

NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 15 June 2026

BOURNE u3a

Learn, Laugh, Live

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

The Chair's Chat

Welcome to my first "Chair's Chat"!

As many of you will know, Pat Howes has stepped back from the Chair position after 3 years service, although she will continue to sit on the Committee, providing valuable support and guidance.

Which is a great help to me as I take over the reins of Bourne u3a! And to Steph Winter who was elected as Groups Coordinator at the AGM. Pat and I would also like to say thank you to Martin Adkins, who is stepping down as Vice Chair to concentrate on his role as Newsletter Editor and to Gill Stoneman who has served on the Committee for many years and is replacing Martin as Vice Chair.

For those of you that I have not met, I have lived in Haconby since February 2018 and joined the U3A Art and Painting Group the following year. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

It appears that summer has arrived – even if a little early. How long this hot spell will last remains to be seen, of course, but I do wonder what they were using historically to measure the temperature whenever I hear a broadcaster state that it is the hottest day or month recorded since records began! There can't have been many of us around during the Medieval Warm Period who can verify this claim!

More seriously, this weather will wreak havoc with many of the Groups' activities. Let's hope that disruption is minimal.

Best wishes for the coming months.

Gavin



Medieval Warm Period

Speakers for 2026

Date	Subject	Speaker
15 June	The Water Babies	Michael Burton
20 July	I'll polish him off: The Curious history of Sweeney Todd	Dr Ann Featherstone
17 August	The Wildlife of Florida	Gill Walsh
21 September	My Solo Walk across Africa	Fran Sandham
19 October	Liberty's: Family, Firm & Fashion	Horace Liberty

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

**Our Speaker for June is:
Michael Burton –
“The Water Babies”**



Group Vacancies June 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 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
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	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.co.uk			

Welcome, New Members!

Phillip Douglas, Patricia Elliott, Chris Frostick, Graham Hurford, Penelope Hurford, Christine O'connell, Brett Thompson and Diana Mundin.

Bourne Brushstrokes

May 2026

The Group produced a variety of paintings and drawings in the month using a variety of techniques, some from photos and some from the imagination!

Here is a selection.



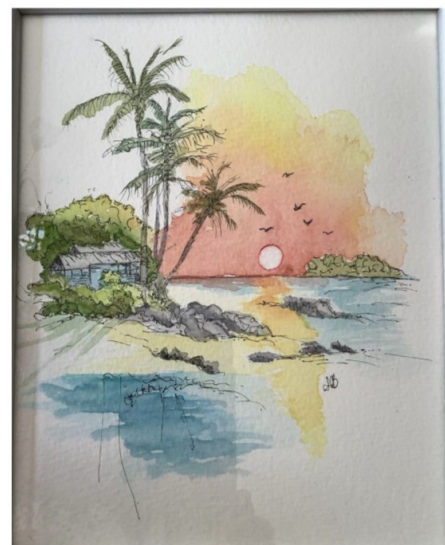
Tulips in a Glass Vase by Maureen Ward



Imaginary Seascape by Ann Wakeford

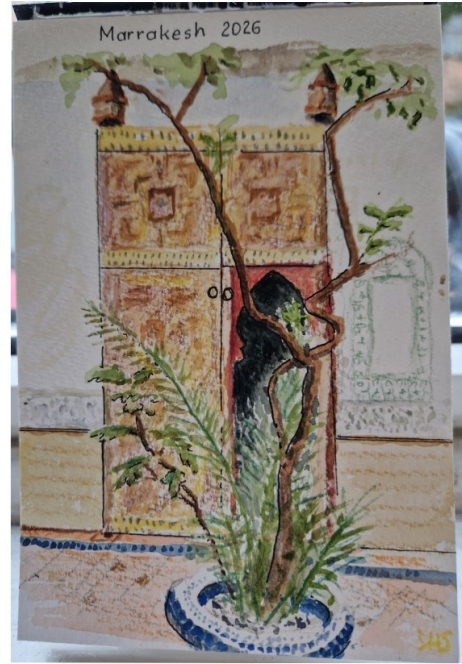
Sunset in the Tropics by Sue Bainbridge

Norwegian Fjord by Margaret Shephard





Sheep at Uffington by Sue Mitchell



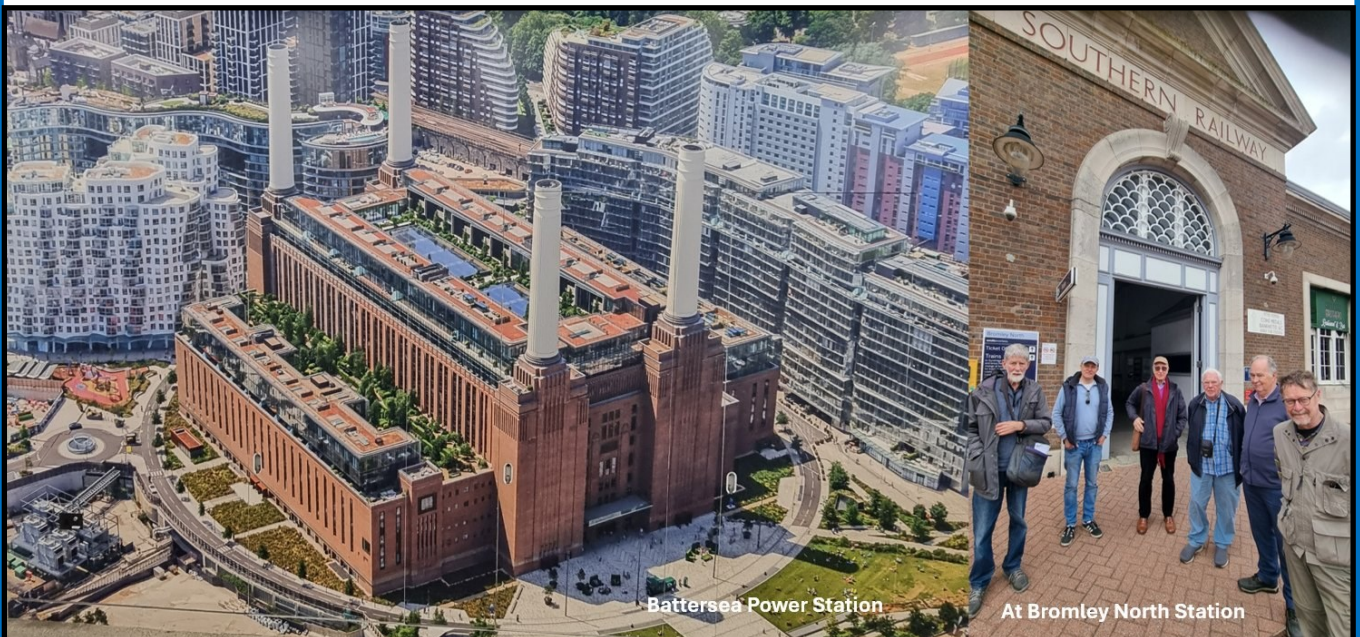
Where I Went on my Holidays by Hall Spears

Waxwing by Jill Ward and Blue Tit by Brenda Greatwood



U3A Rail Group Report for May

At the Rail Group meeting this month, there was an excellent talk on HS2 and a photographic report on the group's recent visit to the Churnet Valley Railway in Shropshire. This month's outing included a visit to Battersea Power Station and some London lines.



The illustrated talk on HS2 given by a group member was entitled, "HS2: Britain's late running, over-budget solution for extra capacity on the West Coast Main Line. Embarrassment or showcase?" It covered the original ambitious plans, the scaling back of the project and the budget overrun. Much of the route infrastructure was shown to be well advanced, although services between London and Birmingham will not start before 2036, and the full route into Euston is not expected to open until at least 2040.

The group outing this month covered the relatively new line to Barking Riverside, now the terminus of London's Suffragette Line, proving infrastructure for the significant developments taking place in this area. Next via the Northern Line extension the group visited Battersea Power Station, which has been repurposed into a modern shopping mall. Then on to Croydon, to use the Tramlink service built on the original railway track-bed. Another amazing day out for a rail enthusiast.

The group has been successful in engaging Tom Ingall of the preserved Great Central Railway to talk about the "Reunification Programme," designed to restore fully the line from Loughborough to Nottingham. This will be at the group's December meeting - more details in future reports.

Anytime Out Group

ATO Trip to Forty Hall and Myddleton Hall Gardens.

Just off the M25 between junctions 24 and 25 there is a large patch of green open ground. Much of this ground is owned by Lee Valley Council and is open as various parks and gardens - some free, some for paid entry. ATO visited two of the properties in the area.

In the morning we visited Forty Hall - our driver Andrew had to use all of his skills getting the coach around two badly parked cars and into the ground. But we saw the house, a small museum of family artifacts and pictures. The gardens around the house (the estate had walks which would take over an hour each way) and the cafe.

The house has a long and varied history eventually becoming the home of the Parker-Bowles. The grounds once held the Elsyng Palace much loved by Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I.



Next door to Forty Hall is Myddleton House and Gardens. This house is not open to the public. But the gardens are large and varied. This was the home of E F Bowles, one time curator of the RHS and responsible for introducing many of our standard garden plants. He also developed a range of iris plants, many of which are still nurtured by the staff at the gardens in what is now the national collection of iris.



Science & Technology

This month's meeting **Subject: - The Year Without a Summer presented by Jenni and David Ashwood.**

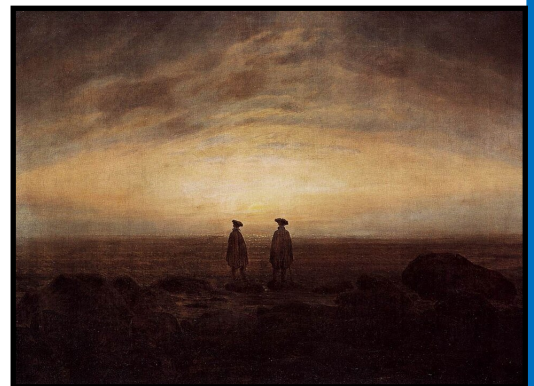
Like most of you I can remember many years that seemed to have no summer but none of these were apparently as bad as 1816, known as "The Year Without a Summer". Before this the climate had been in a Little Ice Age since the 14th Century, it had already caused considerable agricultural problems in Europe. The eruption of Mount Tambora, a volcano in what is now Indonesia is globally famous for its catastrophic April 1815 eruption the most powerful volcanic explosion in recorded history which caused a "volcanic winter" and global climate anomalies in the following year. This occurred near the end of 1815, exacerbating the background global cooling of the period and, along with other volcano eruptions in that period created the environmental conditions that led to the unusual summer conditions of 1816. The ash from the eruption caused much disruption within itself with large particulates causing death and destruction within the immediate area but also finer dust spreading out into the stratosphere across the World in the following months so that the day was darkened and the Sun was blocked from view all causing climate change.

Between 1607 and 1814 there had been six winters when the River Thames froze over. In 1814 it froze for two months, and an Ice Fair was organised. Cold dark winters were the norm, and real White Christmases were common, but the disruption brought about by the eruptions was causing social problems throughout the world with food shortages leading to social unrest in many countries, there was stealing and food riots in the fens.

The Mount Tambora eruption was in April 1815, but further eruptions carried on over the following months and years and was the main cause of the following year that had no summer. Summer temperatures were as low as -2 deg C. Many people were killed from the eruption and the following climate change. There was civil unrest because crops failed and desperate people had no access to food supplies; the government called in the militia and reenacted the 1715 Riot Act to suppress riots.

Bankruptcy was not unusual as businesses lost customers and supplies. Many of the rich landowners of the time were not willing to help their Tenants but in Lincolnshire, being a rural community, many of the rich were "old money" and were prepared to be more benevolent and so there was less hunger.

The following years saw social change, lots of writing was done because of the adverse weather and people became used seeing red and orange sunsets caused by the volcanic ash. Many small farmers had to sell up and slaughter their livestock and those with money were able to invest in cheap land. Resentment led to further civil unrest and arson.



In 1817 the Poor Employment Act was introduced to allow local parishes to get loans and start to re-establish more normal living.

A very interesting presentation about a time when the people of the World had to endure very harsh conditions and learn how to survive.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday 7th July titled, "The Dogdyke Steam Drainage Station Restoration" and will be presented by Chris Page.

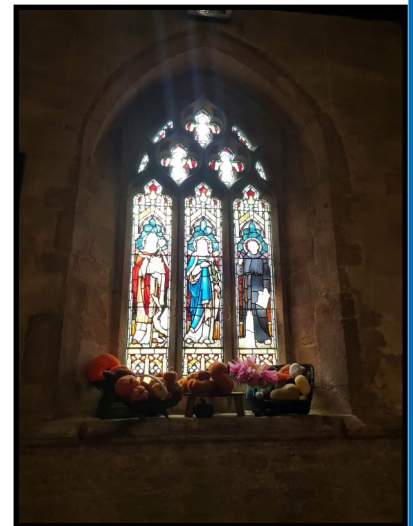
Church Visiting Group

Our visit in May on a lovely breezy warm day was to church of St. Mary the Virgin at Frampton, near Boston. We were met by John the Churchwarden and his wife who served us with refreshments. John has been a churchwarden since 1994, following on from his father and grandfather before him so he was able to tell us all about the history of the village and the Coney Tunnard family who were very influential in the area and supported the church; there is a large ornate chandelier gifted to the church by the family which holds 25 oil candles with a rabbit surmounting the boss, and a very fine tomb in the churchyard.



A church with a priest was listed in the Domesday book, and this was replaced by a Norman stone built church of which the Font bowl and hidden foundations which support the pillars of the nave now remain. The 12c century church was pulled down about 1350 and the church we see today was built. It is thought the stone came from Ancaster and the Stamford area and looking around the outside there are clearly lots of different stone used over the centuries. The church was once in the form of a cross, but the north aisle Transept fell down and was replaced with a window. Today the church comprises a large wide main aisle with a south Transept. The rood screen remains but no rood loft. On the south side of the arch under a small window with the eldest glass in the church is an opening thought to have housed a Piscina which

would suggest the presence of an alter on the rood loft at some time. A recess on the north side of the Chancel is thought to have housed the tomb of the founder of the church – all the brass having been removed. The oak pulpit dating to the 17c was purchased from Bourne Abbey Church for £3. 3s. in 1891. In the south aisle is a fine window depicting St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln with his swan, Mary in the centre with St. Botolph on her right with a model of the "Stump" at his feet. There is also a fine oak medieval Vestry chest with 3 hasps for padlocks which was restored by ladies of Frampton WI to commemorate European Heritage Year. The tower holds 6 bells but sadly these are only rung if there is a wedding or if a visiting group of bellringers visit the church. There is a fine corner commemorating the men of the parish who fell during the 1st World War. A poppy purchased for each one, a collection of fine trench art and a death penny which was tracked down in America and purchased.



John walked members around the large churchyard as we discussed the various differing stonework to the church before some of us went on to Frampton Marsh RSPB reserve where we enjoyed a spot of lunch and a walk, (thanks David for pointing out all the different birds to me).

Our next visit on the 25th June will be to the Church of St. Denys of Aswarby.
Susan, Group Leader

Local History Group

Report Local History Group May 2026.

An unexpected room change caused extra work for group leader Malcolm Scriven and his small band of helpers before our Local History group meeting in May. They heaved heavy chairs up the stairs, found tables and located a tea urn to ensure the room was ready for Chris Carr, dressed as a Roman woman, who presented new evidence about the Romans in South Lincolnshire.

Chris summarized life before the Romans before describing changes after they invaded. Sleaford, already a local centre with a mint, became a flourishing Roman town. Bourne was also developed but much of the Roman remains are under modern Bourne. However, pre-development archaeology found evidence of pottery at the grammar school site Elsea park. A large Iron Age/Romano British site was discovered off Mill Drove.

Quarrying at West Deeping revealed a large Roman site with a villa complex and evidence of Iron Age roundhouses. Great Casterton, near Stamford, was a Roman fort with a pottery kiln. There is a Roman temple under Great Casterton Church,

Roads were also developed. King Street is the modern name given to a road which linked the Roman settlements of Durobrivae, west of Peterborough, and Ancaster. Ermine street linked Londinium (London) with Durobrivae and Lindum (Lincoln). Baston Outgang Road follows a Roman road linking Baston with Spalding.

The most famous water feature locally, generally accepted to have been developed by the Romans, is Car Dyke. 57 miles long, it linked Durobrivae with Lincoln. It ran along the Fen Edge and much of it is visible in the Bourne area. Two local Roman canals were Bourne to Morton and the Rippingale Canal. The latter may have been a drainage ditch.



BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2026—2027

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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 Wednesday 1st July.

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

"In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different." – John Steinbeck