

BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

u3aboutourne.org.uk
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER
1100094



German Christmas Market, Birmingham

Chairman's Chat

Hi Everybody,

I'm sorry that I am not able to be with you for the December General Meeting and the Committee's turn to provide the tea and coffee – not to mention mince pies. I will be in South America, visiting the family of our son's Argentinian partner. This will be a bittersweet experience. They are a lovely family and it will be wonderful visiting countries I never imagined I would see. But it means we will not be at home and able to see our youngest son and his family on Christmas Day.

I suspect many people have mixed feelings about Christmas. It can be hard work – I know because this will be the first time in years that I do not have to prepare the Christmas dinner. The absences can also make it a poignant time; Lesley and I have both lost parents around Christmas. But it is also a time to reflect on the past year and remember the good things; the holidays, warm summer sunny days, maybe the arrival of another grandchild.

It is, of course, a most important time for Christians to celebrate the birth of the Son of God and I have always enjoyed the Christmas carols. When we worked in Qatar, I was surprised that Muslims were happy to join the celebrations and wish us a Happy Christmas – Jesus is an important prophet in the Muslim world, and they were happy that we celebrated his birth.

We seem to have celebrated mid-winter for thousands of years, long before it became a Christian festival and it seems to be a basic human need to party and feast through the darkest days of winter. It makes the drag from the end of November and through December more bearable as we go through the rituals of card and present buying, not to mention stocking up on ridiculous quantities of food. When the dust settles, the long haul through January and February seems a little more bearable, although I still find them depressing months.

It is a time to take stock and consider where we are in our personal lives. What has made us happy in the past year? What has annoyed us or made us sad? Many of the events that affect us are beyond our control. We have limited influence on our health or the actions of others, but we can control our reactions to these outside events. Perhaps Christmas is a good time to work out how to maximise the positive aspects of our lives. I'll certainly be thinking about how to make the most of 2020 on the run up to the New Year. I wish all members a peaceful and trouble-free Christmas.

Cheers, Malcolm

We welcome Sheridan Dowd who has joined us recently and hope you enjoy participating in the various activities.

New Members Meetings

Meetings are held in the Windmill Room in Wake House from 2pm to 3pm. 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
16 December	CHANGE OF SPEAKER David Mainwaring - <i>Pease, Puter and Piggies, A Lincolnshire village in the 1600 to 1700's</i>
2020	
20 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>
18 May	Annual General Meeting – <i>Drama Group</i>
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>
16 November	Liz Fleuty - <i>Living Waters – The Canal and River Trust in the East Midlands</i>
14 December	Jenny Westwood – <i>The Bourne Connection: gaining an education in Nyansakia</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>				
	December	January 2020	February	March
DESK CLERKS	Marilyn Batchelor Margaret Smith	Jane Christmas Chris Cooke	Eleanor and John Boss	Chris Cooke Pat Howes
VISITOR HOSTS	May Slater Pat Benn Pam Smith	Jeannette Marshall Pat Howes Eleanor Boss	Michael & Margaret McGregor Deirdre Neagus	Jan Douglas David Mcdonald Pearl Rose
REFRESHMENTS	Executive Committee	Art History 2	Canasta	Science and Technology

Group News

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

LET'S MAKE MUSIC – MALCOLM SCRIVEN

This group is now up and running. We had our first meeting on Tuesday 5th November and agreed to meet again in the last week of January 2020. It's difficult to combine the instruments we currently play – Cello, French Horn, Tenor Horn, Violin, 3 Pianos and a Descant Recorder – so we have agreed to prepare short solo pieces to play for each other. We range from real beginners, like me, through to more experienced musicians and the aim is to share music in a friendly and supportive environment. We will learn from each other and have a lot of fun on the way.

So, if you haven't played in ages, or are just beginning to learn, why not join us? We play all types of music from folk, through jazz, to Classical and beyond. The standard can vary from halting beginner to virtuoso performer. All are welcome and assured a receptive and supportive audience. Contact Malcolm Scriven on 01778 426483 for more details.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – MALCOLM SCRIVEN

Tuesday 7th January 2020

The Global Positioning System (GPS)

Garth Perry

St Firmin's Church Hall, Thurlby, PE10 0EH

Refreshments from 9.30am – Talk Starts at 10.00am

Details from Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483

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WINE APPRECIATION 3 - JOHN BOSS

For our November meeting, the single grape sampled was Pinot Noir.

We were told that this particular grape was very sensitive to climatic conditions and therefore difficult from which to produce good wine.

This may explain why the two examples tasted did not exactly set the heather on fire albeit neither option was without its supporters. Specifically, we tasted pinot noir wines from New Zealand and Germany; the latter giving the lie to the belief that Germany only makes white wine. Light and fruity was the general opinion and both were recommended for roast duck which may be helpful to anyone considering an alternative to turkey this Christmas. Incidentally, the pinot noir grape is extensively used in the production of champagne.

We are pausing our tasting of single grape wines in December for our Christmas meeting but will recommence our programme in the New Year.

We wish all Bourne U3A Members an enjoyable festive season and a fruitful New Year.

POETRY GROUP - PHILIP DUNKERLEY

In November the Poetry Group looked at some of our favourite poems and also shared a few poems that relate to Remembrance Day - by the likes of Siegfried Sassoon and Laurence Binyon. It was Binyon, of course, who wrote the famous and moving lines: *'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: / Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. / At the going down of the sun and in the morning / We will remember them'* — part of his poem *'For the Fallen'*.

One of the 'favourite' poems we read was by Geoffrey Winthrop Young (1876-1958), who not only fought bravely in the First World War, where he lost a leg, but was a great mountaineer who, as a young man, made a number of first ascents in the Alps. Later his activities led to the founding of both Outward Bound and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Worth checking him out on-line. Here is the first part of his poem *'The Cragman'*:

'In this short span
between my finger tips on the smooth edge
and these tense feet cramped to the crystal ledge
I hold the life of man.

Consciously I embrace
arched from the mountain rock on which I stand
to the firm limit of my lifted hand
the front of time and space:-

For what is there in all the world for me
but what I know and see?
And what remains of all I see and know,
if I let go?'

Group News

CHURCH VISITING – JACKIE SEARL

For our November meeting we met at Wake House for our annual Review of the Year. This involves a brief business meeting and financial update before Tony Stubbs gave his customary look back at places we have visited during the year. This gives members an opportunity to refresh their memories of some of the interesting places and things we have seen as well as an opportunity to see churches which they may have missed.

We do not meet in December but in January 2020 Jill Collinge will join us to give a talk entitled "*Bell, Book and Candle*".

Our February meeting will repeat last year's experiment with several members giving short talks on an interesting subject of their choice. This will be followed by a sharing lunch.

We welcome new members to meetings, whether in Wake House between November and February or at one of our church visits during the summer months. All meetings are held on the 4th Thursday morning starting at 10.30am. The notice board at Monday meetings will give details of the 2020 programme early in the new year.

DRAWING AND ART - PETE GILLATT

The U3A Drawing and Art Group are currently busy making Christmas cards and producing a host of angels. We are producing the angels in watercolour, acrylics and paper, they will then be on display in the Abbey Church throughout December so please pop in and have a look.

In addition, three of our members displayed their painting at the Corby Glen Art Exhibition. The exhibition contained art from all groups from School pupils to adults of all ages. The broad age range produced a very good exhibition and was well worth a visit.

Our group is at maximum membership with a very good weekly attendance. Our two tutors give us some very interesting subjects to paint and then give us their expert advice. On one occasion one of our members brought her black Labrador in for us to draw and paint. We also had two live sitters to draw and paint. One sitter was one of our member's wives whilst the other was a grandson of one of our tutors. With each member having their own particular style and technique the results are very different.

We wish all U3A members a happy Christmas and a healthy new year and look forward to another year of drawing and art.

Group News

DRAMA – ANGELA BURKE

Hello All!

Here is an update on what we are doing at the moment – if you thought we had gone quiet, then you couldn't be more wrong. Since September, we have been busy, rehearsing every week and are preparing to perform three shows before Christmas.

At the end of November, we gave a performance to the Parkinson's Society in the "Sally Ann" Hall, and in December, we are appearing again for both Baston W.I. and Thurlby W.I.



These are light-hearted pieces (sketches and monologues) lasting about half an hour, and we hope they will be received well. Our rehearsals are hard work but hugely enjoyable with many jokes and laughs – intentional or otherwise! - and after Christmas, we intend to get together to source material for further shows booked for two more W.I.s in April. Also, if the U3A Committee still wish us to entertain you at next year's AGM, then we hope to hobble on to the Corn Exchange stage again.

But we cannot do this without new members. Unfortunately, we have recently lost 3 members due to ill health and are desperately in need of new blood.....

Please give me a ring (01778 426617) if you are at all interested in joining our friendly group. As mentioned above, we will meet up in January to discuss future plans but without new members, we could find it very difficult to continue.

POETRY 2 – MARIA ORPEN

The second Poetry Group is now up and running and meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm. Venue varies.

Everyone is welcome to come along as the group operates in a relaxed and informal manner with the aim of being both enjoyable and pleasurable.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 29 January 2020.

If you are interested in attending, please telephone me on 01778 570915.

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.

St Firmins Church, Thurlby

FESTIVAL OF ANGELS

December 14th 10am - 4pm

December 15th 11am - 4pm

Refreshments available all day

In aid of Church funds

Invitation

Garth Perry, from Deepings U3A Science Group,
has invited Bourne U3A members to their meeting
on the afternoon of Tuesday 21st January to hear

Keith Townsend

Project Juno – the exploration of Jupiter and its rings.

Exact timings, venue or cost unknown at present yet as Garth is waiting to have
an idea of numbers first.

Please let Malcolm Scriven know if you are interested after 7 January
so he can pass the numbers on to Garth.

Group Vacancies

GROUPS	VACANCIES	CONTACT	MEETINGS
Antiques & Collectables	NO LIMIT	01778 393017	2nd Monday afternoon every month
Anytime Out	6	Janet Burton	1st Thursday morning every month
Art	2	01778 422019	Every Thursday afternoon
Aviation History	NO LIMIT	simplyjohn@outlook.com	4th Thursday afternoon every month
Birdwatching / Natural History	6	01778 426255	1st Friday of the month
Canasta	NO LIMIT	01778 421 295	2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings
Church Visiting	6	01778 422518	4th Thursday am
Classical Music	5	01778 421864	3rd Tuesday every month Afternoon
Clay Pigeon Shooting	NO LIMIT	Gerry McLean	The first Friday of every month
Computer Tutoring	NO LIMIT	07852 532276	As required
Creative Writing 2	4	07940 714914	1st Monday afternoon every month
Desk Clerks	NO LIMIT	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings
Discussion	3	discussion@u3abourne.org.uk	3rd Thursday Morning of each Month
Drama	3	01778 426617	usually a Wednesday afternoon (once a month)
Drawing and Painting	1	07752342671	Every Tuesday morning
Friday Striders	2	bourneu3a.walk@gmail.com	Friday mornings twice a month
Gardening	2	janetblacoe@gmail.com	1st Tuesday afternoon every month
Green Bowls	NO LIMIT	01778 424137	Every Monday 12oclock and TUESDAY 11am INDOORS
Jazz	4	01778 425525	Thursday evening every 4 weeks
Jigsaw Exchange	NO LIMIT	Richard Horne 01778 571992	As advised by Group Leader
Kurling	NO LIMIT	07759 677012	2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings of each month
Let's Make Music	NO LIMIT	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483	4th Tuesday afternoon every month
Lunch Sunday 3	0	01778 393544	To suit members
Lunch Weekday 1	1	01778 701068	1stThursday afternoon every month
Meeters & Greeters	NO LIMIT	Bill Reid 01778 570234	At the main Monday meetings
New Members	NO LIMIT	groups@u3abourne.org.uk	As announced in the Newsletter see Group Leader(s)
Nosh and Natter	0	Jackie Searl	1st Wednesday evening of each month
Play Reading	1	01778 219447	1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings every month
Poetry	0	dunkerleyphilip@hotmail.com	2nd Friday morning every month
Poetry 2	NO LIMIT	01 778 570 915	TBA
Reading Bourne	1	whitfieldhm@gmail.com	1st Friday morning every month
Reading Hereward	0	01778 425786	2nd Monday morning every month
Singing for Pleasure	2	Marjorie Wright 01778 422252	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons every month
Snooker (2)	3	01778 426904	Tuesday PM
Supper	0	01778 394656	Every 3rd Wednesday Evening of the month
Table Tennis	2	David Moisey 421864	Every Tuesday,Wednesday and Friday Afternoon
Tap Dancing	NO LIMIT	01778 560548	Every Thursday of the Month
Ten pin Bowling	NO LIMIT	airforce1.dr@gmail.com	Every Wednesday Morning
Theatre Visits	5	01778 393544	2nd Monday afternoon every month

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2018 – 2019			
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
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	JOHN OWEN	420378	membership@u3abourne.org.uk
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	PAT HOWES		groups@u3abourne.org.uk
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 January 2020 issue is
9am on Saturday, 4 January 2020**

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.