

Newsletter No.55 Summer 2025

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Registered Charity No:
1157184

Membership

Renewing your Membership

Members should action their Membership Renewals in the month of September. The easiest way to action this is to access our Website (bourtonu3asite.uk) – select “Membership”, then tab “Membership Renewals Instructions”. You will be able to Renew directly on our Beacon system or download a Renewal Form to submit to David Tebbutt, our Membership Secretary, with your cash or cheque remittance

David Tebbutt

Membership Secretary

Publicity

Opportunities You May Have Missed!

As your Publicity Officer, my role is generally about trying to attract new membership. However, I want to bring two things to your attention, which are already available to you as current members.

These are Cotswold Link and u3a Online.

COTSWOLD LINK

Cotswold Link is a grouping of 24 u3a’s of which we are a member. Some are quite distant, some are close. North Cotswold u3a overlap our area, with some meetings in Stow and Moreton and Northleach u3a is even closer.

As a member of a Cotswold Link u3a, you can attend any one group of another u3a without having to join them. If you go to two or more groups in that u3a you would have to join, but at a reduced rate. In fact we do indeed have a number of members from our adjacent u3a’s who belong to one or more of our groups.

It does mean that if you have an interest which is not being satisfied by Bourton u3a, there may be another group within striking distance! Look them up online and you may be surprised with what they can offer.

You can find all details by typing the following into your usual search engine

<https://www.cotswold-link.u3asite.uk>

u3a ONLINE

National u3a have a very large range of groups which operate on an online video basis ie Zoom or something similar. The range of interest is remarkably wide so, again, if you have an interest not being satisfied by us, it may be worth a look. If anyone needs help with Zoom, our technical whizzkid (ie Ken Lamacraft) can point you in the right direction to get help.

This could be particularly useful if you know of anyone with mobility issues who is currently unable to take advantage of what our groups can offer.

It will cost £12 a year to join the service, and note that this is so popular that some groups have a waiting list to join!

For full details type the following into your usual search engine

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online>

Neil Cox

Reports from Interest Groups

Country Dancing

Jane Austen Celebration

The English Country Dance Group felt a need to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen, one of the country’s greatest novelists. Miss Austen said, “To be fond of dancing is a certain step towards falling in love.” Consequently, our group invited other u3a dance groups from Cheltenham, Cirencester and Bishop’s Cleeve to come together on Saturday, 31st May 2025 at the Royal British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water.



Country Dancing continued



Over 40 took part in 17th and 18th century dances, ones which Jane Austen may have done herself. All members of Bourton's own pulled together before, during and after the event to ensure it ran smoothly and that everyone had an enjoyable time. Our group received plaudits from the visitors, with one even suggesting we held this as an annual event!

Steve and Myra Ford



Members' Monthly Meetings

Meetings will be on 4th Wednesdays (2nd Wed. in Dec.) 10am - 12Noon at the British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water. Tea and Coffee will be served from 10am - 10.30am. This is a chance to chat with other members, meet some of the committee and Group Organisers and catch up on the latest plans and news. Speaker or activity starts 10.45
Details on website.

Date -2025	Topic	Speaker
August 27th	Flog It	Peter Ashburner
September 24th	RENEWALS	-
October 22nd	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People	Merleen Watson
November 26th	Walking to Rome	Chris O'Grady
December 10th	The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward	Peter Gill

Nature Group

In May we had a very topical talk on "Swallows, Swifts, and Martins" from David Cramp of the local RSPB branch. Indoor meetings then finished for the summer.

Our outdoor meetings continued with trips to Foxholes near Bruern, where we found a fine show of Bluebells and heard a Cuckoo calling, and Clattinger Farm, a (rather rainy) Wiltshire Wildlife Trust reserve. Later on we visited Butterfly Conservation's Bill Smillie reserve near Cleeve Hill, which held considerably more butterflies than last year's cold visit. Kiftsgate Court Gardens was our August trip.



Bluebells at Foxholes reserve, Bruern by Andy Lewis

Our indoor meetings start again on Tuesday 9th September after our usual summer break. The theme will be "What I found over Summer", when group members bring in photos or samples and say a few words about them. Later months will have talks on "Being a Trainee Bird Ringer" from Megan Adamou (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust) and "Goshawks" from Anna Field (Cotswold National Landscapes).

Andy Lewis



Bluebells & Stitchwort by Andy Lewis

Interest Groups

GOs please inform Rob Gorton, Groups' Support of **ANY** changes to your Group's details ASAP. He will then inform Newsletter & Website Editors.

DISCLAIMER

Before attending any groups please check with GO Members participating in any groups must be responsible for their own welfare.

Group	Group Leader
Archaeology	Steve Ford
Ballroom Dancing	Rob Gorton
Book Club Bourton	Susan Foster
Bridge	Neil Cox
Country Dancing	Steve Ford
Film Group	Neil Cox
French Conversation	Barbara Kirby
History –General	Jo Young:
Indoor Kurling	Peter Boxall
Mahjong	Denease Robinson
Mexican Train	Terry and Sandra Gavin
Nature Group	Andy Lewis
Photography	Ian Gayton
Play Reading 1	Roger Harris

Interest Groups

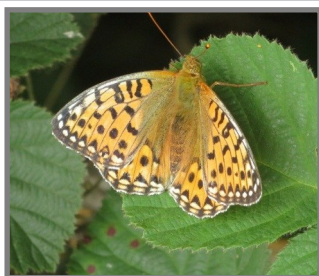
Group	Group Leader
Play Reading 2	Mike Rees
Poetry Circle	Jenny Stevenson
Quiz	Ray and Susan Dodd
Recorder Group	Myra Ford
Scrabble	Patsy Dawson
Skittles (2nd Monday)	David Prout
Skittles (4th Monday)	David Prout
Solos, Coffee and Chat	Carol Grenz
Sunday Lunch Club	Lesley Lawson & Kath Monk
Table Tennis	Lindsey Stevenson
Ukulele (BUGS)	Myra Ford
Walking Basketball	Mark Payne
Walking Group	Neil Cox
Walking Group (Short)	Dave Turnbull
Walks with Talks	Rob Gorton
Watercolour Painting	Judy Harden

Reports from Interest Groups

Watercolour Painting

The watercolour painting group is growing steadily and the members are all enjoying the relaxed yet stimulating vibes. Everyone has surprised themselves with how well they are progressing and the quality of the art work that they have produced.

Judy Harden



Dark Green Fritillary by Andy Lewis

Other Groups

The **Bridge Group** have reduced to meeting once a week on a Monday afternoon for the summer while the **Film Group** continues to meet on the last Saturday of each month where we have enjoyed a wide variety of old and modern films (with sub-titles).

Neil Cox

Walking Group.

Walks have been enjoyed from the Wykham Arms in Sibford Gower (deepest, darkest Oxfordshire), and the Fox in the Barringtons. Despite the temporary incapacity of the Walking Group Leader (thanks to David and Jane for stepping into the breach), the July walk was centred on Northleach but lunch was taken in the Sherborne Arms in Aldsworth (shame there's no suitable circular walk based on this pub). The August walk (thanks to Jan and Jo) was centred on the Farmers Arms in Guiting Power. All walks have taken advantage of the good weather we have been having but I hope those walking boots have been given a good layer of protection in readiness for the undoubted deluge we will receive later this year.

Neil Cox

Bourton & District U3A Executive Committee 2025/26

Position	Name
Chairperson	Paul Clark
Deputy Chair & Webmaster	Glenn Barrett
Secretary	June Renshaw
Treasurer	Steve McHale
Membership Secretary	David Tebbutt
Groups' Support	Rob Gorton
Equipment Officer & Beacon Lead	Ken Lamacraft
Publicity Officer	Neil Cox
Assistance & Safeguarding Officer	Pam Clifford
Non-Committee	
Speaker Secretaries	Myra Ford & Madelaine Cox
Editor	Christine Gorton
Refreshment Team Leader	David Prout

Getting in Touch

To contact any Group Organisers, please go to the "Groups Page", click on the "Group" you are interested in and then click on the "Bird Icon." This will allow you to email the Group Organiser.

If you wish to contact anybody who is mentioned but is not listed as a Group Organiser, please use the "contact page" on the website, The message is then passed on to them.



Two photographs from the Social event that took place in July.

