

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 19 October 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.

Well, the summer is officially over! The temperature has definitely dropped and the landscape is now greener.

It is hard to believe, but I note from the shops that Christmas is fast approaching! So on with the preparations: I am sure that many of our Groups are planning Christmas get-togethers, with gift and card exchanges.

The Art Exhibition in the Red Hall was well attended and our u3a was well represented, with Maureen Ward winning an award!

The road works for the Gas mains appear to be complete and Bourne returns to normal.

Gavin



The Red Hall © Rex Needle

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	Side by Side—Meg Bryson & Dave Bailey
18 January 2027	To be advised	Stuart Orme
15 February 2027	Scotland beneath the Surface	L. Bruce Keith

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

**Our Speaker for October is:
Horace Liberty -**

Liberty's: Family, Firm & Fashion



Welcome, New Members!

Michaela Forbes, Shirley Jones, Margaret Wainwright and
Kenneth Wainwright

	Groups with Vacancies		October 2026	
Group	Leader	Meets	Venue	
Abbey Church Garden	Malcolm Scriven	Last Tuesday each month	Church Walk	
Antiques & Collectables	Steve Froy	2nd Monday pm every month	Wake House	
Art History 2	Betty Davies	1st Wed a.m. every month	At Members Homes	
Bird Watching & Nat History	Vaughn Roberts	1 st Friday of Month	As Notified	
Church Visiting	Susan Hadfield	4th Thurs morning Monthly	As Notified	
Creative Writing 2	John Boss	3rd Wed of every month	At Members Homes	
Drama Workshop	Malcolm Ranson	2nd Wednesday every month	As Notified	
Drawing and Painting	Pete Gillatt	Every Tuesday morning	Abbey Church Hall	
Friday Ramblers	Janet Cartwright	First Friday of 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	
Litter Picking	Vaughan Roberts	3rd Friday of each month	As Notified by Group Leader	
Local History	Eric Cooper & Malcolm Scriven	First Monday each month	Wake House	
Play Reading	Jan Robinson & Val Shuell	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday each month	At Members Homes	
Railway	Paul Gosden & Mike Morgan	First Wednesday of each month 2pm	Methodist Church Hall	
Reading 4	Chris Ankerson	Last Tues a.m every month	At Members Homes	
Science and Technology	Malcolm Scriven	1st Tuesday a.m. every month	Edenham Village Hall	
Singing for Pleasure	Marjorie & Mike Wright Vaughn Roberts	2nd and 4th Weds pm every month	Methodist Church Hall	
Ten pin Bowling	Dave Rippon	Every Wednesday Morning	As Notified	
Theatre and Entertainment	Jan Burton	2nd Monday of month pm	Courtyard Café, Crown Walk	
Wine Appreciation 2	Gerry Blacoe	4th Monday p.m. every month	At Members Homes	
Wine Appreciation 3	John Boss	2nd Friday of each month	At Members Homes	

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



Church Visiting Group

Church Visit to Longthorpe, Peterborough.

Members of the Church Visiting group visited the church of St. Botolph at Longthorpe on the outskirts of Peterborough. St. Botolph is the patron saint of wayfarers and founded many of the churches we find in the east of England, i.e. Boston, Quarrington, Barton Seagrave and Brampton in Northamptonshire and Cambridge.



We were met by Yvette the church warden and welcomed by Rev. Jackie Bullen, Vicar and Rural Dean of Peterborough. We were then introduced to Jane Hogg who has certainly done her research and gave us a most interesting and informative talk about the history of Longthorpe and the church.

The church we see today was built on this site in 1263 at the request and expense of William Thorpe who lived close by. Thorpe had been a serf to a local family, earned his freedom and went on to become very wealthy. Longthorpe was a "dairy" village that provided Peterborough with its milk, but gradually it has expanded on land sold by the Fitzwilliam estate and has now become part of Peterborough. A small village no more. Originally St. Botolph's was a chapel in the parish of St. John and was consecrated as a church in 1850. The font is late 19th century and has moved around the church several times. An ancient font, thought to have been the original, was found locally (Thorpe Avenue) and is now in St. Jude's church, Westwood. What we see is a very modern church, no clerestory, the nave and chancel were built in Early English style of coarse rubble – quite possibly stones which were not needed by the Abbey- and both are wide along with two side aisles, all built at the same time.

In 1892 a new higher pitch pine roof was provided, covered by Collyweston slates as the existing roof was "propped up". A new bell-cote was built, too small for the bell, so a modern bell had to be purchased. The old bell, cracked, was recast and is now in the Roman Catholic Church in Peterborough.

Continued on page 5

Church Visiting Group—continued

The vestry sacristy and cloister were added in 1927, 1981 and 1999 as the parish and congregation expanded greatly. The interior was reordered in 2021 with the removal of the pulpit, screen and pews. A level Ancaster stone floor was laid making it an easily accessible church for all. The 20th century screen now hangs on the cloister wall and the rood originally above the screen hangs from the chancel ceiling. There is a fine Horrell window – dedicated to the Horrell family, members of the local farming community (Horrells Dairy, well known by anyone who grew up in Peterborough). As you approach the church from the road it looks almost barn like – but upon entering via a fine porch you find an open welcoming church. We enjoyed tea and a wonderful selection of home made cakes in the cloister.

As we left 14 of our group went on to visit the stone Longthorpe Tower. We were met by guides, Mark and Ian.

Built by Robert Thorpe in about 1290/1300, designed as much a status symbol as a refuge, it was accessed by a passage from the Thorpe Manor House.

It is thought the existing entrance via an external stair for public access was created in the 17c by enlarging an original window. Now we know the tower for its wonderful paintings in the first floor room but there is no documentation explaining these paintings, so it is all down to interpretation.

The existing theme is datable on heraldic evidence to between 1321 and 1340. The paint was applied onto dry limewashed plaster, originally

brilliantly coloured with touches of gilt. Latin and French inscriptions are mainly now lost. Our guides believed that these paintings were ordered by the lady of the manor, not a man as there are no military scenes showing armour and weapons etc. but they are a mixture of political, heraldic, religious and mythological images. There are birds and creatures based on bestaries with which Peterborough Abbey was supplied. They think that the artists may well have also worked for the abbey. Interest in the tower began with the discovery of the paintings under many coats of limewash and distemper in 1945 by the tenant Hugh Horrell while he was preparing to redecorate after the tower had been used and abused during the 2nd WW by the Home Guard. The top floor made a very good lookout over the surrounding area. Horrell reported the find to the owner Captain William Fitzwilliam (the last Earl Fitzwilliam 1904-1979) and E C Rouse a pupil of the pioneering wall-painting specialist Ernest Tristram was called in. They were recorded and unfortunately treated with limewater and wax which was carefully removed in the 1980.



Longthorpe Tower

It's an amazing find – if you have never been I strongly recommend it. We spent 2 hours exploring the meaning of the paintings.

Our next church visit will be on the 22nd October to St. Andrews Church at Northborough, and in November we travel to Stamford.

Friday Ramblers

Septembers walk was a 3.5 mile walk from the village of Folkingham.

After passing the former gates to the House of Correction, such local prisons were originally intended for minor offenders – mostly the idle (regarded as subversive) and the disorderly. Folkingham had a house of correction by 1611, replaced in 1808 by a new one built inside the castle moat and intended to serve the whole of Kesteven. This was enlarged in 1825 and given this grand new entrance. In 1878 the prison was closed and the inner buildings converted into ten dwellings, all demolished in 1955.



The walk went along field edge tracks heading towards the water tower, a familiar sight along side the A15. The maintenance of water supplies to

Folkingham has been difficult in past years especially in times of drought and a windmill was used in the 19th century to ensure continuity but this was demolished before 1930 and replaced by an iron water tower. That too became redundant when the present futuristic-style reservoir was built in 1982 on a hill just within the parish boundary and overlooking the surrounding countryside. It is 70 feet high and has a capacity of 54,000 gallons of water to boost supplies to the area in times of shortage.

After a few more field edge paths and one cross field path the walk returned to Folkingham via Greenfields Lane.

Group Leader Janet Cartwright



Friday Striders

Nine members of U3A Striders met at Culverthorpe on 11th September for a circular walk of approx 6 miles.

The day was warm and sunny and started at Culverthorpe car park by the lakes and followed an easterly route past Culverthorpe house over mostly grassy paths and quiet roads. The easy circular walking route took in rolling countryside and passed to the south of Kelby before returning back to the car park along farm tracks.

Second walk of September started at Helpston. A pleasant walk, mostly on the flat (42ft elevation) taking in three pretty limestone villages, sections of the Torpel Way and a wooded path through Rice Wood. There are a couple of cultural points of interest: the cottage of poet John Clare which is next to the pub and an ancient site which is being excavated towards the end of the walk.

Group Leader
Janet Cartwright



John Clare Cottage



Bourne Brushstrokes

Sept 2026

A selection of artworks displaying different techniques and subjects + a couple of photos of the Art Exhibition at the Red Hall last month.



The Red Hall



*The Art
Exhibition*



Susan Mitchell



Lesley Sheer





Gavin Jeffery

Brenda Greatwood



Wendy Hodson



Local History Group

Bringing gas to Bourne.

Malcolm Scriven described how gas lighting came to Bourne at the Local History Group's September meeting.

The first gas lights in England were installed in London and their use spread rapidly. Stamford's gas lights appeared in 1825. But it was not until 1840 that gas lighting came to Bourne. The Bourne Gas and Coke Company was formed with five trustees: Reverend Joseph Dodsworth, William Wherry, Henry Bott and two others. They needed finance: a notice in the Stamford Mercury in May 1840 offered £10 shares and raised £2,000.

The idea of bringing gas to Bourne was not universally supported. There was opposition. This was likely caused by safety fears, difficulties in transporting coal from the station to the works and financial risks associated with high capital costs.

The gas works were at the top of Eastgate and produced gas by burning coal. The gasometer to store gas was in Spalding Road. The first premises to have gas lighting was Abbey Church: Reverend Dodsworth marked the occasion by preaching a sermon.

Gas lighting made Bourne more attractive and private houses more marketable. An advertisement in the Stamford Mercury for West Cottage in Bourne emphasised that the house had gas lighting. But there were mishaps. In 1888, an explosion at Mrs Hanson's private school caused pupils to exit hastily. No one was hurt.

The company was sold to Bourne Urban District Council in 1915 for £14,000. In 1973, responsibility for gas supply was given to the East Midlands Gas Board.

Earlier in the meeting, Janet Downs outlined Historic England's 'Missing Pieces' initiative. U3A members nationally are invited to upload their own memories, photos and art work on to Historic England's website to make listed building entries more interesting.

The photo shows the demolition of the gasworks in 1969. The gasometer is just visible in the background © Rex Needle



September Report of the U3A Rail Group

This month's activities included an excellent talk by group member, Andrew Storrar, on his, "Family Railway Memories" from a large collection of personal and family photographs. His grandfather's generation were instrumental in the development and operation of railways involving those in India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Argentina. His particular experiences included, "chasing the last days of steam," on British Railways in a 1948 Alvis TA14, which he bought from a scrap merchant in 1965 and which he and his twin brother fully restored. To the delight of group members, Andrew brought the Alvis to the meeting car park and which he had now owned for 61 years!

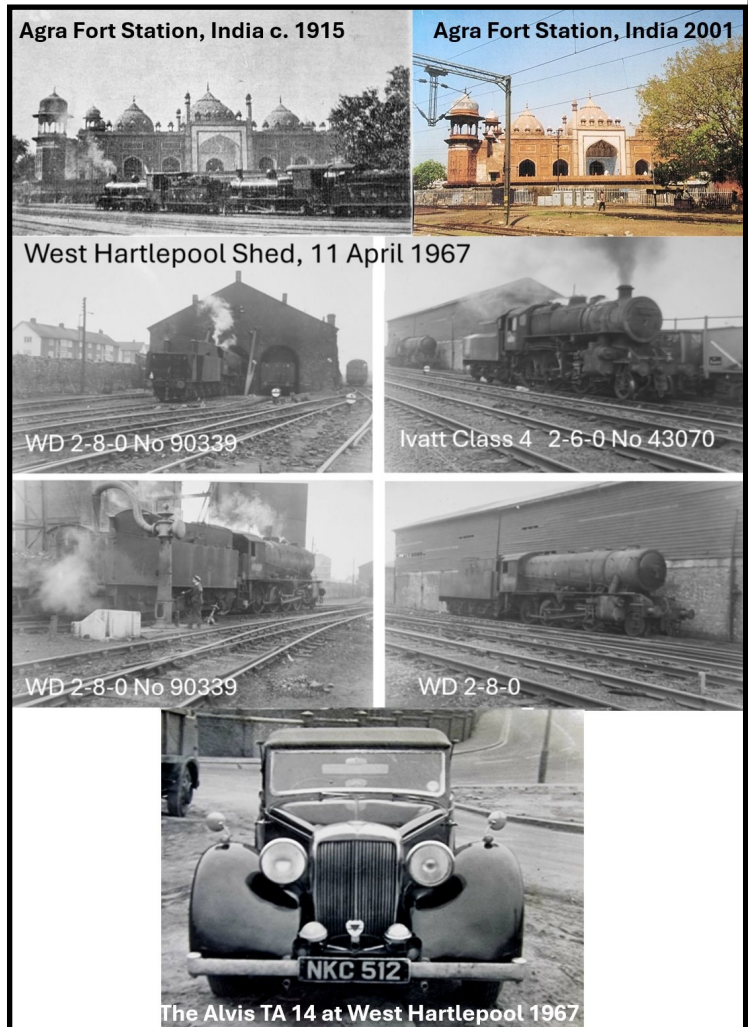
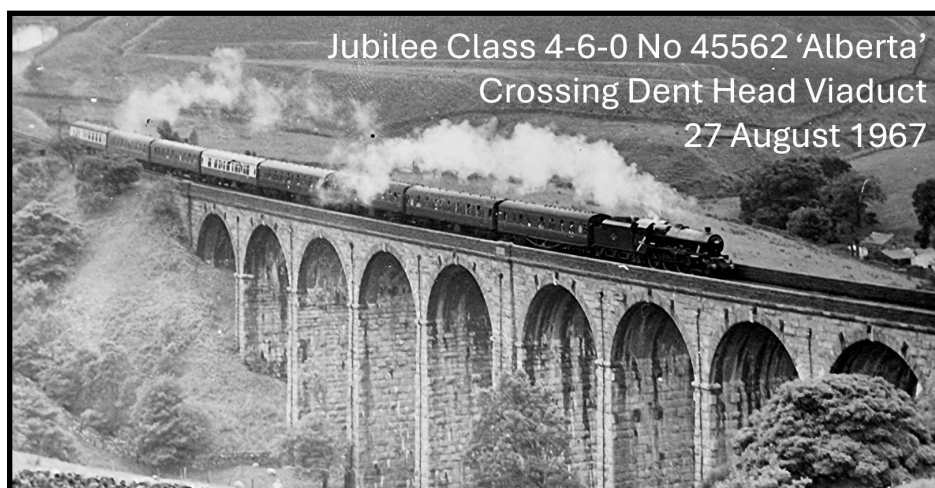
Planned Group Activities:

Talks -

- For the October meeting there is a planned talk by a group member on "The East-West Rail Project."
- 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 21st October: Didcot Railway Centre



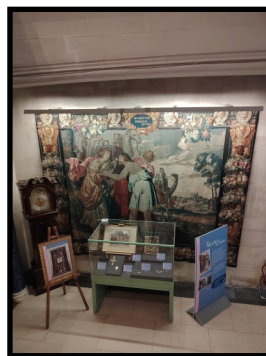
ATO Trip to Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey

The short trip down through Cambridgeshire took us to our first stop at the atmospheric Wicken Fen - just like the fenlands used to be but without the mosquitos, ague (malaria) and with a nice cafe.

The day started a bit dull and windy so not many insects flying around and therefore no birds out hunting them. But the fens, the rushes, the old windpump and the walk along the raised boardwalk (made of recycled plastic) gave an insight into the character of the old fens.



Another short ride to the nearby Anglesey Abbey brought us to one of the best local National Trust houses. Created by a collector. He collected books, art, clocks, tapestries - anything which took his fancy.



Under the National Trust, the grounds have become one of the best in the trust and one of the most visited. The Winter Walk has been seen on many a gardening programme. The carpet of autumn cyclamen was in full flower, the dahlias were in full dazzle mode.

The house displayed a large number of the items collected. There were items to fascinate the artist, the sculptor, the clock lover and just the curious. Clothes and items of everyday use were on full display.

Our trip in October is to the beautiful and moving National Memorial Arboretum where we can see many outstanding memorials plus indoor exhibitions about Women in the Forces, tapestries and stories about the effects on those still living.

There are still places available to any member of Bourne U3A. The cost is £30.

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 Sunday 1st November.

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

**"October, the month when the trees all remind us how beautiful
it is to let things go."**