spacious, semi-detached house with large garden. We were amongst the first fifty families to move into the new town. Planners had designed the housing but had totally overlooked the need of the main infrastructure. Virtually no amenities were built initially - there were no schools, churches, few shops, even roads and pavements had not been constructed. I was a little over five years old and, some would say, fortunate to be sent to one of the Victorian style schools in one of the former villages which surrounded the new town. The problem was it had no space for the incoming children, so I spent the next two years having my schooling sitting on an oval rush mat. In the warm, sunny summer days, accomplished readers were allowed to sit in the grounds under a huge oak tree to read without supervision – a time I valued.



As I was approaching junior school age a new school was opened in the town and my parents sent me to it in the hope, I suspect, that I would at least have a desk and chair! Being brand new, it had every modern convenience and large playing fields. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. Aged ten, everyone sat the 11+ exam and I was one of only two at my school to pass. Again, I was lucky as I

was sent to another brand-new school in the town. Some, including Chris, who passed the dreaded exam travelled many miles to grammar schools. I entered into the third year as the school itself had been formed two years previously and met elsewhere whilst the new building was completed. The school was a new phenomenon – a grammar/technical school. We were educated to grammar school standards and ethos, but it catered for every possible interest in addition. Girls were taught to manage a home; those who wanted a secretarial background were catered for; boys learnt woodwork, metalwork and technical drawing. However, woe behold any child who wanted to cross the gender boundary to study something which was not “male” or “female” specific (and we accepted it in general!). Later, the school achieved very high standards and sent many to top universities.

One of the big issues with living in a new town was obtaining food supplies. We had a Co-op shop close, but my mother never shopped there unless forced to. We grew most of own fruit and vegetables obtaining some from my grandmother’s garden eight miles away. I loved picking various fruits, pulling carrots, and finding beans and peas ready to eat. One way we obtained basics was by the use of delivery vans. A very elderly couple drove around at odd intervals selling some basics, but that arrangement did not last long. Later, a former colleague of my father bought a larger van and travelled around to his customers. He generally came on a Tuesday with basics when you could give a larger order for delivery on Fridays. Mum obtained most of her needs from him. In the late summer he had an arrangement with someone locally who grew grapes and would often arrive with huge bunches of sweet, black grapes for sale – a real treat. We always looked forward to December. Early in the month, the man would arrive with his van displaying a multitude of Christmas foods for customers to choose and order. That was an exciting day!

I remember the day vividly that Home and Colonial shop in a neighbouring town announced it was opening a supermarket. My mother could not wait to visit. It was not what we call a supermarket today, but Mum found it a joy to walk around and pick up what she wanted. It did signal the slow decline in food deliveries.

I had much older half-siblings, essentially growing up as an only child so a social life could be difficult. My parents, who were older than most, always seemed a little better off than many of our neighbours who had left post-war London in some poverty and were slowly rebuilding their lives. For instance, I cannot remember a time when my father did not have a car, even it was old and not always reliable.

I was encouraged to attend the local church. This was not a Church of England church – they were miles away but a Strict Baptist Chapel which met in an old bungalow which awaiting demolition. My parents were essentially non-conformists but there no choice of facilities anyway. Eventually, the Baptist church was built close to my junior school. I attended the Girls Life Brigade and the Youth Club which both gave me a social life. When the youth club went out for any events, we all travelled in the back of a church member’s lorry all bundled together in the back with no seats or other protection. There were no thoughts of Health and Safety, but we had great fun and there were never any accidents.

If I wanted to use a library, I had to be taken to one quite a distance away. It was probably five years before the first one was built in the town. Transport was almost non-existent within the town, but buses were available if you needed to go to some of the original surrounding villages or towns. There were two train stations, but you could not reach either without a bus journey.

I was not encouraged to play outside. Potentially, it was dangerous living surrounded by an ever-expanding building site. Later, I often cycled around but there was little provision of outside space to play.

I do remember vividly the practice of people already living in the new town taking in lodgers – men who were working in the new factories – whilst they too waited for their new home. We had a number over a period of time. I recall them as gentlemen who paid my mother and I great respect and sometimes returned to visit with their own families later. Although young, I also remember we housed a family evacuated after the great flood on Canvey Island in January 1953. I recall Mum visiting the island with the lady concerned and being upset and horrified by what she saw.

December 1960 could be considered momentous. That year the youth club went carol singing (something else kids could do without fear of protest or the need for licenses). There were insufficient carol sheets, so Chris and I were forced to share. That was the start of a relationship which went on for nearly six years until we married in 1966 and then continued for nearly another 54 years.

By the time I married and left, the town had expanded dramatically removing most original green spaces and farmland, facilities had improved too – there was a town centre with a lot of shops, train and bus stations close by. A number of churches of various dominations had been built around the town but the Church of England still used the original old buildings. Public houses were also being built but I cannot remember my parents ever entering one.

Although, life in a New Town brought its own difficulties and problems, inherently the residents enjoyed new homes with sanitation and gardens that they may not have experienced if they had remained in the east of London.



Jackie's Father's Car Circa 1955

Nick Searing has the following books available for free, if you are interested please contact him at these phone numbers 01778 422764/07929 979751.

Latin

Teach Yourself Beginner's Latin (PB) 2006

So you really want to learn - Latin Books 1, 2 and 3, plus Answer Books 1 – 3 (PB) 1999

Cambridge Latin Course, Books 1 and 2 (PB) 2002

Wine

Vins de Loire (PB)

Wine Travel Guide to the World (PB) Robert Joseph (Footprint)

Floyd Uncorked (PB) 1998 French Wine by Jonathan Pedley & Keith Floyd

English Literature

A Christmas Carol (PB) Large print (Charles Dickens, if anyone asks!)

The Woman in Black (PB) Susan Hill

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

**The copy date for the February issue is
9am on Saturday, 30 January 2021**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to 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.*