



Deeping St. James

Issue No. 196

# The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

## NEWSLETTER

**Curtailed this month due to illness**

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Market Deeping

JANUARY 2020

Thanks to Anne Burton, another lovely photo from Australia



### Committee Members 2019/2020

Garth Perry	Chairman
Ann Parkes	Secretary
Anne Burton	Treasurer
Liz Noble	Membership Secretary
Susanne Hoadley	Groups Coordinator
Phil Jones	Deputy Groups Co-ordinator
Kath Allen	Vote of Thanks Organiser
Lyll Seale	Speaker Finder (Co-opted)
David Blessett	Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Distribution/
David Scott	Webmaster

### Programme of Speaker

2020

20 Jan 2020 **THE HISTORY OF THE DEEPINGS LIBRARY** by our own member LIZ WATERLAND. Liz will tell us about how Deepings Library was set up at Wade House, its period as a traditional Council run library, the fight to save it from closure and its current and future successful operation,

17 February **PROUD TO BE A FARMER IN PETERBOROUGH** by Judith Jacobs who is a third generation farmer who tells us about her work. Farming in the Newborough and Glington area, they grow crops as ingredients for leading UK food manufacturers and also rear and sell livestock through their Moor Farm shop.

16 March **THE PRIVATE LIFE OF OLIVER CROMWELL** by Stuart Orme.

Unless otherwise stated all monthly meetings are at **THE METHODIST CHURCH**, Deeping St. James. Doors open at 9.30 am. To enable us to set out chairs, etc., **please do not arrive before this time.** Coffee is served until 10.20 and meetings begin at 10.30 am.

### U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The venue this month will be the Wagon and Horses at Langtoft, on Sunday, 26 January, 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Please notify Tony Semple (01778 342776) or Michael Griffith or add your name to the list a Monday's meeting if you wish to attend.



### Chairman's Reflections



Bang goes my first New Year's Resolution – I was going to keep ahead of time, and not be in a rush to meet all my deadlines, and now the year has overtaken me already, and I am under pressure to come up with something for the newsletter!

When I closed my doors on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, I only had two commitments over Christmas, so I went out and bought about 70 carpet tiles, and resolved to replace the mish-mash of flooring in my dining area, a job that had been on my list for the last five years! A start was made on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first job being to remove the 36 year old Flotex carpeting from half of the area. I naively assumed that the adhesive that I had stuck the foam backing down with, all those years ago, would have gone dry and brittle, and could be easily chipped up – wrong! It took two days of squatting in a cramped position on the floor, with a paint scraper, to get the carpet up. In the process, I managed to part my right thumb nail from the nail bed, and I couldn't believe how painful that made my thumb. Why is it that no matter which finger or toe that you damage, it turns out to be the most indispensable digit, which is involved in almost every daily task, and the one most vulnerable to being stubbed against almost everything? On Christmas Day I stood in my bedroom in a frustrated rage, unable to find a non-painful way to fasten my shirt cuffs!

Just as I arrived to see my Grandsons on the evening of Christmas Day, without any warning or prior symptoms, my voice disappeared completely. For once I was pleased that all their attention was focussed on their new computer games! Boxing Day lunch with my Daughter was unusual, with communication achieved via a notepad and pen, accompanied by a version of charades – we got some very strange looks from other diners!

My voice began to return the next day, accompanied by a heavy cold, and an eye infection. By this time I was ready to start laying the carpet tiles. I thought that it would be straightforward – I could just work outwards from one of the long side walls, with uncut full tiles - Stupid boy! It soon became clear that the wall in the dining area extension didn't line up with that in the original dining area, so I had to start from the centre of the floor, which meant that every tile around the edge of the area had to be cut to fit. That tried my patience more than a little, as, with my eyes and nose streaming, my vision blurred by the eye ointment, and bursts of uncontrollable coughing, accurate measurement was neither easy nor quick! Typically, the moment that the job was finished, my cold and cough cleared up, my eyes dried up, and clear vision was restored – these things are sent to try us, and by God they succeed. Still, the long planned job was at last delivered, and I am pleased with the result.

I hope that you had a less trying time at Christmas, although I am aware that there were a variety of lurgies doing the rounds over the period. If you had one, then I hope that you are over it, and I hope that you have as Peaceful and Healthy a New Year as possible.

Best wishes  
*GARTH*  
Chairman

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Asher, Market Deeping



## GROUP NEWS

Happy New Year to you all, time to join a new group for 2020. **Gardeners** I have booked the Atrium at the Community Centre for all the members who put their names on the list to start a new gardening group, and anyone else who is interested but didn't put their name down. Save the date Monday January 27th at 10.00 am until 11.00. Please come if you can make it, if you can't but you're interested just let me know.

A meeting has been arranged at my home on 29th January for anyone interested in forming a **Cake Icing** group. Some members did put their names on the list on the table but anyone else interested in this subject is welcome to join us, just phone me to let me know you will be coming.

The Photography Group now has three contacts. Please see back page information for details.

We have sign up sheets for possible **Craft, Watercolour painting** and **Spanish conversation for beginners** groups. Contact me by phone or email for more information.

SUSANNE HOADLEY  
Groups Co-ordinator

**MY APOLOGIES TO THE "STROLLERS" GROUP, I MISSED YOUR REPORT LAST MONTH. ANN**

**U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP (November 2019)**



Our stroll in November was quite different compared to previous ones this year. It was an overcast, but dry morning, as we met at the Mulberry Tree Farm in Hampton for a stroll around this new, but large development to the southwest of Peterborough. There was a threat of rain which never materialised and we managed to complete the 3 mile stroll without getting wet.

Far from the attractive villages we have become accustomed to in Lincolnshire, Rutland and Northamptonshire, this development is centred on former clay pits which provided clay for the brick industry which thrived in Peterborough until about 20 years ago.

Now, with only two brickworks operating locally, it was interesting to see how such an area can be transformed to provide a pleasant living environment for its inhabitants. The photograph shows the group on a bridge over the Sunset Lake in Hampton Vale. Also the lakes, created from the pits, support a surprising variety of bird life.

**December 2019**

Our last stroll of the year was held on Monday 30 December was a very local affair, starting from the Deeping Lakes car park. Some 12 members of the group took part, enjoying the bright winter sunshine, walking along the north bank of the Welland to Pacey's Corner, then venturing towards the former railway station, where we crossed the tracks and returned to the car park.

Liz kindly invited us back to her home for some welcome Christmas fayre. It was a very enjoyable morning out.

So, another year without having to postpone a stroll. Now for 2020 and we will start the new year with a visit to Rutland and a stroll around Ketton. Meeting up and lunch arrangements will be made known to members of the group.

BOB DELLER  
Group Leader

## U3A HISTORY GROUP



This month we celebrated Christmas at the Sports and Social Club with an excellent meal, once again prepared by Rachael of Clarke's Catering Company. There were 41 of us and the service and food were spot on.

Lesley gave out next years' programme. We start off in January with Terry McCarthy talking about the history of a Welsh community. We look forward to seeing you there and hope everyone had a healthy Christmas break.

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

*(Sorry, unsure who took the photograph as it was sent to the wrong address and reached me by a round about route! A)*

## U3A "WEEKENDERS" GROUP

On December 14<sup>th</sup> 28 members met at the Oasis Café in the Eventus Centre for our Christmas celebration. Sonia had prepared an excellent Buffet lunch for us which we all thoroughly enjoyed, many of us taking home 'doggy bags' as there was far more food than we could eat in one sitting!



Our next meeting, back at the Oddfellows Hall, will be on January 11<sup>th</sup> when we will be planning activities for 2020.

Report: BARBARA MCNICOL  
Group Leaders: ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL

## U3A CYCLING GROUP

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> December (a week earlier than usual because of Xmas activities) saw eight of us set out from the Bridge at Market Deeping for a 13-mile ride around the Deepings. We first went via Towngate East, across the Spalding Road and along the local roads to Back Lane in Deeping St James.

From here we cycled through Deeping St James and crossed the footbridge near the Bell Tavern and then out towards Peakirk. Turning just before Peakirk the route took up across Lincoln Road and through the tunnels under the main Peterborough road to Main Road outside of Etton.

Here the route took us into Maxey and back to Market Deeping through Mill Road and then to the Bull for a much-needed lunch.

The weather for the ride was at least dry but windy which called for extra pedalling power on much of the route. Many thanks to Michael for planning this month's route and although a couple had to pull out along the way for physical reasons, everyone enjoyed the ride and we look forward to our next ride on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Season's greetings from all in the Cycling Group to all U3A members.

JIM TORRANCE  
Group Leader



### U3A “BOOKWORMS” READING GROUP



Christmas party time. On 16th December the Bookworms held their last meeting and we reviewed *The Chessmen* by Peter May.

This book was the final book in the trilogy. Fin, was a detective who had returned to his home on Lewis, to work as head of security on a private estate, a job that will bring him back in contact with his school friends. In the first chapter, Fin comes across a loch that has lost all of its water, resting on the bottom of the basin sits a small plane with the body of a man. Now the mystery begins is the body that of an old friend that went missing 17 years earlier.?

The vivid descriptions of the cruel weather the barren and exposed landscape are the backdrop to this melancholy tale.

ANN THORNTHWAITE  
Group Leader

*The Committee is sorry to lose this Group but thank Ann for her hard work and dedication. She has led this Group since July 2007.*

### U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



November 28th was a cold grey day but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 10 members from the Natural History Group who made the somewhat circuitous journey to the Welney Wetland Centre, the direct route being flooded. Knowing that they have created a wonderful centre with modern restaurant and fully heated bird hide might just have helped. After some welcome hot food, the more energetic among us went on a successful guided Hare Walk while the rest settled down in the luxury of the glass-fronted hide to watch the swans and other waterfowl.

As it grew dark, a volunteer waded in the huge lake below us feeding the birds from his floating barrow while all the time giving us a fascinating commentary on his radio mic. He told us that by late evening all the swans from miles around would arrive to overnight on the water, safe from foxes.

If you have never been to Welney, we can thoroughly recommend the experience (see their excellent website for details) even if you are not a committed birdwatcher. Report: PHILIP & JO ASTLE

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

### U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

We met early in January to try some recipes from Uzbekistan (two of our members having been there recently). They had fortunately come back with bottles of the local red wine.

Following advice on the structure of Uzbek meals, we started with a Chick Pea Salad, and some Pumpkin Samosas. Then a cold Beetroot Soup, followed by a substantial vegetable Soup. The main dish was PLOV, a traditional Rice and Lamb dish. To round off, we had a cheesecake traditional for Easter in Russia, and called Pashka.

Next month we are commemorating the cookery of Gary Rhodes (recently deceased at a relatively young age). Enquirers, (or anyone who would like to attend on a trial basis) welcome.

KATHLEEN TANNER  
Group Leader

### U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



On a mild, sunny but windy January morning, our 2020 programme got off to a good start with 21 members undertaking a very pleasant walk led by Brian and Norah Littler. Commencing from the Sugar Mill at Bourne we headed south down the Carr Dyke as far as Thurlby where we crossed the A15 and proceeded up through the village before deviating behind the houses on Swallow Hill followed by a short incline to one of the highest viewpoints around our area of South Lincolnshire. Due to the clear day the views from this point were very good. From here it was a nice downward return to reach the village of Northorpe before continuing in the direction of the A15 around the edge of Math Wood to reach the Bourne-by-pass and back via Elsea Park estate to the Sugar Mill for a very pleasant meal. Many thanks to Brian and Norah for organising the walk and arranging the lunch.

The next walk on 13 February will be led by Garth Perry commencing from The Horse and Jockey, St Mary's Road, Manton, Rutland LE15 8SU. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Garth by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, on 01778 347932 or e-mail [g.perry985@btinternet.com](mailto:g.perry985@btinternet.com) and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch.

GODFREY PARKES  
Group Leader

Photo: DAVID SCOTT

### U3A “WEEKENDERS” GROUP

Ann welcomed 22 members to the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> January, for our first coffee morning of 2020. Brains were sharpened up with a Dingbats puzzle sheet and various outings and events were arranged for the coming months including a fish and chip lunch in February, a trip to Fakenham and Cromer in May and an afternoon tea in June.

Further details of these events at next month's meeting which is February 8<sup>th</sup> when members can bring along any more ideas they might have for activities. Report: BARBARA MCNICOL

Group Leaders: ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL  
U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We are looking forward to our belated “Christmas” lunch with the group after the monthly meeting and back to crafting next month.

LIZ NOBLE  
Group Leader

### U3A POETRY GROUP

We held our first Poetry Group for the New Year at the home of Juliet, where we had a very relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. Our initial this month was 'I' and this produced Poetry from several poets expressing their different feelings, some sad, some humorous.

We had 'I wondered lonely as a cloud' by W Wordsworth; 'It would never have worked', Victoria Wood; 'Invisible Kisses', by Lemn Sissay; 'Invictus', by William Ernest Henley; 'If love were Jazz', by Linda France; 'I am sorry to announce', by Michael Swann and 'Laughing Boy', by Clive James.

If there are any U3A members who feel they would like to come along and have a taste of what we do you would be most welcome. No one writes their own poetry for this group. Just give me a ring, our next meeting is on February 3rd.

IRENE BEEKEN  
Group Leader

### U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



The group of 26 met at The Bull, Market Deeping on a crisp and cool sunny morning and was led by Brian and Nora.

Due to the wet weather it was decided not to walk along the river due to muddy conditions, and onwards towards West Deeping. So up to there was tarmac, with a muddy, boggy section across fields. The loop then went from West Deeping across fields (not too muddy) and returned on footpath to the Bull. A good lunch was had by nearly all and thank you to the Littlers for the walk.

The next walk is on 3rd February from the Millstone at Barnack. led by the Bunch's. Full details to follow We need as many as possible as the pub is opening especially for us.

STEVE HANSON  
Group Leader

### U3A CRAFT GROUP 3

As our meeting was on 2nd January we decided to make our own cut out iris folding cards, as we know time flies by and we did not manage to complete them. We had a good choice of ribbons kindly brought in by a member of the group.



ANITA SETCHFIELD  
Group Leader

### U3A ITALIAN CONVERSATION GROUP



We decided on taking our Christmas lunch in January so as to miss the crowds and the Turkey. We went to the Packhorse at Northborough and had a very nice lunch in a room on our own. Not much Italian was spoken, but we excused ourselves by saying 'it's still Christmas isn't it? We are still in holiday mode!'

A good time was had by all.

LYNN ACORN  
Group Leader

### U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

It was lovely to welcome a new member, Noreen, to our group for the new year; we are now full up again!

We met in the Library, in the very comfortable lounge area, as usual and began with our book swop, courtesy of Linda's collection, before going on to our group book for this month which was *Fingers in the Sparkle Jar* by naturalist Chris Packham. It is described as 'a memoir' and is the story of his childhood and young adulthood with undiagnosed Asperger's Syndrome and is not an easy book to read. This is not only because the subject matter is sometimes uncomfortable, but also because the structure goes back and forth in time, is sometimes told in the first, sometimes in the third, person and includes memories of his time in therapy in what seems to be random order.

It is also full of incredibly detailed descriptions of the natural world, animals, and his memories of home and school days. An extraordinary range of adjectives make for dense reading.

This book really divided opinion in the group. Some found it virtually unreadable, finding the elaborate descriptions and uncertain structure completely off putting; others found the insight into the mind of a child with autism involving and informative and the descriptive passages to be beautiful. However, it certainly led to interesting discussions about the author's attitude to his parents, to wild life, and to coping at school, where he was mercilessly bullied, and at work, where he has been controversial, especially in his public persona.

For an interesting and unusual read, we gave it an average of 3 stars out of 5 and decided to see if we could have a film evening soon, to watch *Kes* by Ken Loach, which has some similarities to this book.

LIZ WATERLAND  
Group Leader

### U3A SCIENCE GROUP

Our first meeting of the New Year, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2pm, will be held in the Main Hall of the Deepings Community Centre, when Keith Townsend will be telling us about NASA's Project Juno. We have 55 people signed up for this meeting, including some from Bourne and Peterborough U3As.

GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT  
Group Leaders