



Newsletter Issue No.52 September 2026



Three amazing pictures of the recent solar eclipse.

Taken by photographic group member, Ray Howard, using his SEESTAR 550 telescope.



The Bridge group

We play BRIDGE at the Bridge for fun every couple of weeks. Wednesday 2pm to 4pm in the library at the Curlew Centre. We ideally need two tables (8 players) and would like some new members.

If you have played bridge before, even if you are a bit rusty, we would love to hear from you. We are not competitive.

If you were put off the game because your parents argued over it don't worry; we never argue!

We can help beginners to get started so let me know if you would like to learn. I am planning a beginners table from September.

Sign up at the General Meeting please.

Anne Thomson Freeman.

The supper sharing group



Another perfect summer's evening for an al fresco supper at Monica and Paul's.

Nanette brought pate and crackers, along with home grown salad. Paul's home cooked ham, jacket potatoes and salad was perfect for the weather. We made a rich chocolate mousse that completed the rest of the meal, with requests for a repeat appearance at a future supper.

Our resident DJ put on some dancing tunes for those that still had enough energy for a bit of boogying. A Lovely end to a great evening.

The Lunch group



Eight of us met at the Chequers, Weston, for a very enjoyable lunch. Four of us had fish of the day which was sea bass and cooked to perfection.

Ray said his halloumi burger with chilli relish which was the best so far. Although Richard was quite full of lasagne he couldn't resist the apple crumble with custard. We agreed it was one of our favourite restaurants and we will definitely return.

Garden group visit to Rutland show.

No write up, just a few pictures taken on the day.



Wine Appreciation Group Meeting (WAG) 3rd August 2026

Hosted by Neville at his home.

**Seven of us met and tasted a selection of five Wines all starting with the letter
“M”**

Neville's Wines

**Wine No 1 – Muller Thurgau 2023 12% Italian - £8.50 From Sainsbury
Which scored 223 out of 280 coming joint 1st**

**Wine No 2 – Marsanne 2022 13% French - £8.50 from Asda
This one scored 213 out of 280 and came 2nd.**

**Wine No 3 – Marselan 2023 13.5% French - £11.99 From JSG
Which scored 186 out of 280 taking it to 3rd place.**

**Wine No 4 – Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 2023 12.5% Italian - £5.50 From Sainsbury
Which only scored 178 out of 280 taking to last place - 4th.**

**Wine No 5 – Monastrell 2022 14% Alicante Spain – £7.49 from Lidl
Coming in joint 1st scoring 223 out of 280**

Again, another short report but I do have a full one available, should some of you wish to read it, if so please contact me.

Neville was again thanked for yet another splendid evening together, his selection proved to be “M”ost interesting, “M” being the operative letter. Also his selection of nibbles was very well appreciated; and the mandatory quiz went down as well as it usually does with low scoring all round! BUT IT'S GREAT FUN

Here are a few photos to keep you all amused; We take it quite seriously as you can see!



Our next tasting will be on Monday 15th of September when Ian and Suzanne will be hosting at their home.

Jim Stalley August 2026

Chat and Wine Group (CAW) Third & Fourth Meetings

WHAT A GROUP THIS HAS BECOME!

WE'VE HAD FOUR MEETINGS IN OUR FIRST MONTH, AND EVERYONE IS GAGGING FOR MORE! THIS LOVELY WEATHER HAS HELPED WITH TIME IN JIM'S SHADED GARDEN BEING VERY WELCOME. EVERYONE SAYS "THIS IS THE WAY TO SPEND OUR LEASURE TIME; IT'S SO RELAXING JUST NATTERING AWAY AND SIPPING A BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE". IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE WINE, IT CAN BE ANYTHING YOU FANCY, BRING YOUR OWN IF YOU CHOOSE ALONG WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SNACKS, OR JIM WILL MAKE TEA OR COFFEE (OR OVALTINE!) AND HE PROVIDES PLENTY OF WATER! HAVING SAID ALL THAT, 26 BOTTLES OF WINE WERE CONSUMED DURING OUR FIRST FOUR MEETINGS. THESE PICTURES ARE FROM OUR THIRD & FOURTH (CAW) MEETINGS HELD IN AUGUST



How it works; we always meet at Jim's home, you book your place, turn up at the given time, choose which wine to enjoy (around 20 to choose from not available in supermarkets) or ask for an alternative beverage, relax and talk about anything that comes to mind, or have a nap if you wish, it doesn't matter. Put an appropriate donation in the donation jug to cover basic cost of what is consumed and return home happy and relaxed. JOB DONE

THIS GROUP IS NOT STUFFY, CLIQUE OR SERIOUS, IT'S JUST JOLLY GOOD FUN AND RELAXING WITH NO BARRIERS AND IT'S OPEN TO ALL OUR u3a MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING TO CEMENT OR EXPAND THEIR FRIENDSHIPS. WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY; NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY 25TH AUGUST AT 2.00pm AND ANOTHER COUPLE OF GET TO-GETHER'S IN SEPTEMBER (Days of week vary to suit all)
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CONTACT JIM STALLEY ON 01406 350526

Jim Stalley 15th August 2026

A few funnies sent in by Chris Livesey



From Jim Stalley

A Bin Lovers Poem

They delivered my new Bins today all down our street, they sit beside all other Bins so now all is complete.
There are Burgundy ones for paper, Green ones for glass,

the Brown ones are for garden waste, for cuttings, weeds and grass, they used to be for cardboard but now that's changed to Blue, why does the council need to change it, well that's just what they do.

New waste food Caddies are a fetching shade of Orange, they are for food waste only and collected every week, so don't forget to waste your food thereby not to disappoint.

Tin cans go in the Blue Bin, or are they Grey? I really don't mind this recycling lark but the rules get in the way.

Shredded paper; now that's debateable, most council's hate it, but some don't really mind.
But does it go in Black, Brown, Green or Blue? The rules are not aligned.

The Black Bin is for general waste, but that is not defined, is there a Bin for electrical things or paint? We will have to wait in time.

However tempting it may be, you must show some foresight.

Burgundy is for plastic, although it must be of a certain type, certainly not for plant pots as they will remain on site.

Don't make your Bins too heavy or leave them overfull, they will not go, so don't complain if they are deemed too hard to pull. The collectors have a sneaky peek, so don't take them for fools, they'll leave them full and you'll be left glum if you don't obey the rule.

Just to confuse us even more Bin collections are changing to a different day; best not to put them out too early as they only get in the way.

Now if you have the slightest doubt which colour or which day, or what goes in your Bin, don't argue with those refuse men because you'll never win.

From the editor

A very brief newsletter this month due to holidays etc.

Going forward, please don't forget to send in as many contributions as you can, especially pictures of our groups in action.