NEWSLETTER
November 2026

Meetings are held in
The Corn Exchange, Bourne.
Third Monday of the month
Next meeting 16 November 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 have several dates coming up in the next few weeks of historical and religious significance.

The first chronologically, although it has already passed, is All Hallow's Eve or Halloween, when the spirits of our ancestors walk the land. The origins of this event are lost in the mists of time, but far from being a quaint folk memory it is still an event of religious significance for many, rather than an occasion for 'Trick or Treat'. I was surprised to learn when I went to work in Latvia that the benches and tables in the cemetery were not just decoration, but furniture put to practical use by families taking food and drink to enjoy a meal with their forebears.

The second date is Guy Fawkes' Night – Bonfire Night! The Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament was, of course, an English event in the religious conflict between Protestants and Catholics, which has marked the human experience for hundreds of years.

And thirdly, the event that commemorates the sacrifice of millions of people in global conflicts throughout the world. Remembrance Day (or Armistice Day) and Remembrance Sunday, when we acknowledge and pay respect to the fallen by observing 2 minutes silence.

Gavin



Speakers for 2026/2027

Date	Subject	Speaker
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	The Private Life of Oliver Cromwell	Stuart Orme
15 February 2027	Scotland beneath the Surface	L. Bruce Keith

All meetings start at 2.15pm sharp.

Our Speaker for November is: Dom Brister -

"Don't Lose Hope" Help for those when times are hard.



I'd just like to thank all the groups that I have visited this year. Every group leader has been very welcoming and friendly. I have met some lovely people on my great task of visiting all of the groups. I have even joined some!
If I haven't managed to visit your group this year, don't worry. I shall resume my visits next year! If anyone is thinking of starting a new group, feel free to let me know. I'll help you the best I can.
Have a lovely Christmas and a happy new year to you all

Thank you again, Steph Winter

	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	1st 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	1st & 3rd 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



Welcome

Glad you're here!

Michael Knott, Susan Rossiter, Usanna Stribling and Craig Barnard.

Membership Renewal

Dear members, I would like to remind you that your annual Bourne U3A membership expires on the 31st January 2027.

Please renew before this date, as after then you will not be able to attend any groups, U3A meeting or events.

The ways to make your renewal are:

1, Pay online:
Go to www. Bourneu3a.org.uk/members-area Click on (RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP HERE) **For further details of how to pay online follow the instructions on the next page.**

Paying by PayPal, Debit/Credit card is the easiest way, no form filling required.

2, Cash or Cheque:
Download a membership renewal form from the website, bring the completed form to the Monthly meeting and pay by cash or cheque.

3, Post:
Cheques only, **No cash by post,** with a completed renewal form.
Post to the Membership secretary, the address is on the form.

Any difficulty with the website or downloading the renewal form, please contact a committee member or your group leader, who will try and help.

Thank you:

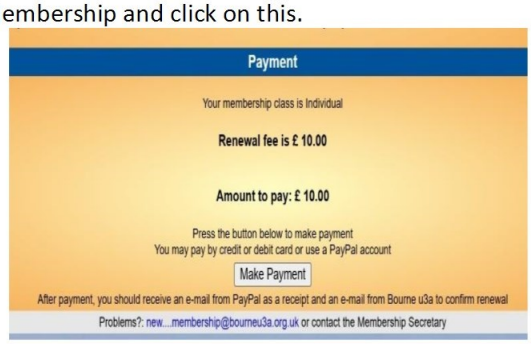
Alistair Tough Membership Secretary



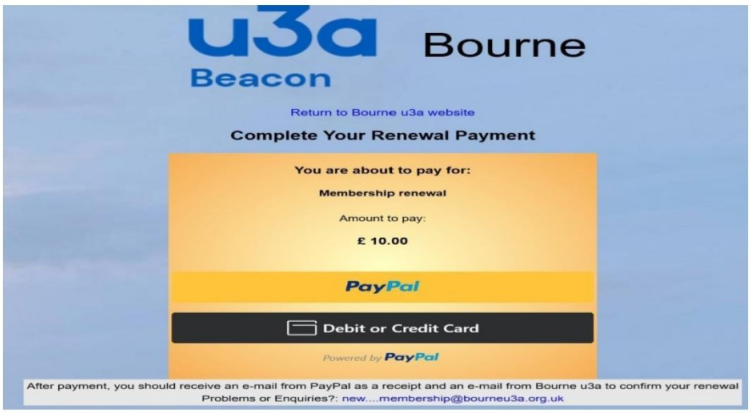
For membership renewals, you can now pay online by Debit or Credit card

To pay online by Debit or Credit card or PayPal, go to our website at; bourneu3a.org.uk, click on **Members Area,** Click on the large light blue button (titled – **To Renew Your Membership**) click on the dark blue button (titled- **Click Here**). This will take you to the Bourne u3a Beacon login page. Log into Beacon using your email and password.
Look for Renew Membership and click on this.

You will now see;

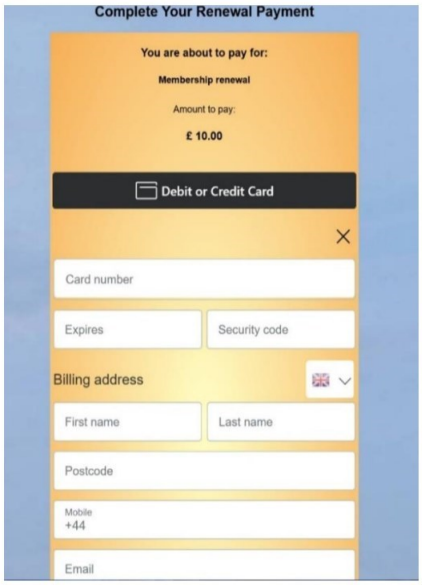


Click the grey '**Make Payment'** button.



Click on the black **'Debit or Credit Card'**

button to pay by this method.



Fill in your card and personal details. Only the bank will see these.

When complete and submitted, you will receive a receipt like this;

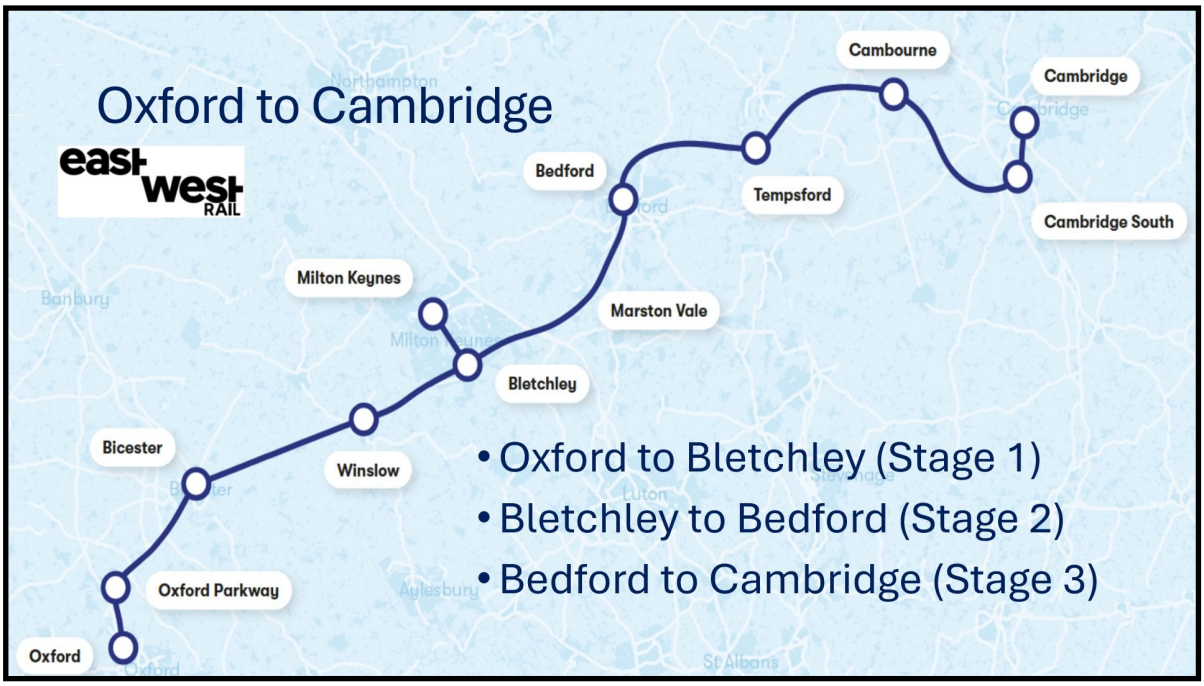


You may get a text or email from your bank to verify this payment. If you paid by Credit Card it may show as 'Pending' in your account, as credit card transactions can take up to three working days.
You can now return to our website.

October Report of the U3A Rail Group

A busy month of activities included a talk a by a group member on the East-West Rail project together with visits to the Nene Valley Railway and the Didcot Railway Centre.

The East West Rail project, at an estimated cost of £7 billion, is designed to re-link Oxford and Cambridge. It is in 3 stages; first to restore the original line, which ran between Oxford and Bletchley (Milton Keynes) and is about to reopen, stage 2 to upgrade the existing line between Bletchley and Bedford particularly to take account of the Universal Studios theme park scheduled to open in 2030 with stage 3; a completely new route onward to Cambridge including the new towns at Cambourne and Tempsford. Stage 3 is expected to be operational in the mid-2030s.



At the Nene Valley Railway there was a special event of a visiting Great Western locomotive, "King Edward I" built in 1930. Also on display was a rare rail traction engine dating from 1926 and originally operated by Portland Cement.



The Didcot Railway Centre is located at the original engine shed and features many rare Great Western Railway (GWR) artifacts some dating back to Brunel's original 7 Foot broad-gauge.
Continued on page 7.

October Report of the U3A Rail Group—Continued

Planned Talk.
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 main 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.



u3a Craft Group

u3a craft group are always busy crafting some beautiful creations. Knitting, crochet, bead work, card making, diamond art, cross stitch, applique, tapestry and rug making are just some of the beautiful things that are going on at the moment.

I am the newest member of the group and have been attending for a few months now. I was immediately made to feel very welcome. We learn so much from each other and are happy helping and giving advice where needed.

It is a relaxed, friendly group with a good sense of humour running through it.

I love it!

Gaynor Duffy

See photographs of the groups work on page 8.

u3a Craft Group—Continued











BOURNE u3a: WINE APPRECIATION GROUP 3.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Members of Bourne u3a Wine Appreciation Group 3 celebrated our tenth anniversary with a guided tour of Rutland Vineyard at Ketton. Their first planting of vines was in 2011 and during our visit, we literally tasted two types of grape on the vine and then were offered four of their own wines for tasting, all very different, and with an excellent cheese and meat platter for accompaniment. [see photo]



It is a far cry from our first meeting held on 19 August 2016. There were just five of us with only the benefit of advice from the leader of Wine Appreciation Group 1 to guide us on our way. We began by tasting two bottles of Chilean Sauvignon Blanc from two different suppliers, both of 2015 vintage. What, if any difference we found between the two bottles is not recorded !!

Ten years later and we have tasted 218 more bottles. In these ten years we have chosen wines from every possible country; including China: wines from single grapes; and wines to go with specific food. We also kept our monthly meetings going throughout Covid if occasionally only by Zoom in which case each household had a whole bottle to themselves! These bottles are not included in the above total!



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WINE APPRECIATION GROUP 3—Continued

How successful has our group been, you may ask? One measure of success is that no one who has joined has left except by their sad demise, and three founding members are still with us to provide continuity[see photo]



As to the degree by which members' appreciation of the wines offered for tasting has improved, suffice to say that some palates remain more sensitive than others but that all of us are intent as individuals to do better as we start on our second decade of wine tasting [see group photograph]



Church Visiting Group



There was a good attendance when our members travelled a short distance along the A15 to Northborough to visit St. Andrew's Church. We were welcomed by Jane and after enjoying tea and biscuits Freda gave us a very interesting and informative talk about the church and the village of Northborough.

Archaeological excavations just to the northeast of the church revealed part of an Anglo-Saxon settlement, however the village was destroyed by the Danes and there is no mention of a village in the Domesday book of 1086. In a 12th century survey of Northamptonshire the Manor is in the possession of the de la Mare family and this passed to the Fitzwilliam family in the 16th century and subsequently to James Claypole, from Kings Cliffe, who bought the Manor for £500. Now for a little "name-dropping"; James was succeeded by his son John, and the estate then passed to his brother Adam, Adam's wife Dorothy was the daughter of Robert Wingfield and Elizabeth Cecil sister of William, Lord Burghley. A few generations on a John Claypole married Elizabeth Cromwell, daughter of Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector.

It is rumoured Cromwell liked to spend Christmas at Northborough Manor (often referred to as Northborough Castle) and after his death his widow remained at the Manor, she is buried in St. Andrews. In more recent times the village became the home of the poet John Clare, the "peasant poet", who was born at Helpston. His wife a and several of his children are buried in the graveyard.

Continued on page 12.

Church Visiting Group—Continued

His wife a and several of his children are buried in the graveyard.
The south aisle of the church dates from the 13th century and there are remains of fresco paintings on the wall. There is evidence that both the north and south aisles had their own altar. The de la Mare Chantry was added in the 14th century, now known as the Claypole Chapel. On the east wall of the Chantry there are two wall Canopies of Caen stone with pedestals beneath for statues which may have been removed at the time of Reformation. In the North aisle is an aumbry and sedilia. There is much evidence of this church being altered over the years with some very interesting features and stonework. The Organ is one of only two remaining and was built by John Avery in 1783 and was obtained from Apethorpe Hall, nr. Kings Cliffe. There is no tower but a bellcote housing two bells, the treble bell is dated 1611 and the tenor bell dates to between 1360 and 1380 and was cast in Stamford at the Tobie Norris foundry.
Looking around the outside some of us looked down into the Ossuary and with the aid of telephone flashlights could spot old bones. It was a very interesting visit.

Our next visit on the 26th November is to the All Saints Church at Stamford.

Science and Technology Meeting October 6th, 2026.

This month's meeting **Subject: - The Forensic Science behind the Soham Murder Trial: Presenter: - Malcolm Kenwood.**

The bare and terrible facts behind this presentation were that on the 4th of August 2002, two young girls, Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman were lured into the home of school caretaker, Ian Huntley, in Soham in Cambridgeshire and murdered. Their bodies were discovered in a ditch near RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, the deposition site in legal terms, on 17th August 2002.

This presentation was regarding the subsequent investigations that were conducted under the leadership of Detective Superintendent Chris Stevenson who took over the leadership of the inquiry after the first few days.

The two girls, who were best friends and so spent time together and so on this occasion when they were between homes it was not immediately appreciated that they were missing until the evening when the parents reported them missing after which a search was started and the police informed.

The initial case was a missing persons investigation but under D S Stevenson it became a murder enquiry, and forensic science was initiated to gather the evidence that was needed to apprehend and arrest Huntly and subsequently present a case to the judiciary.

The actions of Huntly removing the bodies to Lakenheath by car and then later burning them had left evidence that the police were later able to gather. He had performed deep cleaning of both his house and car that also raised suspicion. Jessica had a small pre-smart 'phone that also could be interrogated to establish the girl's movements during the day.

Continued on page 13.

Science and Technology—Continued

The bare and terrible facts behind this presentation were that on the 4th of August Professor Patricia Wiltshire, a forensic ecologist and botanist was consulted, and she was able to analysis the soil and plant evidence from clothing, footwear, and the car, yielded trace evidence that linked Huntley to the place where the girls were found. Observation and experimentation of plant growth, particularly nettles, at the deposition site enabled her to estimate the time that the girls had been placed in the ditch very accurately. Also, evidence was found in a building in the school ground used by Huntley, he had used the building to try to hide the remains of the girl's clothes, this included the distinctive Manchester United T-shirts that the girls were wearing prior to their disappearance as seen in the iconic pictures of the girls that was widely published by media at the time. These shirts were made of wool and polyester and the ash from burning was traceable and led to further evidence connecting him to the killing. The discovery of the ash was also interesting as it had been hidden in a rubbish bin and then had a bin liner placed over the evidence. This may in normal circumstances have been enough to have hidden the ash but the police officer who was responsible for this search had been given training into methods of concealing evidence and was more thorough and so looked deeper than would be normally be usual and was able to obtain the evidence.



This was a very interesting and well-presented presentation that demonstrated forensic science at the time and how the police were able to piece together a case under high pressure from both the public, and particularly the media.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday 1st December, the traditional Members Show and Tell and Review of the Year. To be held at Edenham Village Hall, doors open 9:30, presentation starts 10:00

Friday Ramblers

October's walk saw 8 members meeting at Wishing Well, Dyke

The walk went down the village to the green and turned north across the fields to Morton Fen where group turned west into Morton. Walk continued by turning right through the estate (Paddington Way) and along the field edge north towards Haconby, turning west towards the Morton/Haconby Road and then south to Morton church. From there the walk went south across the fields back into Dyke and the Wishing Well. Walk was approximately 4 1/4 to 4 ½ miles.



Group Leader: Janet Cartwright

Continued on page 14

Friday Ramblers



Friday Striders

The walk on Friday 9th started from The Falcon Inn Fotheringhay

The route was approximately 6.3 miles and meets the River Nene on a couple of places. Walk was mostly on farm tracks and some paths across fields. Included 5 stiles and 16+ gates. Some of the gates had to be used in single line and others are much wider.

Fotheringhay is steeped in history and its castle mound is worth climbing for the fantastic views over the beautiful countryside.

Fotheringhay Castle was a motte-and-bailey fortification that dates back to Norman times. The Earl of Northampton built it in the 12th Century. Various Scottish Princes subsequently owned it before being incorporated into the Dukedom of York. It is famous for being the location of the trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots in 1587.

October's second walk started from the village of Ropsley Thankfully storm Austin didn't reach us as forecast so we enjoyed a very pleasant circular walk of between 5.5 -6 miles 16 walkers turned out with 12 staying to enjoy an excellent lunch at The Green Man.

Group Leader: Janet Cartwright

See photographs on page15

Friday Ramblers—Continued

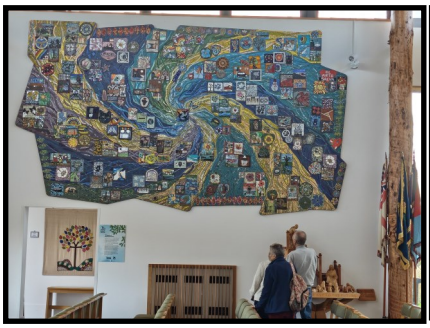




ATO Trip to The National Memorial Arboretum on 15th October 2026.

Only two hours to get there, and straight into the splendid reception area with its large well staffed cafe.

The two Galleries of moving photos, artwork and other exhibits which look at Remembrance with a focus on certain individuals and also the history of the museum. In the nearby chapel there is the large mosaic which also depicts Remembrance.











The site is now called the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens, and in many places it is a series of beautiful gardens.

We saw rehearsals for a parade alongside the first major memorial in the park. We saw beautiful depictions of women, men, horses, ships, planes, gliders and trains. Some standing looking out at you, others in scenes of peril and bravery. One shows a handshake inside a football, commemorating that Christmas Day truce in no man's land.

We took advantage of the land train which takes 45 minutes to tour the main part of the gardens, providing a running commentary all the way. Then after a lovely meal, we took a separate trip in a small buggy. We drove to the outer reaches of the site, where volunteer driver Jo told the stories of many of the monuments with care and in as much detail as we wanted - she seemed to know it all and spoke as if she personally knew the people involved.

November 19th is our Christmas Shopping trip. We are going to Milton Keynes, but if you don't want to shop, there is the nearby National Film and Sci-Fi Museum with a wide range of film and tv artifacts from Star Wars, Doctor Who and many other favourite Sci-fi and adventure films. It also houses Brickz with the history and development of Lego from a few bricks in 1932 to the incredible range of toys, films, robots, teaching aids and community it is today. Note that the Pixel Bunker where 1970's electronic games can be played will almost certainly NOT be open on our Thursday visit.

Bourne Brushstrokes

Oct 2026

A focus on wildlife this month using a wide variety of techniques



Jill Ward



'Bear and Honey'
Karen Allen



'Squirrel'
Ann Wakeford



'Coast Scene'
Brenda Greatwood



Bourne Memorial Park
-"Painting in the Park"
Maureen Ward

'Sintra'
Wendy Hodson





Brick Pillar - Aswarby
Pete Gillatt



'Fawn'
Sue Bainbridge



South Lincolnshire Academies Trust are seeking local people to work as

Exam Invigilators

Our Trust have four non-selective secondary schools in Bourne, Spalding, Donington and Old Leake (near Boston). During the exam season in the winter, spring and summer months we require a team of Exam Invigilators to help with the smooth running of the formal and internal exams.

We are looking for good communicators who are organised, conscientious, observant and who enjoy working as part of a team.

This is a zero hours contract role during term time only that is suitable for people who would like to earn an extra income a few months of year. It is suitable for those who are retired or parents with children at school.

The rate of pay is currently £14.24 per hour and the hours of work can be agreed with the Exams Manager. No experience is necessary as full training is provided.

If you are interested in becoming an Exam Invigilator, please email vacancies@slat.org.uk stating the school(s) you prefer to work at.

Alternatively, you can visit www.slat.org.uk/vacancies or scan the QR code opposite for an application form.

If you know anyone else who would be interested in becoming an Exam Invigilator, you are welcome to send this information to them.

BOURNE ACADEMY | SPALDING ACADEMY | GILES ACADEMY | COWLEY ACADEMY

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust

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 Tuesday 1st December.
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

From the Editor: A big thank you this month for all your submissions. This month we have 20 pages including submissions from groups that have not contributed recently plus some rather mundane stuff like Membership Renewals. Also how to pay online by Debit or Credit Card.

Enjoy your reading this month as you plan for the winter ahead. Best wishes.

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

"The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools."
– Henry Beston