

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 21 September 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.

The heatwaves (five officially!) seem to have passed for the time being and the recent rain has brought the farms and gardens some welcome relief, although we still have our hose-pipe restrictions in place.

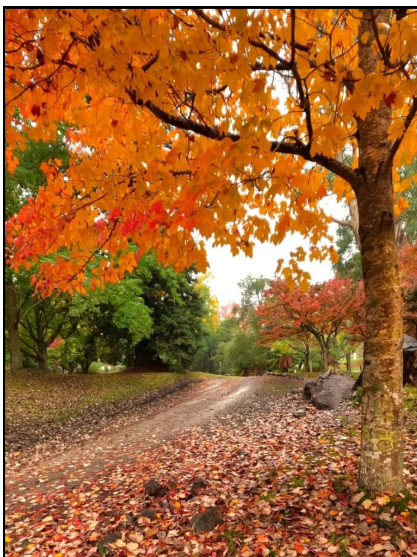
It is good to see the amount of roadworks going on, including repairs and maintenance of the gas mains. Disruptive at the moment, but I am sure we will all appreciate it once the work has been completed.

No updates for you on the subject of the TAT and the AGM to be held next month. We will see what happens in the next month.

On an entirely different note, I was introduced this month to the range and depth of the activities undertaken by the Bourne United Charities. The BUC, who own a number of properties in and around Bourne, including the Red Hall and Wake House, held a "Painting in the Park" day on 22nd August, in which The Drawing and Painting Group took part. There is an Art Exhibition to be held in the Red Hall on the weekend of 19th/20th September, which will include a number of works by R.A.Gardner, a Bourne resident and JP who was also a noted artist. I am looking forward to seeing his pictures and those of other local artists – including members of the u3a.

Enjoy the beginning of autumn!

Gavin



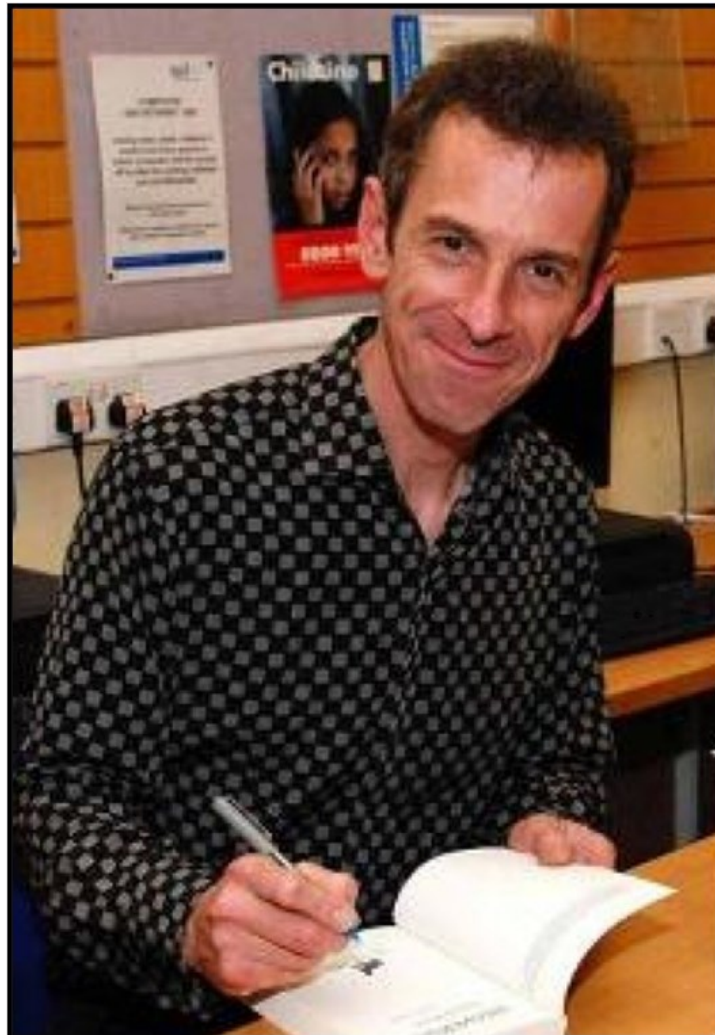
Robert Arthur Gardner ARA
1850—1926

Speakers for 2026

Date	Subject	Speaker
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 September is:
Fran Sandham —
My solo walk across Africa



Groups with Vacancies September 2026			
Group	Leader	Meets	Venue
Abbey Church Garden	Malcolm Scriven 017780426483	Last Tuesday each month	Church Walk
Antiques & Collectables	Steve Froy 075230252077	2nd Monday pm every month	Wake House
Art History 1	Chris Pickering 01778 570049	2nd Wed am every month	At Members Homes
Art History 2	Betty Davies jobet.davies@outlook.com	1st Wed a.m. every month	At Members Homes
Church Visiting	Susan Hadfield 01778 426417	4th Thurs morning Monthly	As Notified
Creative Writing 2	John Boss jbheronswood24@talktalk.net	3rd Wed of every month	At Members Homes
Drama Workshop	Malcolm Ranson 01778 423834	2nd Wednesday every month	As Notified
Drawing and Painting	Pete Gillatt 01778 421254	Every Tuesday morning	Abbey Church Hall
Friday Ramblers	Janet Cartwright janetmcartwright@gmail.com	First Friday of month	As Notified
Friday Striders	Janet Cartwright janetmcartwright@gmail.com	Friday twice month	As Notified
Garden Group	Karen Arlow & Janet Blacoe	1st Tuesday p.m. every month	As Notified
Green Bowls Outdoors	Mike Alexander & Julian Cooke	Tuesdays and Thursdays Outdoors	Bourne Town Bowls Club
Handicrafts	Carol Robbins	Every Tuesday afternoon	Abbey Church Hall
Kurling	Brian Empson b.empson23@btinternet & Pat Howes	2nd Tuesday of each month	Bourne Corn Exchange
Line Dancing	Carol Robbins & Val Shuell valshuell@yahoo.co.uk	Alternate Wednesdays	1 Hub Bourne
Litter Picking	Vaughan Roberts	3rd Friday of each month	As Notified by Group Leader
Local History	Eric Cooper & Malcolm Scriven mpscriven@hotmail.com	First Monday each month	Wake House
Nosh and Natter	Alice Proctor 01778 420788	1st Weds lunch time of each month	As Notified by Group Leader
Railway	Paul Gosden 01778 420292 & Mike Morgan	First Wednesday of each month 2pm	Methodist Church Hall
Reading 4	Chris Ankerson 01778 422391	Last Tues a.m every month	At Members Homes
Reading Bourne	Betty Davies jobet.davies@outlook.com	1st Friday a.m. every month	At Members Homes
Science and Technology	Malcolm Scriven 01778 426483	1st Tuesday a.m. every month	Edenham Village Hall
Singing for Pleasure	Marjorie & Mike Wright michael.gatley4@tiscali.co.uk	2nd and 4th Wed pm every month	Methodist Church Hall
Snooker 3	Nick Searing nick.searing@gmail.com	Thursday afternoon	Snooker Hall
Ten pin Bowling	Dave Rippon airforce1.dr@gmail.com	Every Wednesday Morning	As Notified
Theatre and Entertainment	Jan Burton janet.jimjans@talktalk.net	2nd Monday of month pm	Courtyard Café, Crown Walk
Wine Appreciation 2	Gerry Blacoe geraldblacoe@gmail.com	4th Monday p.m. every month	At Members Homes
Wine Appreciation 3	John Boss jbheronswood24@talktalk.net	2nd Friday of each month	At Members Homes

All enquiries, please email groups@bourneu3a.org.uk



ATO Trip to Wells Next the Sea

Well, well, well, what a glorious day at the seaside Wells proved to be! An absolute gem on the North Norfolk coast with so much to offer, we were spoilt for choice.

Our coach set us down right on the seafront, so just a few steps to invade, en masse, the many cafes, shops and bars.



The quay was alive with families fishing for crabs, & boats bobbing about on the water below soaring gulls, keeping a watchful eye out for the chance of a stolen chip!

There are boat trips at regular intervals, touring the harbour, salt marsh creeks or even out to sea.



The Beach Bank Walk is a must, for those who can, affording breathtaking 360° views over the channel, the town & the harbour. The reward at the end being the gorgeous sandy beach with beach huts, dunes & pine woods, as well as the RNLI station.

There is a shuttle bus for those who prefer not to walk.

Back in the town, with the paddling Lifeboat Horse overlooking proceedings, there are countless quaint sideroads crammed with an assortment of opportunities for retail therapy.

For a "quiet little seaside town" Wells more than delivered a proper seaside "fix" and even the weather, forecast as heavy thunderstorms, was kind all day until just before we boarded the coach for our homeward journey via the scenic coast.

Join us next month when we're going to Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen.

August Report of the U3A Rail Group

This month the group's activities included a visit to the Settle and Carlisle line, together with the heritage Keighley & Worth Valley Railway and a Railway Knowledge Quiz at the August meeting.

The Settle and Carlisle line crosses the scenic regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines, which includes the historic Ribbleshead Viaduct, receiving a reprieve from closure in April 1989, by the then Transport Secretary, Michael Portillo. The route includes the highest English main line station at Dent, which is 1150 feet above sea-level. Several stations along the route were closed by British Rail in 1970, but were reopened in 1986 to facilitate hiking and other leisure activities through the Yorkshire Dales National Park with over a million passengers now using the line each year.

The heritage Keighley & Worth Valley Railway operates over 5 miles of track with the BR Standard steam locomotive, 75078 in operation on the day of the visit.

Planned Group Activities

Talks:

For the September and October meetings there are planned talks by group members on, "Family Railway Memories" and "The East-West Rail Project" respectively.

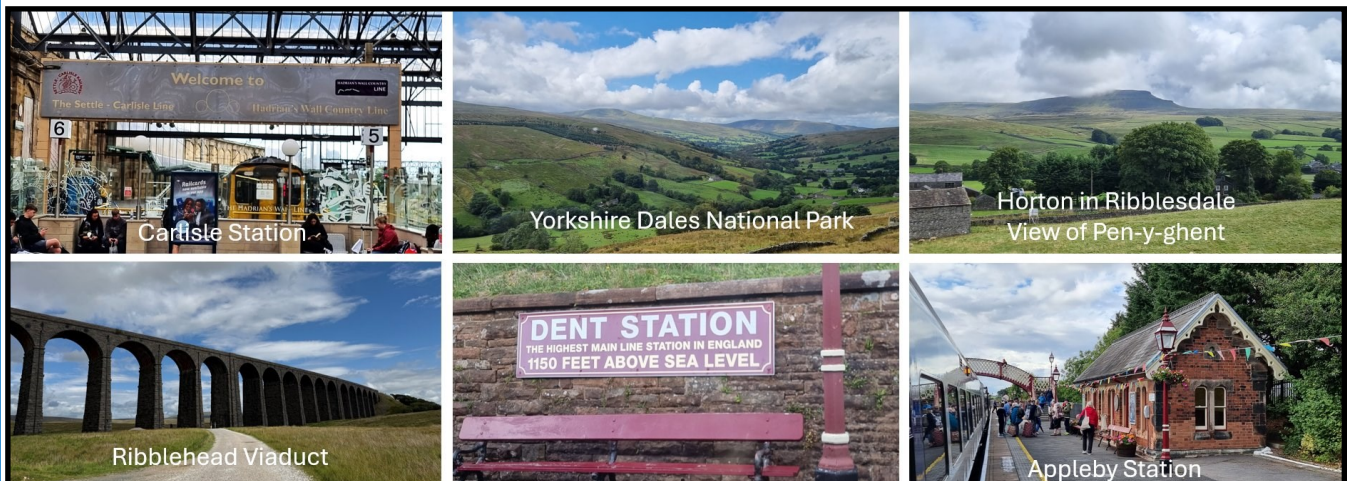
We are privileged to have a presentation on the "Great Central Reunification" by Tom Ingall on Wednesday 2nd December. This is a project to restore the original line between Loughborough and Nottingham to link the two separate parts of the preserved Great Central Railway. All U3A members are invited to this talk at 2.00 pm at Thurlby Methodist Church Hall for which there will be an admission fee of £5 to help make a contribution to the reunification project. Please let either of the group leaders know should you wish to attend in order to facilitate numbers.

Visits;

Wednesday 23rd September: A visit to some of the Surrey Branch lines (all on the Zone 6 Thameslink Travelcard!)

Friday 2nd October: Great Central Railway

Wednesday 21st October: Didcot Railway Centre



Bourne Brushstrokes

August 2026

Some of the Group members met at the Wellhead on Tuesdays and participated in the BUC's "Painting in The Park" event, which was attended by a number of local artists and groups. There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, so hopefully this will become a regular event!. These are some pictures of the u3a Painting and Art Group displaying their talents!



Friday Ramblers

Septembers walk started from the car park of Burghley Golf Club and headed along the footpath leading to Wothorpe Towers.

Wothorpe Towers are the remains of Wothorpe Hall (also known as Wothorpe Lodge), a late-Elizabethan, early-Jacobean country house in Wothorpe, Cambridgeshire, England.

Built for the Cecil family in the early 1600s, the house was occupied for 150 years before it was partially demolished, with only the towers and outer walls surviving. Both are Grade I-listed structures with English Heritage. Wothorpe House has been undergoing renovation since the early 21st century; the ruined towers are a scheduled monument and are being preserved. Used as a film location for an episode of Dr Who in the 80s.

The walk continued down the side of the Towers before taking the cross field path under the A1. After walking through the village of Wothorpe the walk joined the Old North Road and headed back to the golf club.

At the end of the walk coffee and cake was enjoyed in the club house.

Janet Cartwright
Group Leader



Friday Striders

Group enjoyed a very pleasant and warm walk of 4.5 miles around Swinstead on Friday 14th August. Everyone was well prepared with sun hats, sun cream and plenty of water and everyone loved the walk and fantastic scenery. An extended walk of 6.5 miles was also on offer.

A delicious meal was enjoyed at The Five Bells Inn at Edenham afterwards.

Second walk of August saw 16 members meet at the Bertie Arms, Uffington for a 6 mile walk. The route left Uffington, passing Copthill school, then the railway, over the fields behind Barnack to Stamford road and Pilsgate. Then alongside Burghley Park and back across the railway, over the Welland River, river walk to the Navigation Canal and back into Uffington for lunch.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright



Science and Technology Meeting July 2026.

This month's meeting **Subject: - Lasers – Energising Light.**

Presenter: - Peter Gale.

This month's presentation was an explanation about the history, mechanisms, components and applications of lasers. The word itself is an acronym for Light Amplified by Stimulated Emissions of Radiation and was first built by Theodore Maiman in 1960 using a ruby to amplify the light, although the process had been predicted by Albert Einstein previously.

Many materials have been used to amplify light other than the original ruby including CO₂, noble gasses and other gemstones.

A very important material used in lasers is Yttrium which acts as a stable structural host crystal. The materials needed for a laser application are: - Yttrium, a cooling system, Krypton light, reflectors, a mirror and a Lense system.

The laser has coherent light, that is light where all the electromagnetic waves have the same frequency, travel in the same direction and stay in a fixed matching phase. This allows the light to form a tight powerful beam that does not spread easily. Beams are invisible so as Peter pointed out the red beam advancing towards James Bonds private parts in Goldfinger would not have been visible.



Lasers must be carefully controlled as they could be very dangerous when used in unregulated situations.

Although very useful lasers are very inefficient, apparently to get 1000 watts of power 20,000 watts of input is required.

There are many applications of lasers in everyday life including welding electrical components, heat treatment. cutting metallic and non-metallic components and distance measurement in industrial applications. Better known to a wider audience are the surgical treatment where the very narrow affected area used by the beam leads to much more precise cutting of flesh with all the advantages of accuracy and recovery. Lasers are used in other forms of medical treatment such as eye and dental treatment.

This presentation was a very interesting insight into an industry that's processes are not well known that was given by a presenter with a wealth of experience in his subject.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday 5th October, The Forensic Science behind the Soham Murder Trial. Presented by Malcolm Kenwood. To be held at Edenham Village Hall, doors open 9:30, presentation starts 10:00

Local History Group September 2026

The Local History Group took a trip down the Deeping to Stamford Canal without leaving Wake House during their August meeting. Many members weren't aware such a canal existed but Maggie Ashcroft from West Deeping Heritage Group presented a talk about this little-known landmark.

The Canal, or Welland Navigation, was one of the first canals built in Britain since the Romans. Owned by Stamford Corporation, it was needed because the Welland, once essential for trade between Stamford and the Wash, was no longer navigable between the town and Deeping. Elizabeth I granted permission in 1571 but 'The New Cut' was not completed until around 1650.

The Navigation began at Low Locks, Deeping St James, and followed the canalised Welland to Deeping St James Bridge where the date 1651 is inscribed in the stonework. It continues upstream to High Locks where lock gate hinges are still visible.



The Navigation, still using the Welland, flowed through Market Deeping before the canal separated from the Welland. It passed Molecey Mill, West Deeping, where it is still visible from the A1175.

Few places remain where the canal can still be seen. Much of the evidence is on private land but parts of the canal route can be followed using public footpaths in West Deeping, where one path is known as 'The Boaty', and Tallington where remains of a lock were used as a private garden feature.

Continued on page 10.

Local History Group—continued

The canal continued through Uffington where willow trees visible from the road follow the route through Uffington Park. The canal ended at Hudd's Mill, Stamford, where it rejoined the Welland.

The canal became disused in the mid-19th century and closed in 1865.

West Deeping Heritage Group have provided information boards, webpages and a leaflet to raise awareness of the canal's existence. Further information from [Stamford Canal | West Deeping Heritage Group](#)



Obituary

It was with great sadness that I had to tell our group (Drawing and Art) that Barbara Barker had passed away in her sleep.

For those who didn't know her Barbara was a long-standing member of the U3a and our art tutor for lots of years. She gave hundreds of hours to our group over many years.

When I first joined the group and had never painted before Barbara was one of the people that gave me tips on how to start. When I got to know her, I loved her humour, she was a real character.

I remember on one occasion when commenting on a beautiful painting by one of our members she said it lacked something in the foreground. When the artist asked her for suggestions she said, "oh I don't know, what about a roadkill, maybe a squashed badger". Of course, she was laughing when she said it, and so were we.

She would drive to our meeting every week then later when she could not drive, she would book a taxi every week for the return journey. I visited her at home on several occasions; it was like visiting an art gallery with both her and her late husband's paintings adorning the walls. They painted in completely different styles, and I would have loved to have been a fly on the wall when they were discussing their different techniques as Barbara always said exactly what she thought and didn't mince her words.

Some may not know but Barbara also helped at a local dementia group helping local people through this very difficult time. RIP Barbara.

Peter Gillatt
Drawing and Art Group Leader

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 Thursday 1st October.

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

"Every falling leaf in September is a reminder that letting go can be graceful".