

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

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

BOURNE u3a

Learn, Laugh, Live

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1100094

The Chair's Chat

Welcome to this month's Newsletter.

Plenty has happened this past month: England have been doing well in the World Cup, (although Scotland not quite as well); Ben Stokes has retired from international cricket; Serena Williams has a wild-card entry for Wimbledon; Lewis Hamilton won his first race for Ferrari and, on the sporting front, Andy Burnham may be awarded a 'walk-over'!

The weather forecasters are outdoing themselves on the number of times they can say that records have been broken with the highest temperatures since records began, with the maps now coloured a very fetching deep red and dire warnings about swimming without appropriate training and supervision. I am wondering what colour the maps will be as the temperatures continue to climb throughout July. White heat of technology, perhaps?

I hope that the sustained hot weather during the month has not caused too much disruption to you and to your u3a activities. We have had slightly lower numbers in the Art & Painting Group, but not dramatically so. And many of us will be thinking about going on holiday during July and August.

In the meantime, enjoy reading your Newsletter which includes a very interesting article from your new Group Coordinator Steph Winter.

Enjoy the summer now the nights are drawing in!

Gavin



Speakers for 2026

Date	Subject	Speaker
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
16 November	"Don't Lose Hope" Help for those when times are hard.	Dom Brister

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

Our Speaker for July is:
Dr Ann Featherstone —
I'll polish him off:
The Curious History of Sweeney Todd



Online reading and learning with the u3a

Each year you hand over £10 to make me a happy treasurer and make you a member of Bourne u3a, which enables you to join our groups, attend meetings and hopefully have fun, all for 83pence per month.

Against my wishes and with great sadness, I have to spend this money.

Four of the ten pounds you give me, is paid to our Head Office for you to be a member of the national u3a, so what does this £4 get you?

Friends Extra is exclusively available to anyone who signs-up to receive the u3a Friends Newsletter. When you sign up to the u3a Friends Newsletter for the first time, you will receive an email with a link to the Friends Extra benefits website (I have added these links below).

Each issue of the Friends Newsletter informs you of what other branches may be up to and includes a link to the Friends Extra benefits website.

To sign up to receive the newsletter, copy and paste this link into your web browser;

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/u3a-friends>

Friends Extra covers a wide variety of benefits such as:

- Health and wellbeing discounts on eye care, health tests, gyms, spa deals and golf courses.
- Shopping savings on major brands and retail discount cards.
- Travel discounts from selected partners.
- Lifestyle and leisure offers, like family days out, trips to the cinema and theatre.
- Insurance offers on home, car and travel insurance.
- Access to financial advice and a legal helpline.

Online learning and events via Zoom.

Some upcoming online events;

16th July - Frida Kahlo artist,

20th July - A virtual tour of the Watts Gallery and Artists' Village.

21st July - Laughter Yoga with Merrie Maggie.

23rd July - Everything you need to know to get published.

24th July - The History Man virtual walk.

31st July - Staying Safe Online - A u3a Presentation with Q&A.

4th August - Flight Inspirations Aviation Group.

Some of these subjects are held each month.

Copy and paste this link to view;

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events#ONLINE-EVENTS>

Have a look, there may be something for you, and you do not need to leave your favourite armchair to join in.

Regards, Mike Alexander (Treasurer)

	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!

Lesley Bland, Christine Brightwell, Gill Emanuel and Zena Richards

GROUPS?

Dear Members

Ten years ago (2016) Bourne u3a had the groups listed below, in the last ten years, 32 of these groups have closed. Normally a group closes due to a Group Leader retiring or moving away. We then have the usual problem of no members of the group being willing to take over and the group closes.

Many members are not sure what the job of Group Leader entails. I have recently started a group, and I would like to let you know how I got on;

I Only joined u3a last September and I was eager to try out as many groups as I could. I soon realised that there wasn't a light hearted poetry group. I asked if I could run a new group and what would be involved. The support I received was wonderful. I was shown how to use Beacon, which is the u3a computer system.

I already had 6 people interested, and 2 on a waiting list! A smaller group is better for reading out your poems. So it was decided to hold it in turns in our own homes. I felt very anxious at first, then exhilarated at how easy it was, once explained to me.

So, please do not hesitate to ask me for a chat.

If you think there is a group you would like to see restarted, and are prepared to find a Group Leader, please contact me.

Regards

Steph Winter

2016 List of active groups

Antiques	French Beginners	Reading Group Hereward
Any-Time-Out	French Intermediate	Reading Group 4
Art	Garden Group	Rummy Kub
Art History 1	Handicrafts	Science & Technology
Art History 2	Investing for Income	Singing for Pleasure
Aviation History	Jazz	Snooker
Basic cookery (for Men)	Kurling	Stage Variety
Bourne u3a Players	Ladies Fun & Exercise	Supper Group
Bird Watching	Lunch Group Sunday 1	Table Tennis 1
Canasta	Lunch Group Sunday 3	Table tennis 2
Church Visiting	Lunch Group Weekday 1	
Classical Music	Lunch Group Weekday 2	
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Military History	
Computer Tutoring	Music for Pleasure	
Creative Writing 1	Off Out Again	
Creative Writing 2	Photography	
Dining	Pilates	
Discussion group	Play Reading	
Drawing & painting	Poetry	
Family history	Reading group Bourne	
Family history for Beginners	Reading Group Morton	

Theatre Group

Over the past two or three months Theatre Group has seen quite a number of very clever Productions. From Spalding, Peterborough and Stamford. in Spalding we saw the production of Annie "who had the lead part at only eight years of age is Granddaughter to a lady who lives here in Bourne." A Bourne ladies granddaughter. Joseph and his coat of many colours and four tenors all of whom had been in London Productions and sang a wonderful evening for us. Productions in Stamford have been Raleigh. Shakespeare's wife's version of "the second best bed" and Lemons Lemons Lemons. Over the last 3 weeks in Toilethorpe we have seen Twelfth Night one of Shakespeare's most hilarious comedies. Treasure Island a book probably most of us have read in our lifetime and One man and two Guvs. All of them incredibly acted and wonderful scenery. Two of which absolutely made us all howl with laughter. As we know Toilethorpe is a wonderful setting and the scenery going from 16th century to the 20th.

Another great show we saw a few weeks ago was Carlos Acosta's Ballet Celebrations. This started with an act from Les Sylphides but ended up with five different short scenes from other Ballets and was utterly fascinating. wo gentlemen are in this group of ladies so please do not feel it is ladies only and come and join us on our outings. The people in the Group are the ones who choose where we go at our monthly meetings. These take place on the second Monday in the month at the Courtyard Cafe, at 2.00pm, where we have Coffee or Tea and sometimes even cake!

If you are a Theatre lover or enjoy Concerts but perhaps your "other half" does not then come to a meeting and join in. I am Jan Burton, the Group Leader, if you wish to make contact on 01778 426462., leave your name and number and I will return your call. Please note there is NO MEETING IN AUGUST but we will be back on Monday September 14th. Hope to see you then. Best wishes Jan.

Bourne u3a Drawing and Art Group

This month two of our members, Wendy and Jill, organised an art outdoor away day, the idea was to find suitable subjects within the stunning gardens at Awarby Park then create a piece of art in the available 3 hours.

It did not start well, on the journey up the A15 my windscreen wipers were working hard, and it was not very warm. When we arrived at our venue we were shown into a garden building laid out with tables and refreshments so we could paint indoors. Wendy and Jill had even printed photos of the garden, so we had something to work from in case the weather was against us.

Then the rain stopped and the sun came out so we all did a tour of these amazing gardens to choose our view to draw. During the next three hours we all concentrated on our piece of art appreciating the fact that the sun was out, it was warm and we had stunning views to admire.

We were due to leave at 2 o'clock so we collected our art and presented them to our hostess for her comments and a group photo also thanking her for her refreshments and hospitality. The variety and quality of these pieces of art was extremely good specially considering we had only 3 hours to produce them.

As we were saying goodbye the heavens opened and the rain came down. It rained all the way back to Bourne. So not only did Jill and Wendy chose a stunning venue they also somehow arranged some excellent weather to make it a very enjoyable day out. I'm looking forward to the next one.

The artwork is reproduced on pages 7 and 8.

Bourne Brushstrokes

June 2026

This month the Group had an 'Awayday' at Aswarby Park. The choice of subject ranged from the House itself, to formal gardens, 'wilderness' statues and monumental urns. Wendy and Jill even managed to arrange a sunny and rain-free day!

This month's Brushstrokes comprises a selection of the art produced on the day.



Wendy Hodson



Pete Gillatt



Sue Bainbridge

Lesley Sheer



The day's work





Rosie Cooper

Hall Speers



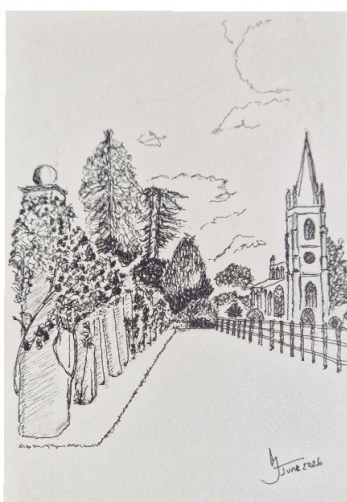
Maureen Ward



Jill Ward



Aswarby Park



Gavin Jeffery



ATO Visit to Normanby Hall, Near Scunthorpe

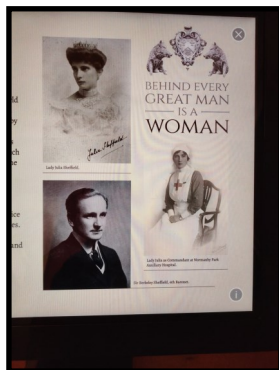
Our journey to the Hall was slow due to the Lincolnshire County Show blocking the A15 and causing traffic jams around Lincoln, so we diverted up the A1 and across country from Newark. Slow but some interesting scenery with views over hedges and fences into gardens and fields, views you can only get from the coach.

This regency mansion just outside of Scunthorpe was built in 1825 for the Sheffield family who were the Dukes of Buckingham (as in Buckingham Palace) and Normanby.

The Hall now houses a museum and art gallery while the grounds have become a country park with a rural life museum, ornamental gardens, woodland walks, sculptures and large duck ponds.



The day started warm but cloudy but quickly got up to hot when the sun came out (just in time for a lucky bride's wedding photos before the ceremony in the Walled Garden).



The hall was hosting its normal array of local artefacts as well as two exhibitions. Water colours of the area and life in the hall, from the point of view of the women, during the wars when it was used as a hospital.

During the day, our members made good use of the cafe for tea, meals, ice cream and shade.

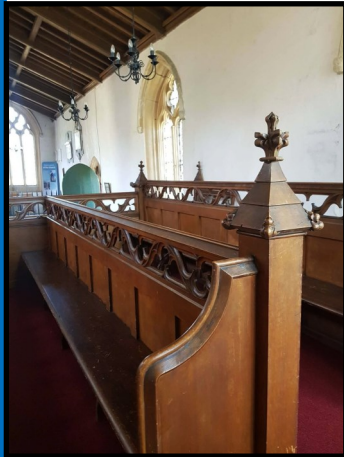


The journey home was faster, Lincoln was still blocked so we used the motorways and A1 back to Bourne. Another good trip for ATO.

The next trip on 16th July, is to two neighbouring NT houses from different eras - Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House.

Church Visiting Group

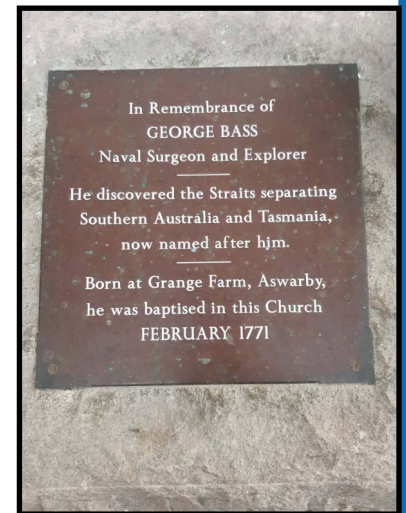
The group braved the heatwave and went to St Denys' church in Aswarby and received a warm welcome to a lovely cool interior. It is Grade 1



listed and an impressive church to drive up to and in good condition after extensive work from 2015-18 on the roof, tower and spire. It is well supplied with grotesques and gargoyles, many humorous, both inside and outside. It has box pews designed to keep out draughts and dogs. The oldest parts are the remaining Norman south door and font which have been in use since the reign of Henry I.



One of the babies baptised in that font in 1771 was George Bass. George lost his father when he was 6 and his mother returned to a house in Boston fronting the river which may have sparked an interest in travel. He qualified as a naval surgeon and became friends with Mathew Flinders. On one of their adventures they proved that Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) was an island and the channel between Australia and Tasmania bears the name Bass Strait. St Denys' church still has visitors from



Australia and there is a commemorative plaque and display in the church telling the story of George Bass.

Aswarby is lovely little spot just off the A15 with a literary connection to M R James who located some of his ghost stories there. You can still see the entrance to the Old Hall which was demolished in 1952. Oaks from the estate were sold for death duties and ended up in the refurbishment of the House of Commons after WWII. As usual the Church Visiting Group found interesting things around our area.



Friday Ramblers

May's walk was an easy walk through the village of Billingborough onto Sempringham Church & Birthorpe before returning to Billingborough.

A short break was taken at Sempringham Church before walking onto the memorial to Princess Gwenllïan. The Princess Gwenllïan Society feel proud to have erected this memorial to a Welsh lady who was 'enclosed' in the Gilbertine Priory from the eighteenth month of her life until her death 54 years later.

The walk was 4.5 miles and used tarmac footpaths and field boundaries with no stiles.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright



Friday Striders

Lovely circular walk Lyndon-Wing-Manton-Lyndon traversing the Chater Valley. Enjoyed by 17 walkers luckily avoiding the threatened rain. Good lunch in Picks Barn. Walk was approx 5.6 miles. With good underfoot conditions a couple of up hill sections to enjoy good views of the Chater Valley.

Only one walk to report on this month as walk on Friday 25th cancelled due to high temperatures and heat warnings.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright



Local History Group

'Spot the Castle' was the question raised at the June meeting of the Local History Group.

The speaker, Martin Smith, invited the Local History group to find (or guess) the site of Folkingham Castle on a map of the village. Folkingham was once an important settlement, Martin explained, but remains of the castle have long gone.

Cromwell is often blamed for destroying the building, but there's no evidence for this. There is evidence, however, that the castle was already in a neglected state in Tudor times. John Leland, Henry VII's antiquary, wrote 'it hath bene a goodly house, but now it fallith al to ruine'.

Martin took us back to the 7th Century when Folkingham was a Mercian royal borough. It is likely it would have needed a substantial Hall in which to operate. When the Danes arrived, it became a seat of leading Anglo-Saxon thanes. Ulf of Fenisc owned Folkingham pre-Conquest.

After the Conquest, Gilbert de Gant from a high-status Flemish family, took possession of Folkingham. The pre-Conquest ringwork was rebuilt as a baronial castle with a high tower made of wood and later whitewashed. During the 12th Century Anarchy, the castle defences were strengthened possibly in stone.

The castle became a victim of the Lancastrian-Yorkist Civil War (the Wars of the Roses). It switched ownership back-and-forth and ended up empty and without purpose. John Hussey of Sleaford became overseer of the castle and manor after William Beaumont. Hussey was implicated in the Pilgrim of Grace, the uprising against Henry VIII, and executed. The castle land changed hands again. It became redundant and eventually became the site of the House of Correction in the early 19th century. Only the grand entrance to the latter remains.



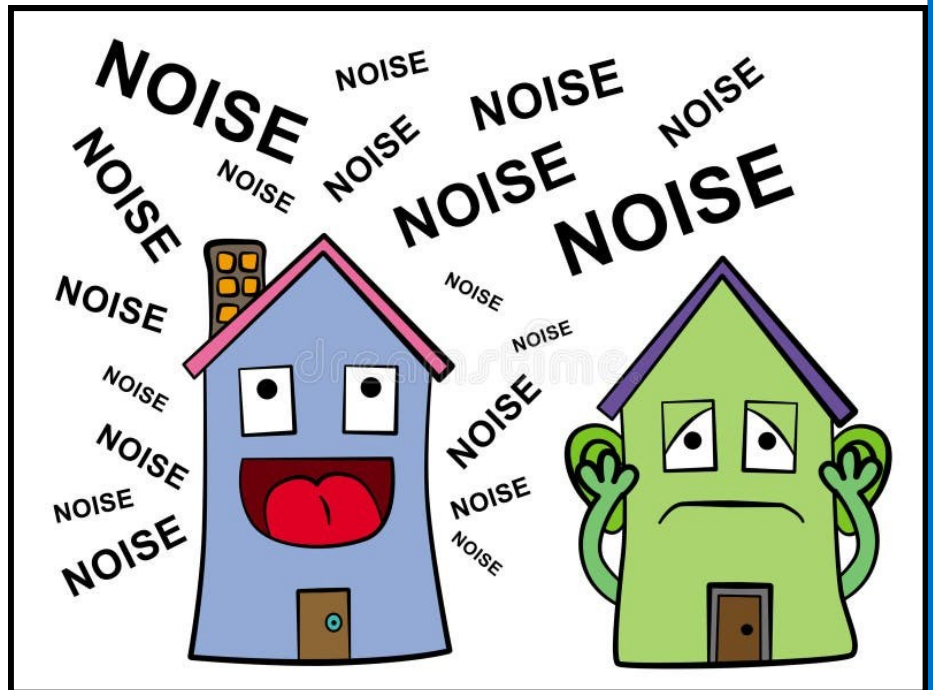
Science and Technology Group

Subject: - Sounds Funny presented by Roy Pettitt

This month's presentation was given by u3a member, Roy Pettitt, and was a rather tongue in cheek recollection of situations encountered during his time as an acoustics consultant, many amusing and some even slightly scary.

Being a sound measurement consultant inevitably leads to having to enter people's homes, workplaces and entertainment facilities and has led Roy into several sensitive and eye-opening situations that were the subject of this presentation.

There were many situations, the first being when asked to investigate noise (noise is unpleasant sound) that was evident from one house to another in a terrace of houses he was immediately invited by a lady into her bedroom, in this case to bring his attention to the fact that she could hear the man in the adjoining house, apparently, she could hear him taking his trousers off. Sound measurements were made and sure enough noise was transmitted



from one house to the next because there was no dividing wall in the loft and there were poorly fitting loft hatches in both houses.

Many other situations came to light such as University counselling rooms where it was possible to sit in the waiting area and hear the supposedly confidential conversation ongoing. This problem also fixed with some insulation.

Some of the situations were a little scarier, for instance, in a nightclub situation where Roy was with a group who needed some sound measurements to be made when they came across another group when two of the men realized they weren't best of friends and an aggressive situation was developing, fortunately neither wanted to include an acoustic consultant in their argument.

Sometimes the customers didn't quite take having a report from acoustic consultants as seriously as they should such as a Warehouse Company who were getting complaints from people living nearby. Sound measurements were made and presented, the customer then asked that the report should state that there were no vehicle movements during the night. When it was put to him that there were in fact vehicle movements at night, he said yes, he knew that, but he didn't want the report to show that. He was politely told that an inaccurate report would not be issued. Customer and supplier terminated their meeting.

Continued on page 15.

Science and Technology Group—continued

A visit to Farnborough Hall was another experience, various sound measurements had to be made and equipment needed and so Roy was invited to use the Great Hall to set up his equipment, during the day various invitations to have sherry, lunch, tea were made but politely declined as the work needed to continue. Eventually at the completion of work a further invitation was made to join the Baroness in the kitchen for lunch only to find the untidiest kitchen imaginable.



Farnborough Hall

Many other situations occurred including working for Belling Cookers only to find they were going into receivership and could not pay the bill in full, measure noise in nightclubs and going to an old Odean cinema then being used for live music where the noise was actually moving the walls to the toothbrush manufacturer where the manufacturing process went wrong and toothbrushes went on the floor and then were duly picked up and packaged for sale to my favourite story where he was measuring noise from a woodworking factory but a dog from an adjoining property was barking near a metal fence and upsetting the measurements, solution, throw toffees over the fence to occupy the dogs mouth long enough to make the measurements.



A very entertaining presentation showing the lighter side of serious work.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday 4th August titled, "Lasers - Energising Light" presented by Peter Gale

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2026—2027

Title and/or Role	Name	Email
Chair	Gavin Jeffery	chairman@bourneu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Gill Stoneman	vicechair@bourneu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Janice Lyon	secretary@bourneu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Mike Alexander	treasurer@bourneu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Alistair Tough	membership@bourneu3a.org.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Steph Winter	groups@bourneu3a.org.uk
Speaker Finder	Peter Lofts	speaker@bourneu3a.org.uk
New Members	Pat Howes	pat@bourneu3a.org.uk
Raffle Organiser	Val Shuell	raffle@bourneu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Martin Adkins	newseditor@bourneu3a.org.uk

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 Saturday 1st August.

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.

OBITUARY

Edward Heath 14/08/1937 – 29/05/2026 (Play Reading Group)

On a warm, sunny July afternoon, members bade a fond farewell to Edward, the groups' only male reader.

A graveside service took place in the meadows of Tithe Green Burial Park, Ketton. Afterwards we were privileged to share fond memories and hear how this man touched & shaped the lives of those who knew him. He will be much missed.

Quote of the Month

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken."