

# BOURNE u3a

## NEWSLETTER

### MAY 2023

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

### *Chairman's Chat*

Hello All

Welcome to my final Chairmans Chat, I hope that those that attended the Main Meeting enjoyed my talk after the booked speaker forgot to come on the day. I really enjoyed giving it and hope it gave you some insight into how our life experiences affect us all and go a long way into making us who we are today, all unique individuals.

In the four years as a committee member, I have made new friends and in the most enjoyed my time. As a u3a with over 550 members I have been more than a little disappointed at the lack of people coming forward to join the committee this year. We have a very successful u3a that is always going to need new people to come forward and volunteer. I thank those that have and ask that you give them your full support along with the committee members who are staying and continuing to work for you all.

Please give Pat Howes your support as the new Chair, I will still be around running my Aviation History Group.

**John**

## *Committee Page*

### *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.

Speakers for 2023		
Date	Subject	Speaker
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Police Work. Title to be arranged	Steve Seabrook
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Maths on the back of an envelope	Rob Eastaway
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Great British Eccentrics	Paul Robbins
18 <sup>th</sup> September	The Plague Dr of Eyam	David Bell
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Farming and Wildlife	Nicholas Watt
20 <sup>th</sup> November	The Battle of Towton	David Skillen
18 <sup>th</sup> December	TBA	

### *Desk Clerks, Meeters and Greeters*

<b>Desk Clerks</b>	19 June	Pam Smith	Marilyn Batchelor	Yas Fairbairn
<b>Meet &amp; greet</b>	19 June	Susan Hadfield	Ingrid Canwell	

#### **New Members**

We were pleased to welcome more new members during March and hope all enjoy their membership, they are Sue Robertson. Steve Robertson, Dinah Pirie and Anne Wakefield  
I look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

**Jean Parsons – Membership Secretary**

### *Group News*

#### **Science and Technology Group**

##### **Visit to David O’Conner’s Mechanical Instrument Collection**

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April some members of the Science and Tech. Group made their way to Hagworthingham near Spilsby to visit a unique collection of mechanical musical instruments created by David O’Conner. This was our first visit away from our normal St. Firmins Church Hall meeting place for some time and what a fascinating and interesting treasure trove we found.

The collection contained many things other than musical instruments including classic cars, memorabilia of the Late Queen and the RAF.

Following tasty sausage rolls, tea/coffee, cakes and biscuits for us all David got down to the business of the day by explaining how he started his collection with a small music box that he purchased at an auction and then explained how the collection blossomed from there. He went on to demonstrate most of the instruments in his “Small Shed” These were musical instruments played by

punched card, disc or pinned cylinder, not played by a person at the keyboard, included pianos, pianolas and orchestrions. An orchestrion is like a pianola but bigger and able to reproduce the sound of many more instruments. All the collection were fantastic pieces of equipment and in excellent working order, except one that was still being refurbished, but perhaps the most impressive was a 1921 Steinway piano that was operated by a punched roll that was able to not only play notes but put expression into the music as well.

And so to the “Large Shed” This was the largest and newest part of David’s collection and being a much larger building this is where his collection of classic cars that included Rolls Royce, Armstrong Siddeley, Riley and Austin cars. This is where the larger orchestrions were housed along with jukeboxes and other instruments. Again, David demonstrated that the musical instruments were all in good working order and with vast libraries of punched card “books” so that many pieces could be played.

David’s reference to his sheds is somewhat misleading, these are substantial buildings, in the case of the “Large Shed”, purpose built, that are light and airy, carpeted and would probably be the envy of many museums but this is a private collection that is not open to the public and we were very privileged to have been able to visit this very comprehensive and well-maintained collection.



“Small Shed”



Part of “Large Shed”

The next presentation will be, “When is a Succulent not a Cactus by Gerry Blacoe”, on Tuesday 6th June from 10:00, usually our presentations last 45 mins. To 1 hour. All U3a members are welcome.

**Report by Michael Thorpe**

## Poetry Group

**(My apologies to the group this should have been in last month’s newsletter.)**

As the snow swirled around Bourne (and elsewhere), the Poetry Group settled down to its monthly meeting, this time looking at poets whose surnames begin with the letter ‘Q’; there are not many. We found a ‘Quarles’, a couple of ‘Quinns’, a ‘Quennel’, a ‘Quasimodo’ (Italian), a ‘Qiu’ (Chinese) and a ‘Quabbani’ (Arabic). All very interesting. Of course, we didn’t read the *forriners* in their own language - we relied on translations. Here’s a translation of a sonnet by a ‘Quintana’ (Mario), a gentle 20th century poet from Brazil. The first line is also the title:

In my street there's a poorly little boy,  
and while the other boys go off to school,  
he sits, wistfully, by the window,  
hearing a shoemaker tapping at a boot-sole.

And he hears, too, a carpenter, opposite,  
who sings a Neapolitan song as he's working.  
And little by little, so he doesn't notice it,  
the poorly boy forgets his suffering...

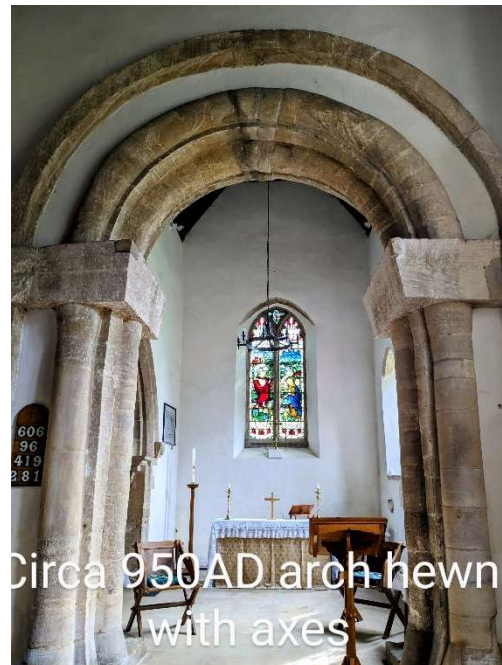
But in my street there is also a quiet man,  
not singing or tapping away in the morning air,  
and the little boy doesn't even know he's there.

He's a poet, working as ardently as he can,  
writing an incantation that might cast a spell  
round the poorly little boy to make him well.

**Group Leader Philip Dunkerley**

### **Church Visiting Group**

19 members of the Church Visiting group visited the Parish Church of All Saints, Wittering, on 27th April last when we were met by the Rev. Gary Alderson who talked to us about the history of Wittering and the Church.



The Church built between AD 950 and AD 981 is a fine example of an early Anglo-Saxon Church, with a very substantial Saxon chancel arch. Gary tells us that according to the Domesday Book of 1086 the parish of Wittering consisted of 44 dwellings and Peterborough had just over 50! Hard to believe that now. Whereas Peterborough grew Wittering remained a small parish with a relatively poor community.



Originally built with no aisles, in the middle of the 12th century a Norman north aisle was added and linked to the nave by a two-bay north arcade. The west tower was built during the late 13th century, and a south porch was added in the 19th century along with pews - but these have now all been removed and what we see today is a very light clean Church with lots of space which is occupied weekly by the Brownies and Cubs.



A lovely stained glass east window was made in 1903 by Kempe and if you search you can find his trademark "wheatsheaf". There are six bells which are rung each week, two were cast by Tobias Norris of Stamford in 1681, one by a founder in Leicester and 3 by Taylors of Loughborough.

There is an RAF Chapel where an Altar cross and candlesticks are to be found made from the steel of a propeller. There are many war graves to be found in the immaculate church yard along with a splendid war memorial.

Refreshments were enjoyed and several members lingered chatting to the Church ladies and Rev. Gary. Our next visit on the 25th May will be to St Peter's Church, Threkingham.

**Group Leader Sue Hadfield**

## **Friday Striders**



Walk on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April started at the Three Kings Inn at Threkingham (an old coaching inn) heading Southwest on road towards Folkingham. Then joined footpath across fields to Stow, Birthorpe, taking at rest at Billingham Playing Field area, taking advantage of the bench seating.

Walking on to Horbling took field footpath – crossing the disused Bourne to Sleaford Railway, following pasture and field boundaries back to Threkingham passing the Whale Bone Arch. Leading to Laundon Hall, home of the Craggs family. Local tradition asserts that an ill-fated 19th century whaling expedition involved a member of the Craggs family, these bones survive as a souvenir.

Walk was 6.5 miles with 15 walkers being joined by one person for lunch at the Three Kings Inn at Threkingham. Walk description by leader Phil Hodson.

**Group Leader Janet Cartwright**

## **Creative Writing Group 2**

## Modern Collective Nouns

No doubt you all have school memories of learning by rote similes and metaphors.

e.g.: a herd of buffalo; a flock of sheep; a gaggle of geese; a murmuration of starlings.

At our last meeting, we came up with the following modern equivalents.

viz: a splash of graffiti artists; a mess of potters; a brace of dentists; a flurry of weather forecasters; a convoy of bus drivers; a harmony of musicians.

Think you can do better? Then send your versions to the Newsletter Editor.

And if you find the muse flowing, what collective nouns will you come up for the following.

OPERA SINGERS: PARAMEDICS: PILOTS: ZOO KEEPERS: CHEFS: TEACHERS.

**Group Leader John Boss**

## Drama Workshop Group

All the world is a stage, and for one afternoon a month the U3A drama workshop players strut their stuff at the Thurlby Church Hall. It is amdram without the drama. No pressure to learn lines; no critical Simon Cowell or anyone of that ilk in judgment; just a group of U3A members rehearsing extracts from stage plays, revues, pantomime or variety shows without the pressure of preparing for a public performance. Tragedy alternates with comedy, an Allan Ackbourne farce extract with a scene from a Tom Stoppard play. And to ensure no one is taking it too seriously, a regular Stanley Holloway monologue; Albert and the Lion is a favourite. In short, something for everyone: a fun social activity. Often that includes a pre meeting pub lunch by the way. Some of our members have had stage experience, most have not: all of us share a love of the spoken word. You too? Well come and join us, 2 pm second Wednesday of the month.

**Group Leader - Malcolm Ranson.**

## Diary Date

The Boune U3A Drawing and Art Group are holding a 'Meet the Artist and Art Exhibition' in the Abbey Church Hall on Saturday 24th June from 1100 to 1500. There will be light refreshments available, and any profit made on the day will go to a local charity.

There will be a themed display of art that has been produced by our group and there will be some group members painting during the exhibition. In addition to seeing the art if anyone is interested in having a go we can facilitate that as well.

Some of you may have seen our monthly Brushstrokes articles in the U3a Newsletter and these paintings will be on display. So please come along, bring friends as support this U3A event.

**Pete Gillatt**

## *Bourne Brushstrokes - May Gallery*



- 1 Bridge**     The Moissac Bridge north west of Toulouse in France
- 2 Artists**     Peter Gillatt and Gavin Jeffery
- 3 Paintings**     Top     - Day in Watercolour by Gavin  
                         Middle - Day in Acrylic by Peter  
                         Bottom - Night in Watercolour by Gavin



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.**

**9am on Friday, 9 June 2023**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to [newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk)  
or post to **Martin Adkins c/o Wake House, 41 North Street, Bourne, PE10  
9AE**

*I reserve the right to either bring this date forward or retard it if my personal  
circumstances dictate.*

**As this is my final newsletter, I would like to thank all the contributors over the past 3  
years or so. Hopefully you, the membership, have enjoyed that which has been  
produced and I hope that contributors will be able to support the new editor when he  
takes up the reins after the AGM.**

**All the best Paul**



**GROUPS WITH VACANCIES 27th MARCH 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 07949 524475	4th Thursday afternoon every month	Wake House
Birdwatching / Natural His	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
Computer Tutoring	Martin Adkins 07852 532276	As required	
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	St Firmins 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
Jazz	May Slater 01778 425525	<b>On hold until the New Year but please contact leader if you are</b>	Check with Group Leader
Listening to Classical Music		<b>On hold until New Year. If interested contact Pat Howes on</b>	At members homes
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
Lunch Lunch	Chris Cooke 01778 393544	To suit members	As notified by Group Leader
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	Tony Burke 01778 426617 Paul Gosden 01778 420292	First Wednesday of each month at 14.00Hrs	As Notified By Group Leader
Reading 4	Chris Ankersen 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
Snooker (3)	George Brown contact at gw.b@btinternet.com	Every Thursday 13.30 to 16.00	Snooker Hall
Theatre Group	Janet Burton 01778 426462	2nd Monday afternoon 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