

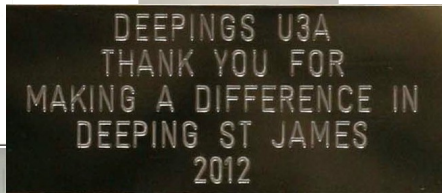
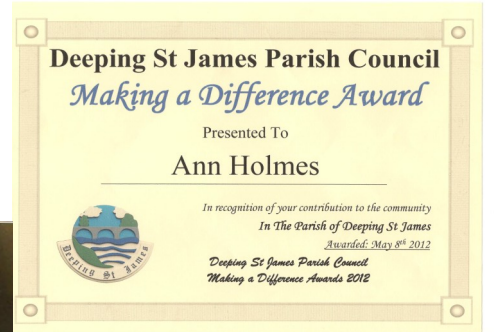
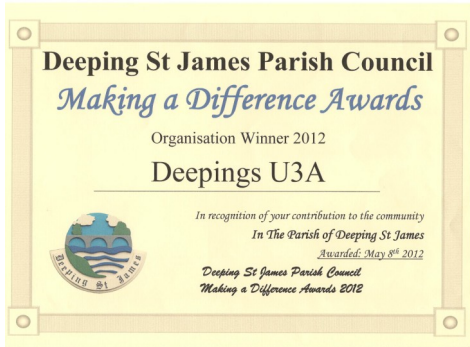


The Deepings' Third Age Group  
**NEWSLETTER**  
[\(Visit our Web site\)](#)



ISSUE Number 106

MAY 2012



*Inscription on the trophy*



Local Darts Hero Martin "Woolfie" Adams presenting Rod with our Trophy and Certificate

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

A few words regarding our fabulous evening on Tuesday 8th May, when Deepings U3A received an unexpected award, a Trophy and Certificate.

The 'Making a Difference Awards' were presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Deeping St James Parish Council which was held at the Deeping School with some of our U3A Committee and members in attendance. I went forward to receive the trophy, but this award is for all you good people who make the Deepings U3A, in my opinion, the best U3A ever.

Another award was given, and well deserved, to Ann Holmes for 'A person making a difference', related to her production of the Newsletter. Thank you to the person who made the nominations.

On a different tack, the following is a plea from the heart by John Bloomfield:

John will be relinquishing the position of Speaker Finder at the end of 2012. Can you imagine the main Monday meeting without a speaker? **May we please therefore have a volunteer(s) to take up this essential post.** It would also involve looking after the U3A Lap Top, projector etc.

Name(s) to John Bloomfield or any official of the Deepings U3A. Please give this matter very serious consideration.

Best wishes

**ROD SLOANE**

Chairman .

**A proud Editor—but remember YOU send me the good material! Thank you all I couldn't do it without you.**



**Committee Members 2011/2012**

Rod Sloane	Chairman
Audrey Allen	Secretary
Garth Perry	Treasurer
Janice Cosham	Membership Secretary
Liz Noble	Group Coordinator
John Bloomfield	Speaker Finder
Kath Allen	
Jennie Sharman	
Jim Pringle	
Lyall Seale	Co-opted (Publicity)
Flo Sykes	Co-opted
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	<a href="#">Contact through website</a> Webmaster

**Programme of Speakers**

- 21 May THE FREDERICK FRANK STORY by Steve Perry (at THE DEEPINGS SCHOOL)
- 18 June DEENE PARK BRUDENALLS FAMILY HISTORY by Mark Ellwood (at DEEPINGS SCHOOL)
- 16 July ROAD CRAFT by Malcolm Nichols, Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Doors open 9.30 am for 10.30 start all meetings

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

This month we welcome Daphne Webb, Market Deeping and Janet Rowland Deeping St James.



## APRIL MEETING — “THE RAF STORY” BY THE RAF PRESENTATION TEAM.

Normally we do not report on the talks given at the U3A monthly meetings but we had so many appreciative comments on the April talk we asked member Peter Allen, himself an ex-service man (although not RAF) to write a report :



At the April meeting, the R.A.F. gave a shop window on their role and methods for the defence of the realm. This took the form of an audio visual presentation interspersed with introductions and followed by a question and answer session.

The presentation team consisted of speakers Flt Lt James West, MACR Gareth Attridge and equipment operator SAC Dave Morris. They produced an impressive, seamless and fault free exhibition

A key component of this successful exposition was the professional ism, attitude and demeanour of the team (this being remarked on by attendees leaving the meeting). This reflects well on the quality of RAF personnel. Let us face it, talking to crowd of retired civilians is pretty mundane compared to. flying a Nimrod, battle field deployment and the repair/maintenance of high tech equipment. Questions ranged from what happened to the Lightning to details of post combat treatment? These were all answered succinctly with good humour and accompanied by a relevant graphic. The only time they were taken slightly aback, was on the discovery that their previous boss was related to a member of the audience.

It is evident that the operational success of the R.A.F. (Ninth largest, second most effective air force) is largely due to the quality not the quantity of its personnel. The average gate of six premier football clubs ranging from, (75,373 to 415,070) far exceeds the

RAF's  $\cong$  39,000. Bravo Zulu gentlemen and long may the 100 year experiment continue.

Report by PETER ALLEN  
Photo: DAVID SCOTT

## GROUP NEWS

We are considering starting a bowling group and Market Deeping Bowls Club has kindly offered the use of their facilities (behind the Community Centre, Douglas Road, Market Deeping) without any charge for a dedicated afternoon this summer for U3A members. They would provide all equipment, instruction and guidance too, so why not have a go? Anyone interested to find out more should put their name on the board by the notice boards at the monthly meeting or contact me direct by email or phone.



We are still looking for the hidden musicians in the membership – give me a call or email to find out more!

All else seems to be very quiet regarding groups but if you have any ideas for a new one please contact me in the usual way.

LIZ NOBLE  
Group Co-ordinator

## U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS & PRODUCE GROUP



Our April meeting took us to the abundant and fabulously stocked cottage garden of Mr and Mrs Curtis at Haconby. We were given a very informative guided tour by our hosts who also gave us many hints and tips for growing healthy plants. The weather started out by being decidedly wet, but it soon cleared for us and eventually the sun came out. After the tour we were treated to some sumptuous home made scones and home made jam. What a way to end a memorable wander through a plantsman's paradise?

We (like other Groups she attended) were very saddened to hear of the sudden death of member Janet Ward. Our thoughts and prayers are with Colin at this time.

EDDIE ADAMS  
Group Leader



## U3A HISTORY GROUP

April's meeting was led by John Bloomfield whose talk was entitled "The Eleanor Crosses: A Journey of Discovery". John had obviously done much research on the subject, not to mention the travelling between Lincoln and London to photograph evidence of the sites of these memorials.

Around the age of 13, Eleanor of Castille married the future King Edward I in 1254; they were crowned in August 1274. The King and Queen were on a tour of the North of England in 1290 when Eleanor died at Harby, a village eight miles from Lincoln. So began the cortege to take her body for burial in Westminster Abbey. At each location of an overnight stay a cross was erected in Eleanor's memory- there being 12 of these over the 194 miles journey, taking somewhere between 12 and 21 days.

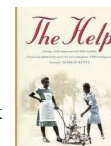
The nearest cross to Market Deeping stood at Stamford, whilst the best preserved is in the Northamptonshire village of Geddington (pictured). The final and most splendid of the Eleanor Crosses, located at Charing Cross, was destroyed in 1647. We all very much enjoyed John's informative talk.

History Group members were reminded by Sandra that the full amount for our August visit to York is due at our next meeting and that a firm commitment is now required for the June visit to Peterborough Museum.

Report by Mary Burton  
Group Leaders ELIZABETH PARKINSON / SANDRA JONES

## U3A “BOOK WEEVILS” GROUP

We have got off to an excellent start this month. Our first book was *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This is a story about three women, two black maids and one white young woman, living in Jackson, Mississippi, in the early 1960's where black maids raise white children but are not trusted not to steal the silver. It is difficult for us to identify with this way of life during segregation in the deep South of America. Some of us took a while to get into the book but soon got caught up in the story not knowing how it would end. We all enjoyed *The Help*.



We are a group of five at the moment and would welcome more members. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month, but our June meeting will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

CATHRYN SEALE  
Group Leader

### U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Our meeting for **April** was a particularly interesting one. We borrowed the Age UK Yellow Bus for the trip and twelve of us braved a rainy morning to visit the Green Back Yard Community Garden in London Road, Peterborough.



The rain stopped as we arrived at the site of the project, which is an abandoned allotment next to the railway line and with the hard work of local volunteers, led by Rene and his daughter, Sophie, it has been turned, over the last three years, into a wonderful community area. There are vegetable gardens for local people, chickens, amazing art works made from an astonishing variety of re-cycled materials and a pond built by youth offenders. Flowers, trees and shrubs support a wide range of wild life. Local children and young people help with seeds, planting, weeding, compost building and workshops for wood turning, bike maintenance, drumming, craft fairs and painting.

The project sells produce and eggs and exists on this and donations from visitors and the City Council. Bizarrely, the whole project is under threat of being evicted for building development by the same City Council that is supporting it, so we felt privileged to have seen it and the difference it has made to the local area.

If you would like to go and see this remarkable garden area, it is open every Wednesday morning, with free admission and easy to find next to Apex House, just before the railway bridge. And, by the way, if you see me in a bejewelled beany hat anytime, you will know where it came from. **This report by LIZ WATERLAND.**

Our **May** meeting was at Barnack Hills and Holes National Nature Reserve. We were met in the car park by our guide Mr Chris Gardiner who took us around the reserve. He told the history of the Barnack stone that was found there and how it was used for the building of Peterborough and Ely Cathedrals and also Crowland and Thorney Abbeys, to name but a few.

We were told that there were over 300 kinds of wild plants some of which were in bloom like Pasque flowers, Cowslips, Primroses and Orchids but that the best time to see the flora was in June and July when large areas are covered in pink, blue, yellow, and white flowers. The rich flora also supports a wide variety of wild life, especially insects. It was a very enjoyable morning and even the rain held off for us.

Our next meeting will be June 13th with a visit to Tim Meakin's Garden in Outwell. **This report by HEATHER BUMPFREY.**

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / ANGELA DORWARD

### U3A SCIENCE GROUP

For the April meeting eleven members met at David's for a talk on 'The Planets and our Solar system' by Brenda Kilby a member of the Peterborough U3A Astronomy group. It was most interesting and was accompanied by an excellent portfolio of photographs given as a slide show.



Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

### U3A WEEKENDERS GROUP

Fifteen of us enjoyed a coffee morning at the Deeping Stage when arrangements were confirmed for the trip to Southwold. Also trying to fix a date for a visit to the National Trust Site of the Workhouse at Southwell in July/August.



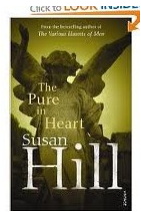
Plans were made for an early evening meal "The super Six" at The Deeping Stage, for June. Next coffee morning June 9th. Remember **do** come along if you are on your own and join us. Pass away an hour or so over coffee, sharing points of view and ideas for future outings welcome.

Group Leaders AUDREY ALLEN / PAT RIGBY

### U3A "BOOKWORMS" READING GROUP

**"The Pure in Heart"** by Susan Hill

The Bookworm's novel this month was a rather disturbing book about the abduction of a 9 year old boy, David Angus, as he waits outside his home for his lift to school. The impact the loss of David has on his family is vividly described.



The Detective Chief Inspector in charge of the case is Simon Serrailier, a complex character whose own personal life and problems become part of the story.

The group found the book good if unsettling and we would read another by this author.

Report by SUE REILLY

Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

### U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP



The Strollers' April walk, around the familiar grounds of Burghley House was not the planned walk for this month but was arranged in memory of Janet Ward, one of our regular members and who will be sadly missed.

We were pleased to welcome some new members to our group today.

Blessed with a beautiful April morning, the house and grounds were looking their best. We watched some of the 'ha-ha' wall being repaired by local craftsmen and had a brief look at the new 'Sir William Cecil' hotel which has now been completely renovated. After a short walk on the road we re-joined the Burghley paths, calling in at the Princess Diana Memorial Garden.

The next walk will be arranged by Glenys and Sandra and information about this should be available from Derek.

Report by ANNE JONES

Group Leader DEREK NICE

### U3A DISCUSSION GROUP

28th May Sport and Politics. Leader is Jim.



11th June Press Cutting.

JOY ELLIMAN

Group Leader

### U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next Sunday Lunch will be at the Baskerville, Baston, on Sunday 27th May. If you wish to go please contact Tony Semple or Michael Griffiths, or put your name on the list at the back of the hall at today's meeting.



### U3A CRAFT GROUP

I have been away for three months, so it was a very chatty meeting, catching up on the news, events and gossip. We also had cause for celebration and our congratulations went to Lin who married Pete recently, we wish them both the best.



On a sadder note, a desperate request has come from the hospitals, for more supplies of burial gowns and pouches. So some of the group are knitting and crocheting like mad for this cause. I therefore ask again for any donations of wool, no matter how small. I will collect if necessary, my number is at the bottom and if anyone would like patterns I am happy to supply them.

Next month we thought we would take ourselves out for a change, so we are off to the Waterside Garden Centre, where we will have look at the craft books and materials, steel some ideas and enjoy the free coffee, oh boy, do we know how to live !!

JULIE MANCEY  
Group contact

### U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

For our meeting this month we were invited by Alexander, one of our members, to his home for a talk by him of his time with The Co-op Society and to see some of his Memorabilia he had collected. We were given a very warm welcome and sixteen members had a very enjoyable time hearing about the History of the Co-op.



His huge collection of items included, tea-pots, mugs, jubilee trays, royal pottery, playing cards, toys, medals, biscuit tins, there were a great many more items including his own Silver Medal which he was awarded when he was President of the CWS in 1991. When the Co-op became more established, they set up their own factories making their own items, including railway wagons, bicycles, motor bikes, and cars. As women were not allowed on the board, and to have a say, a Women's Guild was formed, and Alexander showed us two Banners that were used by the women when they went on a march etc.

On behalf of the members I would like to thank Alexander for a very interesting and informative afternoon. One of our members, Janet Ward, who died recently, was sadly missed.

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

### U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

This month's meeting entertained eight members in total. We met on a wet Wednesday and the programme started with Count Basie April in Paris to try and raise the spirits.



We then had various other bands and vocalists including Benny Goodman Tommy Dorsey, Stan Getz, Stan Kenton and Anita O'Day, Nat King Cole, Matt Monro, including his early recording with Peter Sellers where he was credited as Fred Flange. We finished with Johnny Mathis. The next meeting will be 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 16 Eastgate

Report by BARBARA BAYLISS  
Group Leader: JENNIE SHARMAN

### U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Finishing boxes this month or "do your own thing" on 21 May, 2pm. New project in June.



LIZ NOBLE  
Group Leader

### U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Our next Monday walk will be on **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012** and will be a circular walk, Elton-Nassington-Elton, led by David and Linda Perkins. We will meet at 9.45am for a **10.00am** start from the car park opposite "The Black Horse" pub Elton (PE8 6RU).



The walk is about six miles, there are between seven or eight stiles and it is described as gently undulating. We will be having lunch in the "The Black Horse".

If you wish to attend this walk could you please phone David.

We also have an all day walk on **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May** around Cold Overton, meeting at 9:15am for a **9:30am** start. Bring a packed lunch. Car parking has been arranged at Gates Garden Centre, please use the overflow car park at bottom of drive on left hand side.

The walk is about twelve miles long and of six hours duration (approx) with some road walking. There are about ten stiles to climb and a steep ascent to Burrough Hill Iron Age Fort. There are toilets half way along (if open) at Burrough Hill country park which will be a good place to eat our picnic.

Directions. Leave Oakham on A606, next village is Langham. In Langham take sharp left hand bend onto Cold Overton Road. Keep to this road for 2 miles to Gates Nurseries, following the brown tourist signs for the garden centre.

BRIAN THORNTHWAITE  
Group Leader

### U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

With so many group members enjoying the delights of the Lake District it was a small but enthusiastic band which explored Castor Hanglands in April.



Despite dire forecasts we were blessed with dry and sometimes sunny weather. Our reward was to see some 24 different wild flowers ranging from bold bluebells, cowslips and marsh marigolds to the restrained miniature delights of heartsease and speedwell. Birds were mostly heard but not seen although a buzzard came to check us out. (Nora, we did miss you!). Speckled Wood and Orange Tip were among butterflies seen and one lone hare entertained us with a mad dash along the wood edge. It was a morning of small pleasures but many of them.

Next meeting, 24th May, Visit the Duck Decoy, full details at the main U3A meeting.

Report by PHIL ASTLE  
Group Leader: ALISTAIR SMITH

### U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our May meeting centred around the topic of '60 years' and as usual there was a good mix of pieces. One was about an old aspidistra and another a tree that had been planted 60 years ago! Jenny wrote about her 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party which was spoilt by raging toothache. Another story included the Olympics, and Maureen wrote a charming piece about a lady who bought her husband a barometer at the time the Queen ascended the throne. So there was plenty to keep us occupied during the morning.



For next month we are going to try writing a conversation, perhaps between more than two people. The aim is to make it clear who is talking each time, without using their names too often. Should be interesting

JUDY ROBINSON  
Group Leader

**U3A 'PACERS' WALKING GROUP.**

The group undertook a walk around Bluebell Woods in Longthorpe before proceeding to Milton Bridge. The route followed the boardwalks alongside the swollen River Nene. In both of these areas we



admired the carpet of fragrant Bluebells and the not so sweet waft of Wild Garlic that was just coming into flower. After crossing Milton Bridge we proceeded via Short Meadow to the area around Overton Lake and watched the wildlife on the lake before returning and having a well earned lunch at the 'Greenkeeper' Thorpe Wood. A Red Kite was seen in the Blue bell Woods area.

The next walk is on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 'Ufford' meeting at the White Heart Pub. Full details at the next monthly meeting and by email.

Report by MARGARET GRIFFITHS  
Group Leader: LIZ WATERLAND

**U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP**

The May visit of the Church Mice group was to the Abbey Church at Thorney.



Thorney was on a gravel island in the watery wastes of the fens when first settled by Christian hermits in 662. Pilgrims used to travel there by boat from Peterborough. The Abbey was destroyed by the Danes along with Peterbough and Crowland Abbeys in 870, but eventually re-established by Aethelwold in 972. In 1539 it was dissolved under Henry VIII and the stone sold to build such places as Trinity and Corpus Christy Colleges in Cambridge. The building that remains as the parish Church gives some idea of the size and importance of the original Abbey.

We were also given an interesting tour of Thorney Village and a chance to visit the local museum, both of which were very interesting. In 1550 Henry VIII gave the Abbey to the Earl of Bedford (from Woburn) whose family built the village up as a model village with good quality cottages with a water supply, gas and street lighting as early as the 1850's.

A very good afternoon, looking at the Church and its place in the community - thanks to those involved.

Report by FRANK MILLS  
Group Leaders: LYALL SEALE / FRANK MILLS

**U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

Our group met today following a break due to Easter. We looked into the **Parish Chest**. A major source of genealogical documents often not searched. We looked at the people responsible for keeping the information, what information we could likely find and what to interpret from what is found.

Most people understand that the church was responsible for baptisms, marriages and burials, but these documents are only a few of what could be found. Other documents such as settlement and removal orders, bastardy bonds, apprenticeship indentures and rates books can help put flesh on the bones and give us a better understanding of the part played by our ancestors in the parishes where they lived.

**U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP**

Our May meeting was at Terry Noble's home and we began by 'finishing off' the Women Composers (not literally I have to say) that we did not manage to fit in last month. The three composers, Dame Ethel Mary Smyth and her Concerto for Horn and Violin, (1st movt.) Grace Williams's Violin Concerto (1st movt.) and finally another choral piece by Hildegard of Bingen, Spirit Sanctus. The general consensus was that men do it better!



Then we had a real treat - Terry played his viola, live, but not alone. With some clever recording of himself now playing his violin, joined by pianist Howard Chalkley we enjoyed Mozarts Trio in E-flat major (K98), Kegelstatt.

This was thoroughly enjoyed by the group and Terry also gave us an interesting talk about violins and violas, so thank you for that Terry.

Following on we heard the Viola Concerto in G by Telemann, with Ladislav Kylesak on Viola, a composer new to most of us. Then Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola played by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra with Thomas Brandis on Violin and Giusto Cappone on Viola.

Our next meeting on June 13th will be at 67, Granville Avenue.

Report by ANNE JONES  
Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

**U3A CYCLING GROUP**

On 20 April a small group of three intrepid cyclists set out by car to transport our cycles to Fineshade Wood, which lies between Stamford and Corby.



The ride itself consisted of six miles of cycle track through a beautiful woodland setting and was made up of hills (both up and down) as well as more level terrain through wooded country and clearings. Our cycling pleasure was enhanced not only by the fact that the sun shone throughout the ride, but also a carpet of bluebells festooned the ground.

Cycling round, we did notice that other cycle tracks labelled a "Skills Track" were available but it seemed that specialist mountain bikes were necessary to ride these. So discretion was the better part of valour. With various stops en route it took just over one hour to complete the circuit. Toward the end of the ride we thought we witnessed two red kites circling around overhead, but we were too far away to be certain.

Report TERRY NOBLE  
Group Leader IAN TANNER

The Bourne Family History group has extended an invitation to their next meeting on Tuesday 22 May, which will be a talk by Rod Fanthorpe on the subject 'Kill' Em Or Cure'Em'. I am sure they would welcome anyone who would be interested. The talk starts at 2.15 in the Baxter room of Wake house in Bourne

We welcome Peggy Edgington to our group and I hope that she enjoys her new hobby. Our next meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00pm. Anyone interested in joining our group or just having a chat about what we do, please give me a call.

PEG TORRANCE  
Group Leader



### U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

In the past we have always enjoyed holding alfresco meetings in members' gardens between the months of May and October but this May it was a vain hope. The rain did ease off enough, however, for us to stroll round Sandra and Mike Bowers' garden and see how they have transformed it since moving to their new house two years ago. Old trees and shrubs have been cleared and replaced by carefully chosen new plants all of which look very happy in their new environment and we were all impressed by the new pond!



What a pity the BBC couldn't film this make over after they had visited Margaret Scott, our very own TV star whom many of you will have seen on Gardeners' World last month. We congratulated her on her performance - definitely a TV natural! - and Margaret and David's description of the filming was fascinating. Discussion then ranged over many different topics, many linked to gardening... and the meeting ended with a very successful plant swap. Many thanks to Sandra and Mike for their warm hospitality. They ensured that the unseasonable weather was not a problem.

On Thursday 7th June we are visiting the gardens of broadcaster Daphne Ledward at Surfleet. We will meet at Little Thatch at 10 am and then move on to The Patch. Daphne will meet us and answer our questions. I will circulate details and arrange lifts if necessary. Please ring me on the number below if you are unable to attend.

CHRIS FERGUSON  
Group Leader

### U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

Twenty members enjoyed a pleasant walk from Barnack through the Hills and Holes to Ufford and Bainton before returning to the Millstone for lunch. Once again we managed to avoid the rain. Many thanks to Chris and Eddie for leading the walk and organising the lunch.



The next walk on 14 June will be led by Lynne and Doris and will be around the Easton-on-the Hill/Stamford Meadows area. Please meet at The Blue Bell, Easton-on-the-Hill at 9.45am for a 10am start, where we will also be having lunch. If you wish to attend this walk, could you please phone or e-mail Lynne Smith.

GODFREY PARKES  
Group Leader

### U3A GARDEN GROUP 3

A group of seven members had a very interesting meeting at Swines Meadow. Colin Ward the owner gave an excellent talk about some of his very unusual plants from all over the world. He intrigued us with endless knowledge of all his plants. Colin took us around his own garden and showed us some of his rare plants, but said to come back in a month to see more flowers and colour. He takes great pride in propagating some very rare and beautiful plants, and his polytunnel holds a wonderful selection of unusual plants, most of which goes to internet buying.



A new plant this year is a tiny Tender white Euphorbia named **Diamond Frost**. It flowers from May - September. We are very privileged to have such a good garden nursery on our Doorstep in the Deepings and having such an expert in all the plants grown. Colin is always available to give advice on any specific shrub and plants.

Our next meeting is on 22nd May at 10.00 am at the Home of Susan Dineage in Maxey. Please bring along any plants you have spare.

JANICE WILSON  
Group Leader

### U3A LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

On 10th May two of our Founder Members (Jim and Daphne Brannagan) celebrated their Diamond (60) wedding anniversary.



Daphne has been a member of the Photography Group since its inception and our "Chief Photographer" went along, accompanied by his wife Pam and me, to congratulate them on behalf of the Deepings U3A. A family celebration took place on Saturday 12th May. ANN

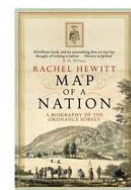
The next meeting of the Learn Photography Group will be on

Wednesday, 23rd May at the normal venue at 2.00 pm. We will be discussing our summer outings and field trips.

DAVE PENDRY  
Group Leader

### U3A MONDAY READING GROUP

Our book this month was a non-fiction book, *'Map of a Nation'* by Rachael Hewitt. Subtitled, 'A biography of the Ordinance Survey' this told the extraordinary story of the history of the Ordinance Survey maps, from their surprisingly early beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the completion of the First Series mapping of the United Kingdom in 1870.



The sweep of the author's remit was huge, covering history, science, art, poetry, biography and geography. This resulted in a dense and packed book, full of information and events (and in rather disconcertingly small print!) However, this wide ranging remit meant that all of us could find something to enjoy in it - and for those of us who love maps, and the Ordinance Maps in particular, it gave an eye opening view of the personalities and the privations behind the familiar Landranger and Explorer editions of our walks and car journeys. The book itself followed several 'journeys', such as from the origin of mapping for use in war, to its use for leisure and pleasure; from the pictorial representation of hills, to the familiar contour lines used today; from the view of landscape as a romantic inspirer of poetry, to the idea that it can be scientifically recorded and from the slog over hills and dales in all weathers by a few stalwart surveyors carrying cumbersome equipment, to the GPS and satellite systems of today.

For any map enthusiast a recommended and well written book which will change your view of the landscape and its maps for ever. Next meeting **Thursday 14 June**. Note change!

LIZ WATERLAND  
Group Leader

### U3A FOOD APPRECIATION GROUP

The Foodies Group met a week later than usual, due to the early May Bank Holiday. The theme this time was Pancakes, and a variety of savoury and sweet, made with different flours were tried. We all learned something from each other and the various books we had with us, and a good time was had by all.



Next meeting is also delayed by a week due to another Bank Holiday, so we are gathering at lunchtime on 11<sup>th</sup> June (al fresco if the weather happens to be suitable) to experiment with Unusual Salads, hot, cold, savoury or sweet. Anyone interested in joining us should ring me.

KATHLEEN TURNER  
Group Leader

Sorry—the only space I couldn't fill this month!

**LAKE DISTRICT WALKING HOLIDAY  
23rd TO 27th APRIL 2012**

In view of the wet weather in the first three weeks in April, it was an apprehensive group of 29 members of the walking groups that made a return visit to Keswick on Monday 23rd April for a walking holiday. After all the Lake District does have a reputation for getting plenty of rain and the clue to the area is in its name!! However, not to be deterred we all met up that night for an excellent evening at Sweeney's Bar and Restaurant.

Tuesday saw the beginning of the serious part of the week. This day entailed a short boat ride on Derwentwater to reach the start of our walk location, this being the Ashness landing stage. From here we progressed uphill to see the well known Ashness Bridge before moving onto Surprise View which gives glorious views over Derwentwater. The walk then continued down into the valley before reaching the hamlet of Watendlath with its scenic tarn and a pleasant lunch break at the café. After lunch a short climb took us back out of the valley to give excellent views of the Borrowdale Valley and Rosthwaite in particular, which was to be our final destination. From here it was a bus ride back to Keswick or an earlier stop to walk back around part of Derwentwater for some of the group, the bus being a double decker with three quarters of the top being open. Depending on the amount of walking this was between 7 and 9.5 miles. The weather today was dry and perfect for walking.

Wednesday was a day of a longer boat ride followed by a walk. Initially a short car journey from Keswick to Glenridding before boarding the Ullswater steamer for a trip up to Pooley Bridge before disembarking at Howtown on the return journey. This was the commencement of our 7 mile walk back to Glenridding giving full views over Ullswater for the entire walk. This was a rather undulating path, perhaps not quite as easy as the books described it, but in the end everyone coped well with it. Again today was fine but with a strong wind but at least it was on our backs for the walk.

Evening meals on Tuesday and Wednesday were left to the individuals choice as there are numerous restaurants in Keswick, but inevitably much joining up occurred in smaller groups.

Thursday was the day the group split into two walks. One walk was along the route of the old Keswick to Penrith Railway line through the stunning River Greta gorge to Threlkeld before returning the same way. (approx 7 miles). The walk was along good paths with useful information boards about the railway before arriving at Threlkeld for coffee and lunch at the pub. Alternatively, eighteen members headed off on the open top bus again to reach Rosthwaite which was the starting point to the Langstrath valley for a walk of 7.5 miles. This walk is also a fairly level walk that afforded an insight into the wild nature of the Cumbrian Hills. The name Langstrath simply means long valley and it is. There are no farms or houses, just a wild and empty landscape interspersed with some good waterfalls which had benefited from the overnight rain. The rain did actually continue into the morning but nothing to get concerned over and it soon disappeared.

The holiday concluded with another excellent evening together at The Inn at Keswick Restaurant, before everybody went their separate ways on Friday as this was a free day.

This turned out once again to be a great week of walking, wine and dining and enjoying each others company. So having the fairly fine weather which we did in the Lake District we were obviously extremely well pleased after arriving home to find that we hadn't endured the rain that had fallen on the Deepings and further south.

Thanks go to:

David S and Dave P for comments on and assistance with the itinerary

Brian T, Brian L, Glyn, Steve and Ken for the quick thinking and provision of transport at the end of the Wednesday and Thursday walks

To all of you for your continued support of these walking holidays, it is much appreciated.

Report by GODFREY PARKES

Photographers: GODFREY PARKES, KEN BUNCH AND DAVID SCOTT.

See larger selection of photographs on web site.

