

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 20 April 2026

BOURNE u3a

Learn, Laugh, Live

WEBSITE: <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1100094

The Chair's Chat

Hello again

I promised myself that I would not mention the weather (favourite topic for a good chat I understand) but after this mixed week it is hard not to. From shorts and bikinis to thick jumpers and gloves within 72 hours. Amazing.

Along, I am sure, with many of you I sat up to watch the return of the Artemis11 mission .What an achievement. Landing on time and where they were expected. Brilliant.

I remember the 1960's when the lunar probes were making news. I had a lovely Nan who was opposed to and suspicious of any form of technology. This included telephones, gas cookers and television. After agreeing to watch a launch on TV she turned and said ' eee if they keep sending all that ironmongery up there they will make a big hole and stuff will fall through. Then they will be sorry.' How far we have come.

Now u3a news. Thanks to Janice Lyon and Mike Alexander the 25th Celebration was a great success. A big thank from everyone.

Our next event is on May 18th our AGM. Please come along and support your committee. They work hard on your behalf and your attendance is needed.

Last but not least. The team at the Corn Exchange always work hard to give us a good venue. Our actual end time is 16.00. This gives Ian and his team time to prepare for their next booking. We all enjoy a hot drink and a chance to catch up with friends but I would appreciate your support in making sure we are all out by 16.00 please.

Best wishes

Pat

Welcome, New Members!

Linda Brookes, Lucja Double, Jill Francis, Sue Mitchell, David Simpson and Tracey Exton.

25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY CELEBRATION

WOW!!! What an afternoon!

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who attended which made this 25th anniversary a total success! We had a FULL house! It was wonderful to have our 2 founder members of Bourne u3a, Margaret and Pauline who together, cut the magnificent cake that Jenny (John Lyons' daughter) had designed and made from scratch. Well, she actually used flour, eggs, and sugar but we won't go into details. Well done, Jenny!

Our Speaker Finder, Peter sourced us a great entertainer in Dom Brister, who played continuously throughout the party, from when members started to arrive at 2ish, until 5:00pm.

At 3:10pm, Pat made a speech to everyone and introduced Margaret and Pauline, who then cut the cake, which they did very well indeed! The afternoon tea was then served by Andy and his team who delivered a delicious and very decorative afternoon tea, with copious amounts of tea and coffee. A HUGE thanks, Andy. People were eating, chatting and having a really good time. We had a short quiz which produced a lot of "furrowed brows". There was a tie at the end so we needed a tie breaker. Well done, David Crowsons' team as they were the winners.

All the entrance tickets were put into a very large bag and shuffled around, swung over my head and shuffled again, before Margaret and Pauline chose a winning ticket. The winner was announced and a large Easter Egg was presented to the winner. Dom carried on entertaining, with some greatly performed songs, which were requested, including Abba, Neil Diamond even Meatloaf (Bat out of Hell) and he did an amazing show.

But the highlight of all, I believe, was his version of "BRING HIM HOME" from the musical "Les Misérables" WHAT A PERFORMANCE!!! TRULY AMAZING!! Which, quite rightly, achieved a standing ovation and a lot of "Teary Eyes". How wonderful, he truly is a very talented man. A BIG thank you to Dom for all that he did this afternoon to help make this event a memorable one indeed! His humour throughout the 3 hours never faltered and had us all laughing and enjoying the afternoon. This only leaves me to say a BIG thank you to ALL the Committee, especially Mike, who helped with printing etc. and has the patience of a Saint, to put up with me.

Jan (your secretary)



More photos on page 3.

25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY MORE PHOTOS



Speakers for 2026

Date	Subject	Speaker
20 April	My Amazing journey to Antarctica	Dave Pinion
18 May	AGM plus—What they didn't teach you in School History: A thought provoking view of the past.	Stuart Orme
15 June	The Water Babies	Michael Burton

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

**Our Speaker for April is:
Dave Pinion —
My Amazing journey to Antarctica**



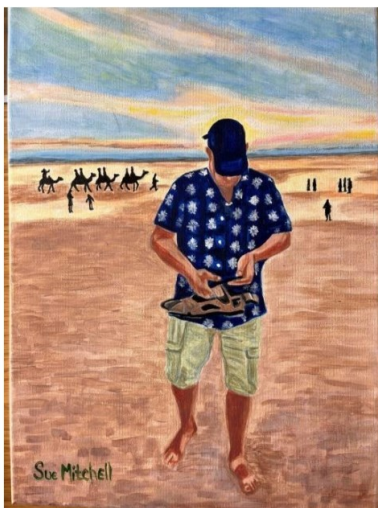
Group Vacancies March 2026				
Group	Meets	Start	End	Venue
Abbey Church Garden Group	Last Tuesday each month	14.00	16.00	Church Walk, Bourne
Antiques & Collectables	2nd Monday afternoon every month	14.00	15.45	Wake House
Art History 1	2nd Wednesday morning every month	10.00	12.00	At Members Homes
Art History 2	1st Wednesday morning every month	10.30	12.00	At Members Homes
Bowls Outdoors Lawn	Every Tuesday & Thursday	10.00	12.00	Bourne Town Bowls
Church Visiting	4th Thursday morning Monthly	10.30	~	As Notified By GL
Creative Writing 2	3rd Wednesday of every month	14.30	16.30	At Members Homes
Dining	3rd Thursday lunch time of every month	12.00	14.00	As Notified By GL
Discussion Group	3rd Thursday of each month	10.00	12.00	At Members Homes
Drama Workshop	2nd Wednesday every month	14.00	~	Thurlby Methodist Church Hall
Drawing and Painting	Every Tuesday morning	10.00	12.00	Abbey Church Hall
Friday Ramblers	1st Friday of the month	10.00	12.00	As Notified By GL
Friday Striders	Friday mornings twice a month	10.00	~	As Notified By GL
Garden Group	1st Tuesday afternoon every month	14.00	16.00	As Notified By GL
Handicrafts	Every Tuesday afternoon	14.00	16.00	Abbey Church Hall
Litter Picking Group	3rd Friday morning	10.00	12.00	As Notified By GL
Local History	First Monday each month	14.00	16.00	Wake House
New Members	As required	~	~	Wake House
Nosh and Natter	1st Wednesday lunch time of each month	12.30	~	As Notified By GL
Penning Light Hearted Poetry	Last Wednesday of each month	14.00	16.00	At Members Homes
Railway	First Wednesday of each month at 14.00Hrs	14.00	16.00	Thurlby Methodist Church Hall
Science and Technology	1st Tuesday morning every month	10.00	12.00	Edenham Village Hall
Singing for Pleasure	2nd Wednesday afternoon every month	14.00	15.30	Bourne Methodist Church Hall
Snooker (2)	Tuesdays 1.30pm - 4.00pm	13.30	16.00	Snooker Hall
Table Tennis	Every Tuesday and Friday Afternoon	14.00	16.00	Harveys Gym
Ten pin Bowling	Every Wednesday Morning	9.55	12.30	As Notified By GL
Theatre and Entertainment	2nd Monday afternoon every month/not Dec or Jan.	14.00	15.00	Wake House
Wine Appreciation 2	4th Monday afternoon every month except December	13.00	15.30	At Members Homes
Wine Appreciation 3	2nd Friday of each month	19.00	21.00	At Members Homes

For enquiries contact the Group Coordinator; groups@bourneu3a.org.uk

Bourne Brushstrokes

March 2026

March continued with members working on their own preferred subjects. A 'theme' will be selected in the next couple of weeks so members can focus on specific areas of our 'craft'!



Darwin Beach
by Sue Marshall

A Madagascar Scene
by Hall Spears



Brenda Greatwood's Boat



Windmills by Janet Dowse

Bourne Brushstrokes

March 2026

"Animal Life"



"Fish!"
by Sue Bainbridge

Magnificent Stag
by Jill Ward



Kingfisher
by Pete Gillatt

Church Visiting Group

Church visit to Edith Weston.

Our first visit this year to the church of St. Mary the Virgin in Edith Weston was very well attended on a lovely sunny day and it was especially nice to have some of our new group members join us. The church sits beautifully in the "old" village with a churchyard full of primroses and primulas. This turned out to be one of the best church visits we have enjoyed. We were met by the vicar of the parish, Peter Collins who was only appointed at Christmas time to this parish, along with Tracey and Miranda who served tea, cake and sandwiches. Peter's first question to us all was why is there a church and settlement in this location?



Not far away there is the old roman road the Fosse Way, and many roman finds have been unearthed in the nearby villages of Casterton and Empingham. Edith Weston gets its name from Queen Edith (her western village) the wife of Edward the Confessor and daughter of Godwin(e) Earl of Wessex. Edward became King in 1042 and in 1051 he banished the rebellious Godwine family from England and promised the throne to

William the Duke of Normandy.

Godwine however returned to England in 1053 and his son Harold (Edith's brother) became principal adviser to the King and when in 1066 Edward died Harold is chosen as his successor, but William of Normandy declares the throne is his; hence the battle of Hastings 1066.

There is some very interesting stonework both inside and outside this charming church which in part dates back to 1170 with the tower being added some 200 years later. The Lectern is unique in that it is made up of two medieval pew ends. The font is square and sits on a very old base. There are some monuments to the Heathcote family from Normanton and it is thought they were relocated here when the village and church were flooded to create Rutland Water in the 1970s. The very fine Organ dates from 1787 having been built by

Samuel Green (1740-1796). Others made by him can be found throughout the country including Wells Cathedral, St. George's Chapel, Windsor and Bangor. We were invited to go up the tower and six of us accepted the offer. Two of us stopped at the clock chamber but four were brave enough to get all the way up the very narrow winding dark stone steps to the top. They also had a go at ringing the bells. This turned out to be lovely visit to a delightful well maintained Parish church.

Our next visit on the 23rd April will be to the more local church dedicated to St. Mary at Swinstead. Susan.



Local History Group February Meeting

Legal wrangles and land disputes in Stamford during the early 19th century were described by Janet Downs at February's meeting.

The meeting's focus was James Torkington, solicitor, Town Clerk, Clerk to the Magistrates and the second wealthiest man in Stamford after the Marquess of Exeter. He also had connections with Bourne. He donated to the building of the Town Hall, his wife was named in the Will of Catherine Digby of the Red Hall and he had an estate at Lound.

Torkington's legal dispute with Stamford Council began after he had to give up his position as Clerk to the Magistrates, a post that paid considerably more than Town Clerk, after the Municipal Reform Act 1835. He applied for compensation but was refused. The legal wrangle lasted years and ended up being decided by the Lords of the Treasury in Torkington's favour. He was awarded an annuity.

The land outside Stamford remained unenclosed until 1871. Torkington owned much of this land and wanted to sell some of it. The price at auction was half of what he would have made if it were enclosed and sold for building. Thus began the fight for enclosure. Torkington erected fences. One Freeman brought an action against Torkington, allegedly with the support of the Marquess of Exeter. The case failed on a technicality. 20 to 30 Freeman broke down Torkington's fences and allowed cattle to enter. He took action against the trespassers. The Sheriff's Court in Lincoln heard the case and awarded Torkington damages.

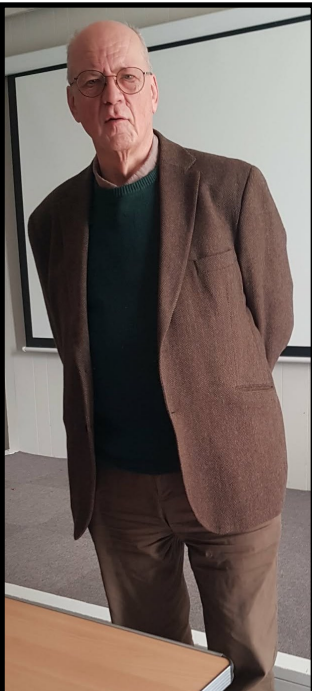


By 1842, Torkington was becoming increasingly unwell. His sons John and James gradually took over the work. John became Town Clerk and was also town Coroner. He became Stamford Mayor in 1851.

John and James carried on the fight for enclosure. This was achieved in 1871.

Although James Torkington had fathered twelve children, there were no grandchildren. In 1896, the Mercury announced the death of Miss Maria Torkington 'the only survivor of an old Stamford Family who occupied a prominent position in the town'. But their name lives on in place names: Torkington House, Torkington Gardens, Torkington Street and a Memorial in All Saints' Church.

Local History Group March Meeting



Michael Gilbert gave the group a fascinating talk about the Centre for Fenland Studies and the Victoria County History Spalding Project. Michael was instrumental in forming the Fenland Heritage Network which links between 40 and 50 local history, archaeology and heritage groups. The Network is developing a database of resources and acts as an interface between amateur groups and professional academics.

The Network was established just before lockdown in February 2020 but survived the pandemic by going online. Michael is also a member of Spalding Gentlemen's' Society and when much of their book and map collection moved to Ascough Hall to allow urgent repair work to their museum, he was able to establish the Centre for Fenland Studies in 2024. They have been allocated a room with desk space and access to documents and books as well as to some of the University of Leicester's history resources.

[The Fenland Heritage Network: Join others promoting our region's heritage](#)

Friday Striders

First walk of March saw 19 walkers (see below) meet at the Wishing Well Pub at Dyke. Breezy but dry walk heading towards Morton, Hanthorpe and Cawthorpe before returning to Dyke for lunch. 6 miles in all with some reasonable under foot conditions.



Second walk on March 27th started at the Blue Bell in Helpston. 10 walkers completed walk of 5.75 miles in damp drizzly weather conditions. Mostly field edge paths and bridle ways using part of the Torpel Way. Signs of Spring with Bluebells sighted in the woods.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright



Science and Technology Meeting

This month's meeting **Subject: A Life Fuelled by Aviation and Motorsport.** A profile of Rob Lamplough. Presented by Malcolm Kenwood.

Malcolm, who is a member of the u3a has met Robs Lamplough, an aviator and, in younger days, a racing driver through another member of the Science and Technology Group, Warick Banks, himself an aviator and past racing driver of some renown.

To explain the interest in aeroplanes and the necessity of financial background needed to be a collector of interesting aeroplanes Malcolm gave an insight into Rob's family background. His grandfather, Francis Edward Everard Lamplough, joined the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough in 1915. During his time there, he invented what was known as the 'Lamplough dart', a weapon that could be dropped on to Zeppelins. Glass technology was a specialism, and in the 1920s he came up with something called Vitaglass, which had higher ultra-violet transparency than usual. It was used in Buckingham Palace and the White House. This generating the family finances.

Robs, who was born in 1940, had his first flights as a 4- and 5-year-old through his father, who was also a flyer in the Royal Air Force (RAF), in a Vickers Warwick and a Beaufighter WW2 aircraft.

He joined the RAF himself and went to Cranwell and leaned to fly but he had not been in the RAF long before he was called in by his Commanding Officer who informed him that his father had just died in an air crash. This had a profound effect on him, and he no longer wanted to fly aircraft. This along with witnessing other accidents with flying prompted him to leave the RAF and join the Army. He was sent to Sandhurst and was earning enough to purchase a Mini and was thus started the car racing part of his career.

The mini didn't last long before he was into sports racing cars, in which he went racing internationally in the Bahamas and North America. Through the 1960's he progressed into various single seater car racing because the starting money was good, and even the odd non championship Formula 1 races with a BRM bought when the works in Bourne was running down.

Now into the wheeling and dealing part of his career Robs met up with Frank Williams, of Williams F1 fame and they proceeded to become the movers and shakers of the European racing car market.

Robs interest in aeroplanes was rekindled during a trip to Ecuador to buy a Ferrari where he came across a Harvard aeroplane for sale. This fired an interest into buying aeroplanes and while he didn't buy this example, he bought one closer to home and he was flying again. He was by now well known as a dealer in aeroplanes and was put in contact with various ones that were slowly rotting away including Spitfires that made their way to Israil and were used for children to play on in a Kibbutz. By way of bartering and



persuasion these were obtained and shipped back to the UK and with professional help, brought back into flying condition to be flown along with other "Warbirds" including an American made Mustang plane called Miss Helen that he flew extensively at airshows and for film work. We were shown a video of some of his flying with a Spitfire during the making of a film. The flying was truly remarkable as it seems was the man's whole life. As Malcolm put it, someone should write a book about Rob Lamplough's life.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday 5th May at 19:00 (**Note evening meeting time**) by Jenny and David Ashwood, **The Year Without a Summer.**

March Report of the U3A Rail Group

This month the group has made two visits; one to the National Railway Museum in York and the other a tour of the fourteen London Mainline Railway termini.

The latter visit considered the current railway operations and the different building architecture styles introduced by the various 19th century railway companies. This was contrasted by the 'modern' 1960's redevelopment of Euston station, which is undergoing further reconstruction for HS2. Brunel's Great Western Railway Paddington station of 1854 was deeply influenced by the design and construction of the Crystal Palace for the 1851 Great Exhibition with a more recent addition of a 'life-sized' bronze statue of Paddington Bear!

The jewel in the crown is clearly the magnificent St Pancras former Midland Railway terminus and hotel opened in 1868. Substantially redeveloped to accommodate Eurostar in 2007, it retains all of the original building, which like Euston was under threat from the 1960's architectural vandals!

Sir John Betjeman; a founding member of the Victorian Society, was instrumental in saving St Pancras and his statue now adorns the concourse. St Pancras was famously "built on beer!" The original undercroft; massive underground vaulted cellars, were built to store hundreds of barrels of beer brought in by train from Burton-on-Trent. The supporting columns are set 14 feet apart to accommodate storage of the beer barrel sizes. Today, they have been opened up and are boutique shops and cafes.



Anytime Out

"Ow Am Yer Bab?"

Where to start with this fantastic day trip to the West Midlands?

For fans of Peaky Blinders, this is one of the key sets for filming and, in fact, sharp eyed observers would have spotted a couple of these characters skulking about among us!

The Living Museum was born from an exhibition underlining the threat to the region's heritage, and recreates life in the industrial Midlands, covering over 250 years.

A tramway system transports visitors around the site, which is easily walkable, albeit slightly hilly in places. Visitors are transported back in time, strolling around a 1930-60's town with shops staffed by knowledgeable assistants giving fascinating facts (do you know when was the first music chart?) about their wares, from sweets & bakery items, to ironmongers, a motorcycle shop & stores selling radios, televisions and army surplus clothing.

An Edwardian school gives lessons on reading, writing & reckoning, woe betide any pupil who speaks out of turn with this cane-wielding harridan!



Lime kilns line the canal, there is an early 20th century village including back-to-back dwellings, workshops, a library, (moved here brick by brick) a drift mine, demonstrations of brick making & chain making, a cinema showing silent oldies, a chapel, a fairground and a pub.

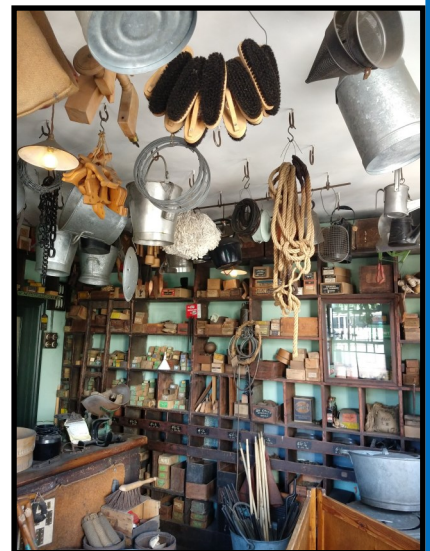
There is a full scale working model of Thomas Newcomen's 1712 steam engine, a rolling mill, brass foundry and, of course, the opportunity to take a boat trip to a magical underground world, dating back millions of years, assist with locks and "leg" through the tunnels.

There's far too much to list, so much to see and absorb how life used to be, and no shortage of refreshments and rest points.

A very worthwhile and successful visit.

Come along to our Coffee mornings at Wake House on the 1st Thursday of every month to find out where we're going next.

But Please Note the ATO Group is full and we are not currently accepting any new members.



BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2025—2026

Title and/or Role	Name	Email
Chair	Pat Howes	chairwoman@bourneu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Martin Adkins	vicechair@bourneu3a.org.uk
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Speaker Finder	Peter Lofts/Gill Stoneman	speaker@bourneu3a.org.uk
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Webmaster	TBA	webmaster@bourneu3a.org.uk
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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

Please limit your copy to one A4 page if possible.

The copy date for the next issue will be 9am on Friday 1st May.

NOTE: New regular date for copy—1st of each month to allow for holidays!!

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to: newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk

or post to: Martin Adkins c/o Wake House, 41 North Street, Bourne, PE10 9AE

Please Note—All copy to be emailed using Microsoft Word or similar.

All photographs to be emailed separately as JPEG's.

PLEASE Do NOT embed photographs in your word document.

Quote of the Month

"If April showers should come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May." Buddy de Sylva