

u3a Sutton Bridge
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Newsletter Issue No.53 October 2026



The plan was for the garden interest group to visit the gardens at Doddington Hall. The weather put most off of that idea, so Instead, we spent an enjoyable afternoon exploring the interior of the hall. The pictures on this page are from the "forgotten room". As you can see, there are some very strange items festooned about the place.





Most of the group gained entry using a "two for one" card. This is available from Gardeners world magazine and allows two people to enter many historical sites and gardens at half price for two people. If you plan on visiting these places then keep a look out for the offer on the April edition of Gardeners world magazine.

A Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

It is a privilege to write to you for the first time as your new Chair. I am incredibly excited to take on this role and build upon the fantastic foundation already in place.

On behalf of the committee and the membership, I would like to thank Frank Heinrich-Tiller for his hard work and commitment to Sutton Bridge u3a during his time in office.

To help keep our u3a running smoothly, I am joined by a wonderful and dedicated committee. I am delighted to introduce the team working alongside me this year:

Chris Livesey – Vice Chair / Speakers Secretary

Nigel Whittingham – Treasurer

Vacant Position – Secretary

Jim Stalley – Membership Secretary

Kim Whittingham – Groups Leader Coordinator

Glynis Silvester – Social Secretary

Ian Coles – Health & Safety

Paul Reeve – Newsletter Editor (Non-Committee)

Tony Dyer – Webmaster / Beacon Administrator (Non-Committee)

Frank Heinrich-Tiller – Grants / Fundraising (Non- Committee)

While we have a brilliant team in place, we currently have one vital piece missing from our puzzle. We are actively looking for a volunteer to step into the role of Secretary. The Secretary plays a crucial part in our u3a by keeping track of our meetings, managing light correspondence, and helping us stay organised. If you are organised, enjoy being at the heart of our community, and want to help shape the future of our u3a, we would love to have you on board.

If you are interested in the Secretary vacancy, or if you simply want to find out more about what the role involves with no obligation, please come and have a chat with me at our next monthly meeting, or send a quick email to me via our website.

Thank you all for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Warmest regards,

Suzanne
Chair, Sutton Bridge u3a

Beer wine and bus pass group




The group paid a visit to Palmers Ale House, Long Sutton. The meeting was well attended. Memebers reorganised the furniture to make things cosy. The pub seems to be very popular now it's under new management.

The lunch group

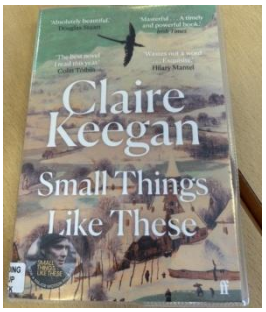


A smaller lunch group than usual met at The Wildfowler in Terrington. We felt the menu average and overpriced compared with other favourites. The chicken dish was thigh with skin on and bone and the potato was luke warm, though the fish and chips was excellent. We all had room for dessert which, again, was disappointing. So, we won't return for the foreseeable future.

Book Group 1

Book Group 1 do not often send an entry for the Newsletter, usually only on the rare occasions when our review discussions of a book show we are in general agreement and we rate the book highly.

Claire Keegan's "Small Things Like These" was our September book. Everyone enjoyed the book and said they would recommend it to others apart from those they knew might be upset by the subject matter. This book is a beautifully written short read. It is set in Dublin and is a thought provoking illustration of Church influence, demonstrated by the plight of an unmarried mother working in a convent laundry. We rate the books we read out of 10 and on this occasion it gained an average score of 9 out of 10.



The photographic group

Below are suggestions/plans for the winter programme.

- October 29th: Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill. Depart from Long Sutton/Holbeach area at 0900 hrs. Car sharing to be arranged. Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill | Cambs | National Trust
- November 25th: Walsingham. Depart from Long Sutton/Holbeach area at 0900 hrs. Car sharing to be arranged. The Shrine - The Shrine Of Our Lady Of Walsingham Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham Walsingham Abbey – Abbey Grounds, Shirehall Museum, medieval Priory ruins and place of pilgrimage
- December: No meeting.
- January 20th: Demonstration by Ray Howard of his Seestar S50 smart scope followed by a 'show and tell' selection of the images that the group have taken over 2026, maximum 10 images per attendee please.
- February: Cromer for hopefully 'Stormy seas month' at a date to be confirmed subject to tides, wind and weather etc so likely to be short notice!
- March: Either Fens Falconry or Pensthorpe once I know their opening times and days etc for 2027. Date to be advised.
- April: TBA
- May: Cadwell Park. Date to be advised once published.

Best wishes, Roger Jennings, group leader.

Wine Appreciation Group Meeting (WAG)

16th September 2026, hosted by Ian and Suzanne at their home.

Eight of us met and tasted Ian and Suzanne's selection of five Wines, themed, "Todo el vino de esta noche es de España".(All wines tonight come from España (Spain))

Wine No 1 – Freixenet Cordon Negro (Premium Cava) 11.5% £8.75 (normally £11.00) From Tesco.

Wine No 2 – Mucho Mas - 12% £9.25 from Tesco.

Wine No 3 – Campo Viejo Rioja Blanco 2025 12% £7.50 a blended wine from Asda.

Wine No 4 – Freixenet Cordon Rosé (Premium Cava) 11.5% - £8.75 (normally £11.00) From Tesco.

Wine No 5 – Campo Viejo Tempranillo - The Black Grape 2023 13% Rioja Spain Priced £9.24 from Asda.

Another splendid evening together, their selection of nibbles was more of a buffet, but very well appreciated; The quiz went down as well as it usually does.

Our next tasting will be on Monday 5th of October when Jim and Glynis will be hosting at their home.
Jim Stalley. September 2026

Chat and Wine Group (CAW) Third & Fourth Meetings

AN EVOLVING FUN GROUP, MORE MEMBERS WELCOME

PHOTO'S TAKEN AT OUR SEPTEMBER 10TH MEETING

MULTIPUL TOPIC'S BEING DISCUSSED, INCLUDING DOG'S, HOLIDAY'S, HEALTH, WEATHER, GARDEN'S, TRANSPORT AND LOTS MORE INCLUDING WINE OF COURSE.



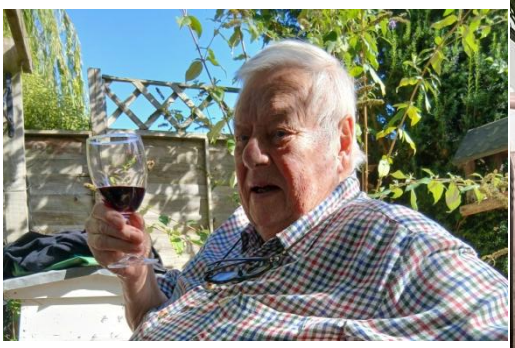
















THIS GROUP IS GROWING; MEETING EVERY TWO WEEKS OR SO, BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MORE TO JOIN, THE CONCEPT IS VERY FLEXIBLE. TO JOIN, JUST CONTACT JIM TO BOOK YOUR SLOT. Jim Stalley – September 2026

Swig 1 Wine tasting group






Our tasting was held at Cliff's house on the 7th Sept. We had a very fine selection of wines from France. To finish the evening most of us had a very small shot of "Gold Strike".

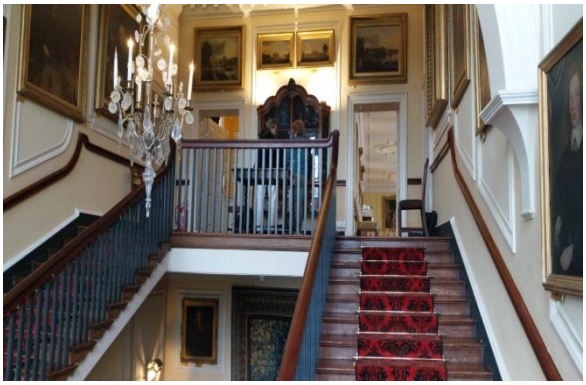
A Few more pictures of the Garden groups visit to Doddington hall









From the editor.

Following feedback, the committee have asked me to reduce the size and content of the newsletter. Some of you have found that twenty pages are far too much to handle. With this in mind I have reduced the size of the pictures and reports. I hope this is to your liking. Please keep the committee informed of any changes that you may require going forward.

Paul.



For up-to-date information and confirmation of events please visit us on Facebook **South Holland District Council** & **SHDC_Communities**

Photographs and videos may be taken at these events for promotional purposes

SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL


Spalding
Pumpkin
Festival
Saturday 3rd October 2026
11am – 3pm
Spalding Town Centre
• Live Entertainment • Seasonal Market •
• Pumpkin Crafts and Decorating •
• Pumpkin Sculptures •
• Harvest themed Fancy Dress Competition •
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