

NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 17 August 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.

We continue to enjoy an extended summer (together with hose-pipe restrictions and warnings to keep out of the sun). However, I suspect that we will be complaining about the rain in the not too distant future!

At the last u3a meeting on the 20th July I mentioned that the u3a AGM is on the 14th October and that a resolution has been submitted that focuses on the relationship between the u3as and the TAT (the Third Age Trust).

The resolution that has been submitted to the AGM calls for "The TAT Board to conduct, within six months, a formal consultation with u3as on Trust involvement in advocacy, campaigning and public policy outside the promotion of lifelong learning, education and support for member u3as."

In essence, a large number of the u3as feel that the TAT is moving into a 'Head Office' role, dictating policy and changing the focus of the organisation, rather than concentrating on providing support to the u3as in their existing activities. This may all sound a bit remote from us, but we need to remember that our membership of our u3a is voluntary and that changes to the u3a structure and activities need to reflect that.

The Committee will be circulating more information in the coming weeks. If there is anything that requires clarification or more information, please ask!

Gavin



Speakers for 2026

Date	Subject	Speaker
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
21 December	Christmas Entertainment	TBA

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

Our Speaker for August is:
Gill Walsh —
The wildlife of Florida



	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!

Sue Mills

Bourne Brushstrokes

July 2026

Summer is upon us and the quantity of work the Group has produced has reduced to a trickle- perhaps in sympathy with the weather! The theme for this month is therefore "Quality not quantity!"



Angela Grey



Lesley Sheer



Brenda Greatwood





Maureen Ward

Wendy Hodson



Pete Gillatt



Janet Dowse

ATO Visit to Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House

Once we left the motorways and dual carriage ways we were into lovely villages with 'crickey how much would that cost?' houses. Some of the roads allowed our driver to demonstrate his ability to get a massive coach around little corners - perhaps his curses do help.

Two lovely old houses, both with very good shops and cafes which we used for food and drink but also to hide from the heat.



We started at Baddesley Clinton, with its roots in the 13th century, this much altered moated house is full of nooks and crannies. A great place for hide and seek but the creaking of the floorboards would give you away.



A short drive away (more narrow roads, tight corners and some new curses) gets us Packwood House. This is much more modern - well it's 300 years younger - than Baddesley Clinton and from the 16th Century. This house was almost lost in the late 1800s. A new owner whose son set about recreating the building using materials reclaimed from other houses being demolished elsewhere. He also bought furnishings of the various periods and created what we see today in the style of the old house.

The gardens are extensive and include the famous Yew Tree Garden including the 300 year old layout which is said to represent the Sermon on The Mount - often seen on gardening programs.

The next trip is to Wells-Next-The-Sea on August 20th. Bring your sun hat, cream and enjoy a day at the beach.

Local History Group

Browne's Hospital, Stamford.

David Wallington, curator of Browne's Hospital, Stamford, described the history of this medieval building at the July meeting of the Local History Group.

In 1485, Richard III issued letters patent to permit wool merchant William Browne of Stamford and his wife Margaret to found and endow an almshouse in Stamford to provide hospitality for the homeless. As well as accommodation for two clergy, ten men and two women, the almshouse would have a hall for the Guild of All Saints on the upper floor. This hall became the Audit Room after Guilds were swept away around 1548.

After the death of William and Margaret, control passed to Margaret's brother

Thomas Stokke of Warmington. He obtained new letters patent from Henry VII after Richard was killed. Thomas wrote the rules on which the Charity operated. A new licence became necessary after the split with Rome. This was given by King James I in 1610.



The two Clergy managed estates within 20 miles radius of Stamford which left them little time to administer the Hospital. A Warden and Confrater were employed to run the almshouse.

Those who received help were not vagrants but poor and devout residents of Stamford. The men were housed in the board room (aka the common room) which had been divided into ten cubicles (the pictured replica was made by U3A member Polly Knox). This room was unheated until 1871 when a fireplace was added. Also in the 1870s, the cubicles were replaced by cottages with a covered walkway built on the site of demolished buildings backing on to North Street.

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Local History Group—continued

Rules were strict. The men had to wear a uniform. They had to go to Prayer and Services. They had to get permission to stay elsewhere overnight.

The Hospital has several surviving artifacts. A stone altar slab was saved from Edward VI's decree to demolish all altars as it was set in the floor. The chapel has six misericords (aka mercy seats) with carvings underneath. Some of the glass dates back to 1475. The table in the Guild Hall is pre-Armada. The rare Gdansk chest was imported from Poland in pieces and finished in England: a medieval version of IKEA. It has three locks and was used for receiving offerings.

The Hospital still functions as an almshouse although the strict rules no longer apply. Today, there are eleven women and one man in residence. There is one vacancy.

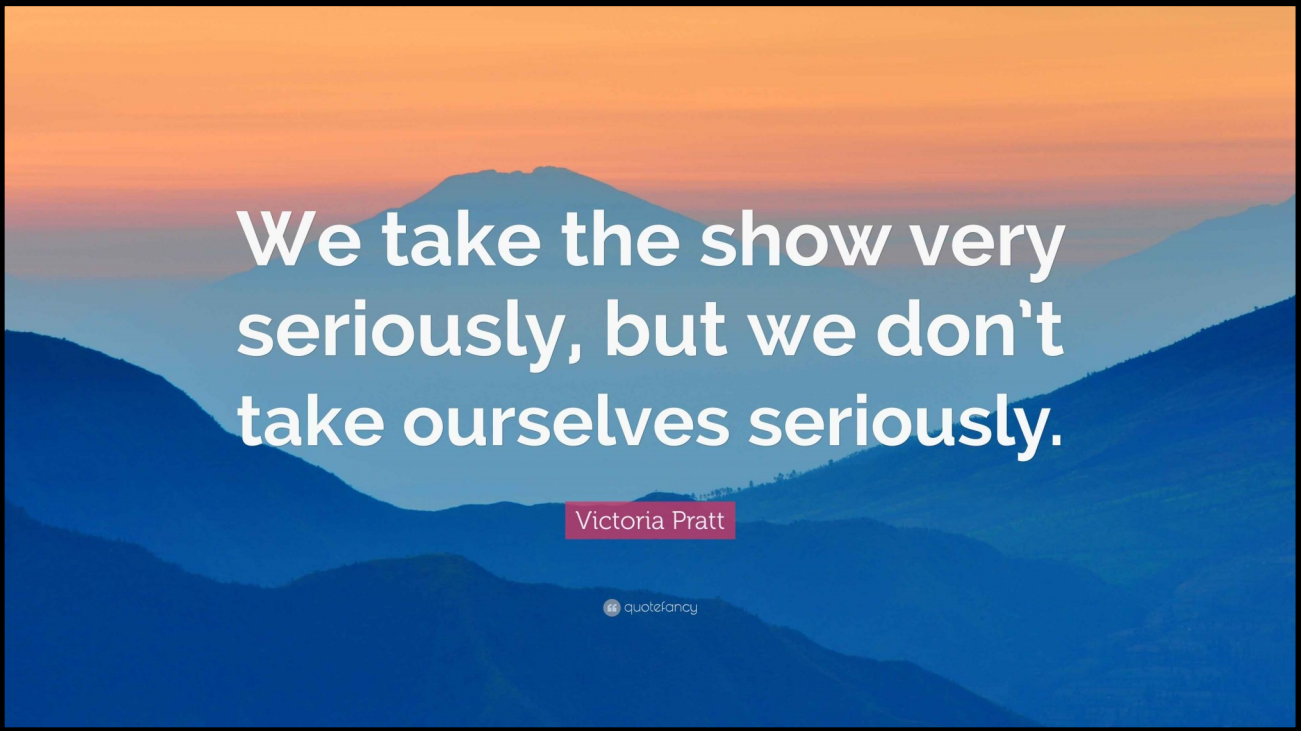
Play Reading Group

Play Reading Group has room for a couple of new members. We are very relaxed and friendly, we meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday mornings in each other's homes, so quite a small group.

We read from Play books borrowed from the library and the genre is usually comedy or farce, so there's much laughter and lots of fun.

We don't take ourselves seriously Darling!

If you think you'd like to come along and see if it's for you, just contact either Val Shuell (valshuell@yahoo.co.uk) or Jan Robinson (jananddud@gmail.com) for further details.]



We take the show very
seriously, but we don't
take ourselves seriously.

Victoria Pratt

quotefancy

Church Visiting Group

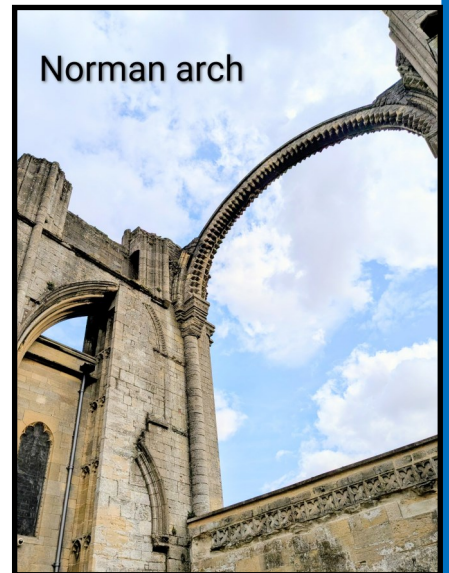
Our group visited Crowland (Croyland) recently where once stood a large Benedictine Abbey, the north aisle which is now used as the parish church of this interesting town with its famous Trinity Bridge.



after two years seeking greater seclusion he adopted the life of a "hermit" and with his boatman and servant he sought a desolate spot in the Fens and landed on the Island of Croyland. The story of Guthlacs life is told by the monk Felix who was commissioned by the Saxon King Ethelbald and depicted in the Guthlac Scroll a 12c manuscript held in the British Library. Guthlac and his companions set up small cells about half a mile east of todays Abbey, (his sister Pega lived with him until she settled at Peakirk). Guthlac gained a



reputation for holiness of life and was visited by many who sought spiritual guidance, one of them being Ethelbald a pretender to the throne of Mercia. Guthlac prophesised that Ethelbald would one day become King and the latter vowed that in that event he would build an abbey in honour of Guthlac. He fulfilled his vow by laying the foundation stone on St. Bartholomews Day A.D. 716 two years after Guthlacs death. The first buildings were probably of wood or wattle with thatched roof. Nothing of which remains although oak piles used for foundations have been unearthed. The Danes

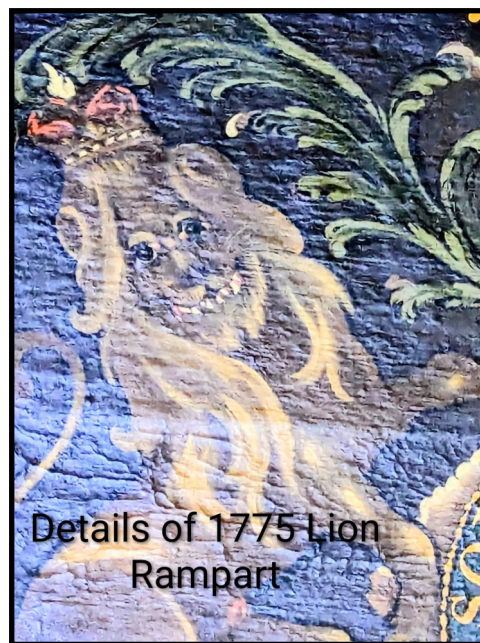


attacked and although it is believed some monks escaped many were murdered as they prayed and the buildings were burned.

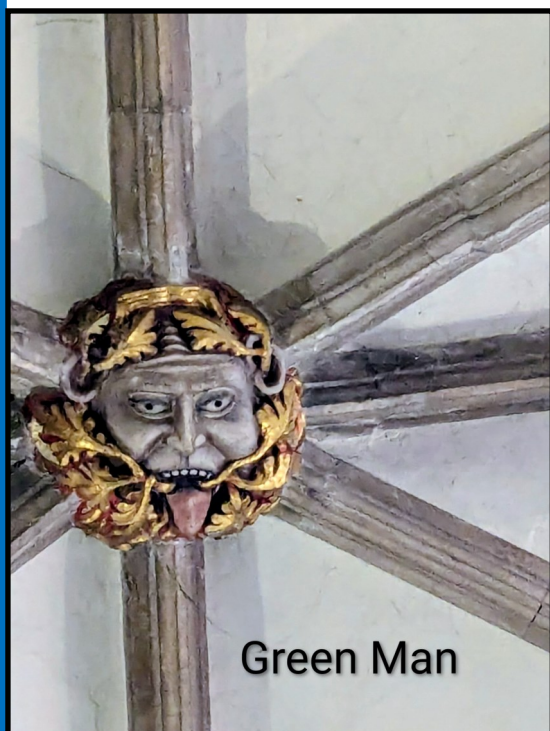
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Church Visiting Group—continued

A 2nd Abbey was built c.A.D. 746 in the Saxon style with the community living to the Rule of St. Benedict. Nothing of this Abbey now survives as it was destroyed by fire in 1091. Abbot Ingulphus set about a reconstruction but all his work was levelled to the ground at the next rebuilding. At this time 62 monks belonging to the Abbey and over 100 monks from other monasteries lived at Crowland. Hereward the Wake was leading a resistance against the Normans and it is said that he is buried in the Abbey grounds with his wife, Torfrida, and his mother Lady Godiva.



Details of 1775 Lion Rampart



Green Man

In 1109 Joffrid of Orleans began an extensive reconstruction of the church and monastic buildings but

again another fire in 1143 destroyed a great part of the work. Successive Abbots undertook further building and alterations and William of Wermington, a master mason, was responsible for the vaulting in the north aisle and for the northwest tower. Then came Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell and the monastery was surrendered to the Kings use.

Today we have a Parvise Chapel (room over the porch) provided as a residence for the parish priest. It is of crucifix form, has an alter and has a small window in which one can see into the main church. There is a perpendicular design Font in the centre of the tower arch and

another built into the south pier, thought to be Abbot Joffrid's Norman font, hidden until 1822 by a massive stone screen. There is a small incised stone believed to be a Crusader heart casket. There are 6 bells in the Tower and they have one of the longest draughts in the country, the ropes being 90' long. The fine tierceron vaulting to the roof of the Nave is outstanding, as are the roof bosses. The one above the chancel is a foliate head of the Green Man. Outside there is some very fine stone masonry remaining from the original Abbey with a Quatrefoil over the west door. This sculpture in the shape of a four leaf clover shows in relief scenes from the life of St. Guthlac and is believed to date from the middle of the 13th century. There are some 22 wonderful statues on the west front. There are more "listed" gravestones at Crowland than at Highgate Cemetery. The oldest readable stone dates to 1680. Standing among the ruins one can only imagine what this huge Abbey (built with Barnack Rag brought to Croyland by barge) once looked like.

If you have never explored Crowland the old Abbey ruins are a good starting point.

Our next visit will be on September 24th when we go to the Church at Longthorpe.

Science and Technology Meeting July 2026.

This month's meeting **Subject: - "The Dogdyke Steam Drainage Station Restoration."** Presented by Chris Page.

Chris has been involved in the restoration of the drainage station for many years and so was well versed in the history and hard work that he and his fellow volunteers have put into the project and was able to present a very interesting talk that reflected his enthusiasm for the subject.

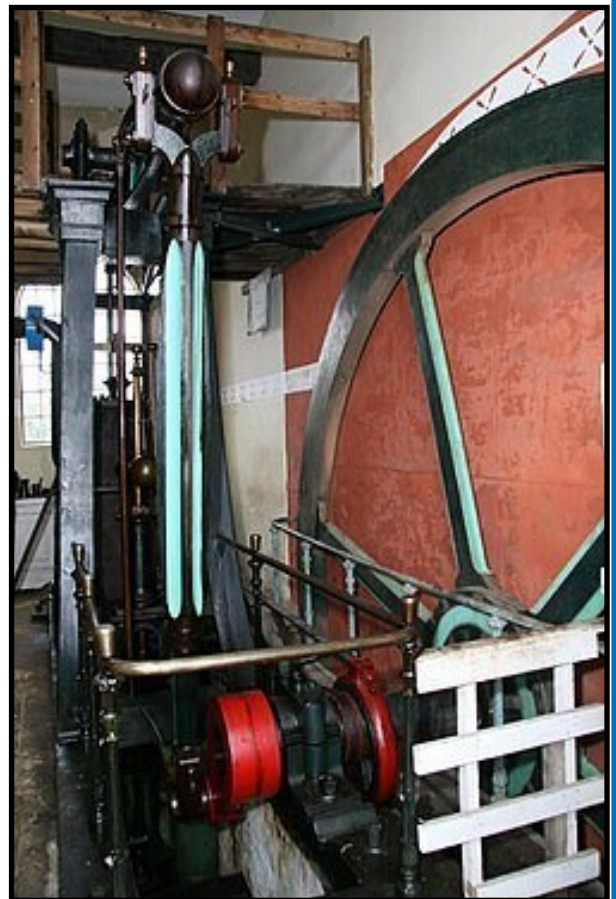
The Dogdyke drainage station is no longer in use but is preserved so that there is a working example of Lincolnshire land drainage history.

The drainage station dates to 1856 when a condensing steam beam engine manufactured by Bradley and Craven of Wakefield was built and installed to replace a windmill driven pump possibly dating from 1395. The steam engine drives a 24-foot diameter scoop wheel with wooden floats and lifted water from land drainage into the River Witham. The water is now channelled back into the drain so that the engine can be fired up and run in demonstrations.

The steam engine was superseded by a Ruston and Hornsby oil engine until 1974 when electric pumps were installed.

The main content of the presentation was about the refurbishment and running of the steam engine and the trials and tribulations of bringing it back into running order for demonstration running. The first significant occurrence was the, fortunately, unsuccessful attempt in 1940 to sell the engine. Had the engine been sold then there would have been no steam engine on site and the historic connection may have been lost for ever. Nonetheless the engine stayed where it was and the land it was on became owned by a Mr. John Porter who was a history enthusiast who in turn collected enough interested people to, in 1968, start work on refurbishment of pumping station and its contents.

Work started on the steam engine in what was a steep learning curve as none of the volunteers were experts and so they learned as they went along gleaning help where necessary. Serviceable boilers were located and work progressed to finally being able to put the engine into steam. The oil engine was a little easier as one of the volunteers had completed an apprenticeship at Ruston and Hornsby and was able to recondition the engine.



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Science & Technology—continued

The pumping station buildings also had their problems as they were very close to RAF Coningsby, and the noise of aircraft had taken its toll and there was a danger at one point that they would have to be demolished.

Much work had to be put in but eventually there was a grand opening on Saturday 9th July 1977 and the engine was put into steam the following August. This didn't mean the end of all the problems by any means. Over the time since then they have had to contend with a major breakdown of the steam engine, a roof fire and the fitting of a new boiler. There was also the refurbishment and maintenance of the buildings as well, although English Heritage stepped in to help with this.

This was a very interesting insight into the dedication of a group of people to maintain some of our local history. The pumping station is now open to the public. Details on their web and Facebook sites.



Next Meeting will be Tuesday 1st September titled, Infection Control or Inspector Clouseau? To be held at Edenham Village Hall, doors open 9:30, presentation starts 10:00

Friday Striders

Two walks in July both experiencing very hot weather.

First walk of the month saw 14 walkers meet at 9.45 am at the Hare and Hounds pub car park, Haconby. A pleasant walk of five and half miles in length including the villages of Haconby, Morton, Hanthorpe and Stainfield. The walk had approximately 5 stiles, was flat and included a mixture of field, quiet country lanes and tarmac path walking.



The second monthly walk started in Bourne Woods, with walks of two length on offer 7 or 5 miles. Walk went through the woods and headed towards Edenham where the walk split. The shorter walk went through Edenham and then used lanes back through the woods passing two ponds showing signs of water shortage before returning to car park.

The longer walk continued on to Scottlethorpe, the edge of the Grimsthorpe estate, and then through fields back to Bourne. 19 walkers in total with 6 opting for the longer walk and 13 opting for the shorter walk.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright



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
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Speaker Finder	Peter Lofts	speaker@bourneu3a.org.uk
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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 Tuesday 1st September.

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

"August: the last burst of warmth before the cool embrace of autumn." — Anonymous