



Newsletter Issue No.51 August 2026



Photo taken by Roger Jennings during the Photographic group's trip to Bempton Cliffs On the 7th of July.

See full report, enclosed.

Message from your Interest Group Coordinator

Topic – Group Leader Reporting via Monthly Newsletter

In writing this message I am addressing **all members** but in particular Group Leaders; and in answer to some recent comments, I refer mainly to entries and/or non entries to our Newsletter which is currently put together and distributed by Paul Reeve.

In my view, Paul does a splendid job each month collating reports from those Group Leaders who actually send their activity reports to him, along with other reports, messages and information which he receives from various members, thus keeping you all well informed and as up to date as possible.

But there are some Group Leaders who choose not to submit reports, so Paul has nothing to enter about these groups' activities.

So at times he can struggle to fill his Newsletter.

However, your committee has received one or two comments suggesting that the newsletter is too “Wine Top Heavy” with too much detail.

Paul receives regular reports from **all** current wine interest groups which he pastes into his newsletter, so now with Four Wine Based Interest Groups, all holding their respective meetings in relatively different ways, it stands to reason that there is likely to be quite a lot of wine reporting in the newsletter.

Some detail can be trimmed, but there is also one obvious solution to this; and it is for **each** Interest Group Leader to submit a report each month thus keeping members informed of what they actually do and, in doing so may encourage others to join their group, or even help in creating additional Interest Groups.

So please submit a report.

Thank you for taking time to read this; we on your committee, endeavour to make your u3a as enjoyable as possible, so if you have anything to report, suggest or comment about we are here to listen and we want you to also enjoy your Newsletter.

Kim Whittingham – Interest Group Coordinator
July 2026

New Website Feature: Members' Reviews

We are setting up a new "Members' Reviews" section on the u3a Sutton Bridge website, and we need your input! This page will showcase what members love about our u3a or the specific interest groups they belong to.

If you would like to share your experiences—whether about how the u3a helped you settle into the area, or why you enjoy a particular group—please email your review directly to me.

https://suttonbridge.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form?contact_id=9095

To keep our website content organised, all submissions will be proofread first before being forwarded for publication. We look forward to reading your reviews and sharing them with the community!

Thank you Suzanne

The Lunch Group



This month we returned to Runways restaurant at Fenland Airfield. This has been a favourite in the past but unfortunately we were disappointed today. It has changed hands and the menu was very limited. Some of us had ham, egg and chips and the eggs came hard and over done. The service was poor as well.

We saw a couple of light aircraft taking off and enjoyed catching up with members of the group but it was agreed we will not be returning.

The Local History Group

On August 24th our Local History Group will welcome Alastair Goodrum researcher and author and his specialist subject is the RAF.

Those of our members living in Sutton Bridge will be aware that there was before and during World War II an RAF training area just across the other side of the Crosskeys Bridge.

What you may not know is that this Airfield was specially selected to train our fighter pilots, to train the best of the best, to become the Aces of the Battle of Britain. This was Britain's "Top Gun"!



Jane Webb, our previous Group Leader, initiated contact with Alastair to try to persuade him to come to our group meeting but he was entirely committed to completing his book at that time.

The book, School of Aces, is now finished and available to buy and we are especially fortunate that Alastair has agreed to come to our meeting and talk to us.

If you are a u3a Sutton Bridge member but not a member of the Local History Group and would like to attend this really special occasion please do come and join us. Alistair will be at our meeting on August 24th at The Baptist Church Hall in West Street, Long Sutton. Doors open at 10.00am the meeting starts at 10.30am.

Admission is £2.00, Tea/Coffee and biscuits included. There is ample Parking just across the road in the Winfrey Park Car Park next to The Royal British Legion.

SWIG 1



The group enjoying good food and wine at Sheila Palmer's house.

U3a member gets married

On Saturday 11th July, Ray Howard got married to Carrie. She is not in U3A but the ladies in dining group all know her. Ray is a member of the Lunch group, photographic group and the history group.

Ray said it is a bit late in life but you do these things when in love.

The wedding took place at Gorefield parish church. Members of the Lunch group attended.

The photographic group

In July four members of the photo group made the journey to the north of Lincolnshire, over the Humber Bridge and on to RSPB Bempton cliffs, north of Bridlington to photograph some of the over half a million seabirds including Puffins, Gannets, Kittiwakes and Guillemots that gather here between March and August to raise a family on the towering chalk cliffs that overlook the North Sea. After arrival on the first day the group walked to the northern part of the cliffs and were rewarded by several sightings of puffins as well as other species protecting their young. After a suitable evening meal, restful sleep and breakfast we returned to the cliffs and walked to the southern part sighting a hare running in the meadow grass and taking further photographs of the seabirds feeding and caring for their young chicks before returning home. A very enjoyable couple of days was had by all with many successful images captured.

Pictures from the trip to Bempton.



The Table Tennis group

The table tennis group meets every 2nd and 4th. Tuesday of the month at the Curlew centre Sutton Bridge 3pm-4pm. We are a friendly group that plays for activity and fun rather than competitively. If you have never played before you are welcome to come along and watch to see if you like it. You will be warmly welcomed. Please give it a try it's great fun.



Gardening Group

On Friday 17th July our outing was to Westacre gardens between Kings Lynn and Downham Market, due to holidays and other commitments there were 7 of us there. It was quite a hot day but despite that we had an enjoyable wander round and saw many plants that are growing quite happily despite the dry weather. The Apple Cafe is well worth a visit, with a variety of great eats, cakes and hot and cold drinks.

Another visit is going to be arranged in due course, the head gardener who I was chatting with does a very informal guided tour with question and answers as we go round so watch this space for further information. Our next outing is to Rutland Flower Show on Friday 14th August. If you would like to join the group please speak to a committee member or put your name down on the interest group sheet at the next General meeting on Tuesday 4th August.



The Sharing Supper Group

Oops! We were so busy enjoying our barbeque that we forgot to take photos! Still, the empty plates say it all. Richard and I hosted, and we managed to arrange the perfect weather – warm and dry but with a little cloud cover. Sheila brought watermelon as a refreshing starter, along with a Greek salad. Nanette was on wine duty. We all exclaimed at Monica's Bake Off standard roulade, which was delicious. She could not keep up the pretence for long and admitted that she had been shopping at the Co-op. It's not cheating. As we've said before, it's not a competition and there are no rules. We had another wonderful evening, with good food, good conversation, and wonderful company.

Monica and Paul will be our hosts in August

Dianne and Richard



Wine Appreciation Group Meeting (WAG) 6th July 2026

Hosted by Nigel and Kim at their home.

Eight of us met and tasted a selection of five Wines all from South America;

Wine No 1 – Ville De Casabianca 2025 11.5% £8.75 (Chile) From Sainsbury
Which scored 256 out of 320 coming 1st

Wine No 2 – Viognier 2024 12.5% £9.75 (Chile) From Sainbury
This one scored 209 out of 320 and came 4th.

Wine No 3 – Trivento Rosé 2025 11.5% £9.00 (Argentina) From Sainsbury
Which only scored 171 out of 320 taking it to 5th place.

Wine No 4 – Trapiche Cabernet Sauvignon 2024 13% £9.00 (Argentina) From Sainsbury
This scored 225 out of 320 coming 2nd.

Wine No 5 – Hormiga Negra Malbec 13% 2024 (Argentina) £11.00 From JS Cellar Coming in 2nd scoring 245 out of 320

This report is much shorter than my previous reports, as your committee has received a suggestion that our Newsletter is too “Wine Top Heavy”, so I am advised to keep it brief. This may suit some readers, but for others who enjoy reading about the qualities of wine products, I have a full report available, should you wish to read it please contact me.

Nigel and Kim were thanked for yet another splendid evening together, we learned quite a lot about South American wines, which ones are good and which to avoid. Their generous selection of nibbles was well appreciated; the mandatory quiz didn't go down well, but then it usually doesn't!

We forgot to take photos again, so to fill the page, below are some inviting all wine related pictures, as we know you prefer photos rather than waffle!

Our next tasting will be on Monday 3rd of August when Neville will be hosting at his home.



Jim Stalley July 2026

Chat and Wine Group

We, and there was eight of us, held our inaugural meeting on Thursday 16th July in Jim's garden, sitting in the shade of his trees with our chosen selection of snacks along with a good selection of wine supplied by Jim.

At Neville's suggestion, we decided to change the group's title from Wine and Chat to "Chat and Wine (CAW)" as we could then say; "Cawwww what a group this is"!

The Chat covered a varied range of topics and Jim's wines washed down our snacks, including Neville's delicious homemade fruit flan.

As our meeting was so successful we decided to do it all again next Thursday 23rd July, same time, same venue. Watch this space!

Below are some review comments received;

"From the moment you arrive, you are welcomed into a warm and hospitable atmosphere that instantly puts you at ease. The group is beautifully designed to increase interaction among u3a members, making it incredibly easy to strike up a conversation, share stories, and connect with others.

It is a fantastic space for encouraging new friendships, bringing together people who appreciate good company and a relaxed environment. Whether you are a long-standing u3a member or completely new to the u3a, this group offers the perfect blend of lively conversation and wonderful hospitality. Highly recommended for anyone looking to expand their social circle and enjoy a brilliant afternoon or evening out!" (SC) 10-out-of-10 (NG)

"Chris & I visited Jim's Wine & Chat (could be Chat & Wine?) afternoon. It was a great afternoon held in Jim's beautiful garden, a slice of English countryside.

There were eight of us, everyone contributed to snacks and nibbles, and as we chatted Jim served some excellent wine.

All of us enjoyed the afternoon and Chris and I are certainly looking forward to the next event". (WL)

SITTING IN THE SHADE JUST "CHATTING" AND SIPPING, AND WE HAD A LITTLE VISITOR



EVEN THE BEE ENJOYED IT



Jim Stalley 17th July 2026

Chat and Wine Group (CAW) Second July Meeting

SOME MORE PICTURES FROM OUR SECOND (CAW) MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD JULY

WHEN EIGHT OF US “CHATTED” FOR AROUND FOUR HOURS, LUBRICATED BY SIX BOTTLES OF WINE



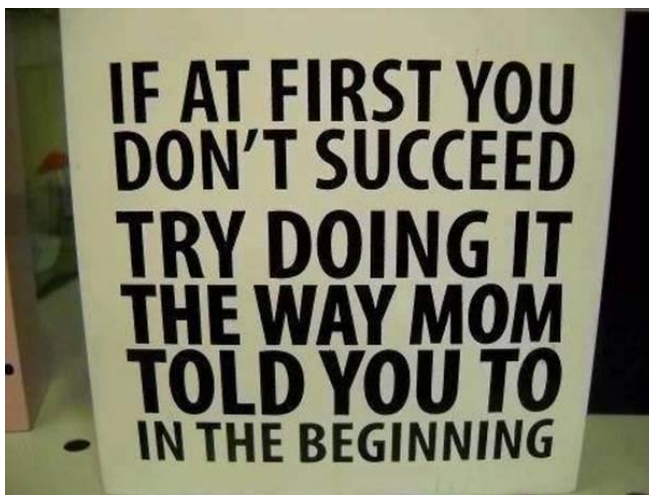
IT WAS A JOLLY AFTERNOON HELD AGAIN IN JIM’S GARDEN, EVEN LITTLE ARCHIE GOT IN ON THE ACT.

THIS IS PROVING TO BE A REALLY GOOD GROUP (Cawwwww,) SO GOOD THAT WE MET AGAIN MONDAY 27TH JULY
(ONLY THREE DAYS IN BETWEEN!)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING PLEASE CONTACT JIM STALLEY ON 01406 350526

Jim Stalley 24th July 2026

A Few more humorous pics from Chris.



A few more jollies from Chris

1. Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
2. What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.
3. Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.
4. If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.
5. Just so everyone is clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.
6. A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

7. I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
8. Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

A message from Frank, our Chairman.

See photo of Jan Whitburn our open day VIP plus, winner of the raffle prize.

Jan is chair of SHDC council and organiser of South Holland PRIDE Awards and has a weekly column in the Voice.

Best regards Frank

