

BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

u3abourne.org.uk
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094



Encountered on a single track road near Applecross in Wester Ross

Chairman's Chat

I have been reading Francis Pryor's book, *The Fens*. It is a cracking read; a very personal account of his fascination, almost love affair, with the Fens – its history, landscape, towns and people. It spans more than four thousand years but covers a much smaller geographic area and is more compelling because I am familiar with most of the places he mentions. If you have not come across it, you could always order a copy from Bourne's new bookshop, appropriately named Bourne Bookshop and located in the Burghley Centre. Throughout history, the Fens have seen enormous political, social and economic changes – the Beaker people, Romans, Normans, wars, plague, floods, and so on. The dramatic storms of history have swirled round, and sometimes over, the area but it has still retained a distinctive and beguiling character.

The book concentrates on ordinary people rather than the great and the good (not to mention the not so good). Through all those turbulent changes, ordinary people got on with their lives. Crops had to be planted, sons and daughters got married and personal dreams realised or frustrated. Local issues had to be resolved – who had summer pasture rights on the Fen? Who was responsible for maintaining a particular drainage ditch? Never mind Parliament's fight with King Charles, who was going to run the village pub? I sometimes get depressed at the state of British politics – we do seem to be in a muddle. But, to be honest, events in Westminster, Brussels or Washington seem very far away. Preparing for a Committee meeting or making sure Science and Technology has a speaker for the next meeting are the immediate concerns. They are also issues that I can influence – unlike trade wars.

We have not changed much in all those thousands of years. As politicians argue about whether the country's future lies with Europe or America and Donald Trump pursues his trade war with China, I have more pressing matters to consider. Will Wetherspoons ever open the new pub in Bourne? Is the dump open on Bank Holiday Monday? Have I signed up for the next Aviation History trip?

So, if you are feeling a bit glum at the state of the country, take heart and remember that Bourne and the fens continue to be a lovely place to live. Bourne U3A will continue to run its growing number of groups, the General Meeting will still be held on the third Monday of every month and your Chairman will still be calling for yet more volunteers and new groups. Whatever happens, we will continue to share our common interests with stoic companionship.

Cheers, Malcolm

We welcome the following members who have joined us recently and hope all enjoy participating in the various activities:

Susan and Michael Beesley, George Brown, Carole and David Crowson, Marguerite Cullen, Shan Latcham, Colin Norman, Ann Sumner

New Members Meetings

Meetings are held in the upstairs Conference Room at Wake House from 2pm (see page 3). Details of future meetings are published in the Newsletter and on the rolling screen at the monthly Monday meetings.

The following speakers have been booked for forthcoming Monday monthly meetings at the Corn Exchange which has a hearing aid loop system. Doors open 1.45 pm with Meetings starting promptly at 2.15 pm	
Date	Speaker and Subject
21 October	Zoe Gibson - <i>Andrew Carnegie and the Gilded Age</i>
18 November	Andy Hawes - <i>The trials, tests and temptations of writing Opera Libretti</i>
16 December	Jane Lang - <i>British Red Cross – connecting human kindness with human crisis</i>
2020	
21 January	Sam Owen - <i>The Future of Food</i>
17 February	Sam Dobson – <i>Sir Malcolm Sergeant, local hero</i>
16 March	Steve Short - <i>David Niven, It's magic</i>
20 April	Tony Hadfield - <i>Islay and the poetry of peat</i>
15 May	Annual General Meeting
15 June	Clive Simpson – <i>What do we do with Space – the final frontier?</i>
20 July	Ken Davies – <i>Rutland Osprey Project</i>
17 August	Jane Barnes – <i>The Delight of Dairy Farming</i>
21 September	Rob Eastaway - <i>Maths – the beautiful drama</i>
19 October	David Templeton - <i>Mary Queen of Scots, from Sheffield to Fotheringhay</i>



ROTAS FOR THE COMING MONTHS				
<i>Please let Bill Reid know if you or your Group are unable to help on any of these occasions. Thank you for your continued support. Tel: 01778 570234</i>				
	October	November	December	January 2020
DESK CLERKS	Chris Cooke Susan Hadfield	Cathy Hebborn Margaret Smith	Anne Barrett Marilyn Batchelor	Eleanor Boss Chris Cooke
VISITOR HOSTS	Colin Peters David McDonald Deirdre Neagus	Bill Reid Vaughan Roberts Pam Smith	Dennis Winsor May Slater Pat Benn	Jeannette Marshall Colin Peters Dennis Winsor
REFRESHMENTS	Poetry	Reading (Bourne)	Executive Committee	Art History 2

Committee Page

New Members Meeting

Thursday 17th October 2.00pm at Wake House, North Street, Bourne, PE10 9AE. This meeting will be held in the Conference Room, upstairs, and will be an opportunity for new members to find out more about Bourne U3A and the 55 groups we facilitate.

Group Leaders Meeting

Monday 21st October 12.00 – 2.00pm (just before the General Meeting). This is an opportunity to meet the new Group Co-ordinators, Karen and Penny, and for the Committee to thank Group Leaders for their magnificent work. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP to Karen and Penny.

New Groups

Detailed below are three possible new groups for Bourne U3A. Philip and Richard have kindly offered to lead the rock group and jigsaw exchange respectively and I am happy to start the music group until a group leader is found.

At this stage all you need to do is express an interest. If enough people respond, we will call a meeting for each group to discuss how best to proceed.

Are you interested in forming a new U3A rock band?



Can you play any musical instrument to a reasonable standard i.e. guitar, bass, drums, piano, etc or if you have a good singing voice and have a passion to sing/play blues, rock; pop etc, from 1950s, 60s and 70s? Then this might be the opportunity for you.

If you want to get involved and have some fun with like-minded people, then please email philip.pavier@gmail.com Tel: 07725 260751

Jigsaw Exchange



Do you enjoy jigsaws? Do you have any stored in the attic or at the bottom of a cupboard?

The **Jigsaw Exchange** is looking to create a catalogue of Bourne U3A jigsaws, which members are happy to share. Meeting on a monthly basis, the group will exchange jigsaws over a relaxed cup of tea and a chat. The group leader will keep a track of who has which jigsaw, organise exchanges for those that can't make the meetings and keep the catalogue up to date. If you would like more choice, join the **Jigsaw Exchange**.

Contact Richard Horne – email richard@hornecentral.co.uk Tel: 07504 120676

Music Group



If you are learning a musical instrument or have just not played in a long time, this might be a group for you. Why not join with other like-minded people and make music together. It could be music from the shows, classical or anything that takes your fancy. Let's get together, see what musical interests we share and start making music. If you are interested, contact Malcolm Scriven – mpscriven@hotmail.com or 01778 426483

ANYTIME OUT GROUP 1 – JANET BURTON

Apethorpe Palace and Elton Hall

Apethorpe palace has been previously owned by Elizabeth Ist which was a gift from her father Henry VIII, and she loved to come and stay here bringing her court. James Ist absolutely loved Apethorpe as in those days it was in the forest and he could hunt to his heart's content. He paid for part of the extension which is the long gallery so that he could have parties in it. Apethorpe is built around a courtyard of which each side has basically a different style of building as they have been added over the centuries to make the house grander and more imposing by their respective owners.

Over the last century it has even been an approved school for boys. The present owners, who are a Baron and Baroness, luckily are very interested in architectural history so they are trying to sympathetically put the house to rights. It is full of history but over the next five to 10 years this house will change completely and be even more interesting than it is today. We were not allowed to take photographs by request of the present owners.

We arrived at 12.30 at Elton Hall, desperately requiring food and a drink but the restaurant was extremely busy, and we had to wait a while. However, eventually we managed to eat and drink and then we received the stickers which allowed us entry into the House. Two parties went in at different times, both of them thoroughly enjoying the visit as the Guides are very knowledgeable. Elton Hall has been the home of the Proby family since 1660 and is absolutely packed full of wonderful rooms filled with renowned artists paintings. Reynolds, Constable and Gainsborough are amongst the English ones. However, it still remains a home and is very cosy. In one of the three libraries which contain over 10000 books between them are accounts of salaries in the time of Queen Elizabeth 1st and Henry VIII's prayer book.

Over the last century alterations have been ongoing and for the Millennium they built the Gothic revival Orangery celebrating the Jubilee. There are over 200 acres of Parkland, bordered by the River Nene. Like most of the Great Houses of today the gardens have changed over the centuries. The shape of the present garden was laid out in 1913 including the large walled garden to the southeast of the Hall but by the 1980's large proportions of this Edwardian Garden have fallen into disrepair. Since then a program of restoration and improvement has been sympathetically and continuously ongoing. Obviously, there was a good connection between the two above properties during the century in which they were built.

Group News

ANYTIME OUT GROUP 2 – JANET BURTON

27 members of The Any Time Out Group left the Bus station in Bourne on Thursday September 26th to visit Southwell. We went to see the Minster in the morning and then the Workhouse after lunch. The rain had been threatened on and off for the day but we managed to skip between the showers. On arrival at the Minster most of us had a coffee before going in. However once inside we stood in awe looking at this wonderful building from so very long ago. A church has stood on this site for over a 1000 years but what we see today is Norman stonework. Beautiful rounded arches and a fabulous roof. The big window as one enters on one's right is fairly recent and tells the story of God creating the world in 6 days. Moving up to the centre of the church and right up against the roof is a very new beautiful golden sculpture of Christ reigning. The Pulpit was hand-carved and shows Jesus in the arms of his Mother Mary.

During our visit the organ was being played and sounded magnificent. 23 mice are carved into the woodwork around the church of which I only found three but a few of the group found more! There are some really wonderful windows on display and also the 12 Stations of the Cross have been sculpted. The Airmen's Chapel is set aside for those killed in the war and a very special plaque on the wall there commemorates the lives of 14,500 people who were massacred in a wood by the Russians.



We spent a wonderful hour and a half in The Minster leaving to go to the Lion pub at Farnsfield for a delicious pre-ordered lunch.

Our last visit of the day was to the Workhouse. Some of us had already visited here a couple of years ago but it has been changed round recently including an infirmary ward and a new cafe. The fit people lived a very hard life although they did have three meals a day, a bed but no comforts. They were totally segregated - Men in one end of the building, Women in the other end and the children in the middle. The children had no contact with their parents except maybe at church on Sunday.



However, the children were extremely lucky in that they received an education in the hopes that they would be able to find jobs later in life. Sick, elderly or mentally incapable people did not have to work. The Workhouse was ruled by a Master and his wife who was the Matron. They were not supposed to have a family but at Southwell they raised four children some of whom later came back to be staff. The Workhouse was in use right up until the 1980s with people living in it and a Maternity ward.

We arrived home just after 5pm having given Colin our thanks for a safe day of driving. The photographs are by James Tyers with thanks.

Group News

POETRY GROUP – PHILIP DUNKERLEY

The Poetry Group tackled the thorny topics of ‘Satire, Politics and National Events’ at our September meeting - there were moments when it felt rather like a gathering of the Discussion Group, but all was conducted in a most seemly manner. Satire has long exercised poets - from Dryden, Pope and Swift to more modern poets such as Auden, Betjeman and those still living. But we wondered if most satire these days has migrated to television and other visual media, such as YouTube.

Sometimes things are best said with brevity, so, this month’s offering to Bourne U3A from the Poetry Group is just twenty-four words from Humbert Wolfe (1885-1940), an Italian-born British poet, man of letters and civil servant:

The British Journalist

You cannot hope
to bribe or twist,
thank God! the
British Journalist.

But, seeing what
the man will do
un-bribed, there’s
no occasion to.

Note: where it says ‘man’, feel free to substitute ‘woman’ if you so wish.

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 in a similar format, but publication will be at the discretion of the Editor. There will be just one page per month.

Town Hall Events

Saturday 12th October – Anna Mudeka – Kure Faraway. A tale of Ancestors, Identity, Atavism, Diaspora and DNA.

Films

Thursday 24th October 7.00pm – Tolkien

Friday 25th October 7.00pm – Wild Rose

Saturday 26th October 2.00pm – Toy Story 4

Saturday 26th October 7.00pm – Billy Elliot the Musical Live

Tickets can be obtained from the Events page on their website <https://bournetownhall.org.uk/>

Group News

CHURCH VISITING – JACKIE SEARL

Our September outing was a visit to Thorney Abbey church but our guide, Dorothy, offered in addition a village walk and visit to the village museum. She explained that the village was situated about seven metres above sea level and was built of Barnack stone. Bronze and iron age artefacts have been found in the area. In 655 AD the Island of Thorney was the home of a group of aesthetes who enjoyed a life away from the world. In 870 Vikings sacked the monastery but the monks escaped. In 970 AD a Saxon lady sold the land back to the church which was encouraged to build a large monastery.



View of the abbey church from the south.



It was dissolved in the final range of Henry VIII actions so shows was wealthy, being worth £400 pa at the time. Much of the stone was taken to build colleges in Cambridge.

Above are shown some of the remains of glass believed to have Hanseatic associations of which nearly 1800 tiny pieces were found when new homes were built on adjoining land. The photograph opposite shows some details of the east window showing phases of the life of St Thomas a Becket.



The area around Thorney is well known for the associations with French emigres in the 17th century. Records show that, in 1680, 70% of baby baptisms were of French extraction.

If you are in or around the village of Thorney, it would be well worth visiting these magnificent remains of a fenland monastery as well spend some time in the small but very informative museum and take a walk around the old village building. www.thorney-museum.org.uk – Margaret would be delighted to see you. Good tea shop in village too.

GROUPS WITH VACANCIES			
Groups	CONTACT	Meetings	VACANCIES
Antiques & Collectables	01778 393017	2nd Monday afternoon every month	NO LIMIT
Anytime Out	Janet Burton	1st Thursday morning every month	6
Art	01778 422019	Every Thursday afternoon	2
Aviation History	simplyjohn@outlook.com	4th Thursday afternoon every month	NO LIMIT
Canasta	01 778 421 295	2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings	NO LIMIT
Church Visiting	01778 422518	4th Thursday am	6
Classical Music	01778421864	3rd Tuesday every month Afternoon	5
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Gerry McLean	The first Friday of every month	NO LIMIT
Computer Tutoring	01778 423002	As required	NO LIMIT
Creative Writing 2	07940714914	1st Monday afternoon every month	3
Desk Clerks	Bill Reid 01 778 570 234	At the main Monday meetings	NO LIMIT
Discussion Group	discussion@u3abourne.org.uk	3rd Thursday Morning of each Month	3
Drama	01778 426617	usually a Wednesday afternoon (once a month)	3
Friday Striders	bourneu3a.walk@gmail.com	Friday mornings twice a month	2
Gardening	janetblacoe@gmail.com	1st Tuesday afternoon every month	2
Green Bowls	01778 424137	Every Monday 12oclock and TUESDAY 11am INDOORS	NO LIMIT
Jazz	01778 425525	Thursday evening every 4 weeks	4
Kurling	07759677012	2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month	NO LIMIT
Ladies Fun and Exercise	01778 421020	2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings every month	NO LIMIT
Lunch Gp Weekday 1	01778 701068	1stThursday afternoon every month	1
Meeters & Greeters	Bill Reid 01 778 570 234	At the main Monday meetings	NO LIMIT
Music for Pleasure	01778 425778	First Wednesday in month.	1
New Members	groups@u3abourne.org.uk	As announced in the Newsletter see Group Leader(s)	NO LIMIT
Play Reading	01778 219447	1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings every month	1
Poetry 2	0	TBA	NO LIMIT
Railway Group	01 778 426 617	First Wednesday of each month at 14.00Hrs	1
Reading Gp 4	01778 422391	Last Tuesday morning every month	3
Reading Group Morton	01778571213	1st Friday morning every month	1
Science and Technology	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483	1st Tuesday morning every month	NO LIMIT
Snooker Group (2)	01778 426904	Tuesday PM	3
Tap Dancing	01778 560548	Every Thursday of the Month	NO LIMIT
Ten pin Bowling	airforce1.dr@gmail.com	Every Wednesday Morning	NO LIMIT
Theatre Visits	01778 393544	2nd Monday afternoon every month	5
Wayfarers Walking Group	Bill Reid 01778 570234	2nd and 4th Tuesday Mornings at 10.30 every Month	NO LIMIT

A big “Thank you” from Nick Searing to everyone who contacted him regarding the photograph of a moth in the September issue.

Nick says he thinks it is safe to say that he will always recognise a Privet Hawkmoth, the next time he sees one!

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2019 – 2020			
TITLE AND/OR JOB	NAME	PHONE 01778	E MAIL
CHAIRPERSON	MALCOLM SCRIVEN	426483	chairman@u3abourne.org.uk
VICE CHAIRMAN	JOHN OWEN	420378	vicechairman@u3abourne.org.uk
SECRETARY	CHRIS SEARL	422518	secretary@u3abourne.org.uk
TREASURER	TONY GRAY	394588	treasurer@u3abourne.org.uk
JOINT GROUPS AND NEW MEMBERS CO-ORDINATORS	KAREN KNOTT and PENNY NEAL	421131 422562	groups@u3abourne.org.uk groups@u3abourne.org.uk
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PUBLICITY OFFICER	MARTIN ADKINS	07852 532276	publicity@u3abourne.org.uk
ROTAS	BILL REID	570234	rotas@u3abourne.org.uk
SPEAKER FINDER			speakers@u3abourne.org.uk
COMMITTEE			
NON-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS			
DATA MANAGER (incorporating Beacon Administration, Webmaster, Meeting Display and Computer loan)	CHRIS SEARL	422518	webmaster@u3abourne.org.uk
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JACKIE SEARL	422518	newsletter@u3abourne.org.uk
RAFFLE ORGANISOR	JANET BURTON	426462	raffle@u3abourne.org.uk

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

**The copy date for the November issue is
9am on Saturday, 2 November 2019**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to newsletter@u3abourne.org.uk
or post to *Jackie Searl, 6 Lilac Close, Bourne, PE10 9TS*

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