



Deeping St. James

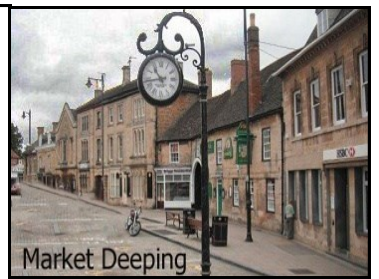
The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 197

FEBRUARY 2020

AFTER STORM CIARA HAS SPRING ARRIVED?



Thanks to Anne Burton for photo.

Chairman's Reflections



The first few weeks of this year have turned out to be a bit of a roller coaster. My lingering cough, left over from Christmas, developed into an aggressive chest infection, which I know some of you have also suffered from in January. Terrible timing of course, as I was due to go away for a week, about ten days later. So I went into full "man-flu" mode, put so many jumpers on that I was doing a reasonable impersonation of a "Michelin Man", turned up the heating, repelled all visitors, and washed my antibiotics down with plenty of warm honey and lemon, fortified (for purely medicinal purposes of course!) with whisky. Anyway, it worked, and I went off to Cheshire for five days. I did tempt fate one day, when our coach took us to Liverpool for the day. We were very lucky with the weather, but there was a biting cold wind. However, six of us, out of a coach of 41, showed true British grit, and went on the hour long sight-seeing tour, on the top of the open top bus! A big bowl of original "scouse" (a bit like beef stew), and the warmth of the excellent new museum, eventually restored some sensation to our extremities!

Two days after my return, I went to Bristol, for the Thanksgiving Service for one of my college chums. We went to Lanchester College of Technology (now Coventry University) from 1963 until 1966, and the class has held a reunion every two years since. Alan had a brilliant mind, a huge appetite for knowledge, and a very annoying photographic memory. While we had aching wrists writing copious notes, Alan would jot down a few key words on a loose piece of paper, which was never filed properly, but once he had seen or heard anything, he knew it. Two things revealed in his Eulogy surprised us. He was known for his sartorial elegance, at all times – obviously a trait that he developed after college, as we all remembered the well worn duffle coat, with holes burnt in the pockets by his pipe, and patched jeans, that he always wore, and which had to be weighted down when taken off, to prevent them walking away! However, thinking back, we had noticed that he was always smarter than us when we met at the reunions. The second surprise was that he had "got religion", and not only that, but he was an elder of an evangelical-style church. This was a surprise because of the rotten jokes that he used to tell, which frequently targeted religion, and because he did a very good Papal Blessing. This first occurred outside the exam room before our Finals – we were all frantically looking up last minute facts that we hoped could be retained long enough to be regurgitated in the exam. Alan helpfully gave us a reading from "Metallurgy for Engineers" by Rollason, then mounted the steps above us, and gave us the full Papal Blessing (in Latin of course!). This blessing became a feature of every reunion, as we prepared to go our separate ways, no matter where we were! We will miss him.

It is amazing how much you don't know about someone that you think you know so well.

Best wishes

Garth
Chairman

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
Lyall Seale	Speaker Finder (Co-opted)
David Blessett	
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Programme of Speakers

2020

17 February **PROUD TO BE A FARMER IN PETERBOROUGH** by Judith Jacobs, who is a third generation farmer, tells us about her work. Farming in the Newborough and Glinton 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. Stuart takes a look at Cromwell as a person, his family and explodes some of the myths about him focussing less on his career as a soldier and politician and uncovering some of the controversies about his life so we can see him as a person "Warts and all".

20 April **DEENE PARK—Home of Brudenell family since 1514**

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.

APOLOGY FROM EDITOR

I am sorry that due to illness the January issue of the Newsletter was incomplete and those members who usually receive a printed copy did not do so. The pages that were issued on line are attached to this month's printed issue. ANN

THEATRE VISITS

THERE IS A MEETING ON TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY IN THE LEARNING ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE 10.00 - 11.00 am TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A THEATRE VISITS GROUP IF YOU EXPRESSED AN INTEREST PLEASE COME ALONG.

Coach Trip to Blooms of Bressingham & Peter Beales Roses, Tuesday 16th June 2020



This year we shall be visiting two beautiful gardens that should be full of colour. Firstly Blooms of Bressingham. It was founded in 1953 by the late Alan Bloom, this world class garden extends to over 17 acres. Within it are several individually themed

gardens, including: Alan Bloom's Dell garden, The Foggy Bottom Garden, Summer Garden, Fragrant Garden, Adrian's Wood and others. There is a lot to see! As well as the gardens there are the museums which will be open to view. Tuesday, is known as Gardener's day and is not a Steam Day, but Diesel trains will be running. Rides are not included in the ticket price. A fully stocked café is located in the gardens serving lunches and light refreshments.

After lunch we will move on to Peter Beale's Roses, which are just 10 miles away. Since the first roses were planted in 1983, the gardens have always been an integral part of the nursery, with visitors coming from all over the world to view the roses. Specialising in the preservation of old fashioned roses, the gardens provide a chance to see unique, historic, rare, and contemporary roses growing in unison with other complementary plants. In the heart of the garden you will find the 'St Albans Walkway' The specially chosen cultivars along the walkway are now mature and when in bloom give a magnificent show. There will be time for a cuppa before we rejoin the coach for our return journey. This should prove to be a very enjoyable trip, so book early to secure your place.



The price of the trip is £20.00 and includes entry to both gardens and driver's tip. We plan to be back in the Deepings by 6.30 pm. This is likely to be a popular trip so please confirm your booking as soon as you can. **Further information and booking form is available from Eddie Adams.**

GROUP NEWS

Good news we now have two new groups, **Just Gardening** and **Cake Decorating**, up and running. Please look at the last page of the newsletter for contact information and if you would like to join these groups please contact the Group Leader for more details.

Watch this space for more news about new groups in the next few months.

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups Coordinator

U3A QUILTING GROUP (January report)

Our January meeting was a back to basics demonstration. A much needed refresher on the importance of preparing your fabric ready for accurate cutting and sewing into a block. Carol was our tutor for today. Thanks Carol you did a brilliant job!

Some members had in their own time completed scrappy quilts after ideas picked up at our December visit to the fabric shop at Tallington. Well done ladies some lovely work. Blocks completed by the group on that visit had been made into a quilt which is to be donated to Women's Aid.



It was agreed that at the next meeting each member would choose a block to make as a follow up to the demonstration by Carol and we look forward to seeing ideas chosen by individual members.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP (January report)



Twenty two members of Church Mice held their Christmas Lunch in January at Waterside Garden Centre. Good food was enjoyed by all.

Lyall thanked Jim Pringle for organising the meal and, particularly, for having been the organiser for Church Mice for the last five years. I will now take over the leadership of the group.

HENRY ROBERTS
Group Leader

My apologies to "Church Mice". I did promise, as this photograph was being taken, it would be the front page photograph on the January issue. We seldom see pics of this group—the reports usually show a view of either inside or outside of a church.. This did not happen because illness prevented me completing the newsletter and because, as you can see, there was a camera malfunction. With help, I have managed to salvage a photo of sorts but it isn't brilliant. (OK boys, I admit it might have been better if a mobile phone had been used!!) ANN

U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP (January report)



With Storm Brendan threatening wild and wet conditions, the Wanderers group set off from Barnack for our first excursion of 2020. Knowledgeably led by Geoff and Julie Fitzjohn we went up past Hills and Holes and joined Ermine Street, the Roman road to London.

We walked along Ermine Street through the wet winter fields for a while before swinging back towards Barnack. As we passed Barnack Cricket Club the forecast rain was arriving and by the time we reached the cars the weather had turned.

The February walk is being led by the Armstrongs and details will be sent in the usual way.

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The venue this month will once again be the Wagon and Horses at Langtoft, on Sunday, 23 February, **12.30 for 1.00 pm**. Please notify Tony Semple or Michael Griffith - or add your name to the list at Monday's meeting if you wish to attend.



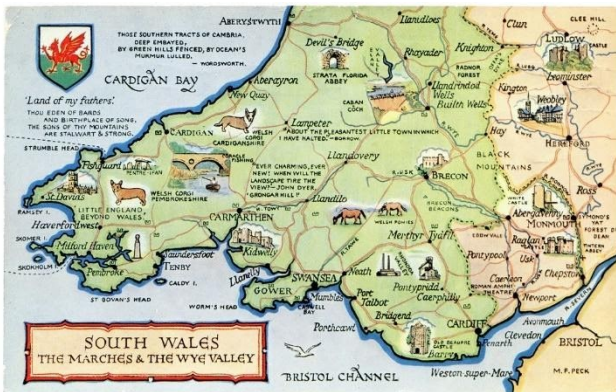
U3A HISTORY GROUP

'Time goes by' an illustrated history of Bargoed-Gilfach by Terry McArthy.

We had a large audience for this talk and we were not disappointed. We were appreciative of the time and effort put in by Terry. (Who had visited us before, when he talked about his forays into foreign lands.) This time his talk was based on his former home in the South Wales border land of Bargoed-Gylfach. (According to Wikipedia, Bargod means border.)

Terry told the story of the development of the area from early 18th century to the present time. It grew from a small farming community, to a small mining community and then to a large industrialised area, concentrating on coal, coal by products including chemicals, gas and tar. Along with the development of industry came the influx of workers from as far away as Italy. The village grew into a successful town with its well-known Emporium.

His talk was well illustrated with maps and photographs.



One fact was that the 'middle class' area he lived in was known by the locals as 'The Shanties'. This name came from the first huts that were provided for the navvies. The navvies lived in simple huts and the area became a shanty town. Hence the nick name.

Unfortunately, as the coal industry declined, so did the prosperity of the town. The Emporium closed along with many other shops. The library became a supermarket and railway lines were discontinued. However, there is now a rejuvenation plan for the area. New road links have been built. Coal tips have been landscaped and there may be a welcome in the hillsides for years to come! Thank you Terry! Thank you to everyone who helped today. It was much appreciated.

Next month we are nearer to home with a visit from Stephen Perry. The talk is entitled A Crowland Miscellany.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

We are a small, friendly group of would be French speakers who meet every fortnight in member's homes. Our skills range from expert to "get by with a lot of gesticulating" and above all we have a laugh. We take it in turns to plan activities for our meetings and these range from learning or revising actual French grammar to practising speaking and listening skills.

In January we decided to take a break and enjoy a lunch at The Ruddy Duck in Peakirk. There was little French spoken and the nearest we got to French cuisine was a Creme Brulee but as usual there was plenty of chatter and laughter.

Report by MARJE ARMSTRONG

Group Leaders: MARY LAWRENCE / RHAEL ELLIOTT

Due to its poor quality this photo should not have been printed but as we do not often hear from this Group I made an exception! A



U3A CYCLING GROUP



On Friday the 17th January seven of us set out for the first ride of the New Year and New Decade. We set off from the Bridge at Market Deeping for an 18-mile ride stopping after 16 miles at the Red Lion in West Deeping for lunch then continuing the remaining two miles to finish back in Market Deeping.

From Market Deeping, we went via Mill Road across the Bypass and through Maxey over the Level Crossing and into Helpston passing the now defunct Exeter Arms. From here we rode through Helpston and onto Southey Woods where we had to forego the Bridleway that we were going to use, due to the state of the track, and continued on Langley Bush Road to Sutton Heath Road where we turned right towards Southorpe. We continued through Southorpe to Ufford and from there through Bainton to West Deeping for lunch. After lunch we continued back to Market Deeping and home.

A challenging ride with a few hills and some strong winds at times but managed to avoid the rain which thankfully came whilst we were having our lunch. The trees and hedgerows en-route were showing signs of greening so on our next ride 21st February might show some signs of Spring arriving.

JIM TORRANCE

Group Leader

U3A JAZZ GROUP

Our first meeting of the new decade was held at the home of Barbara and Peter Baylis and Peter once again gave us a morning of great music plus input from members about the various bands and vocalists. We began with the farewell tribute to our much missed member, Maurice. Glen Miller played 'Adios' and it was a reflective moment for us.



We then heard from Dinah Washington with 'September in the Rain' Ted Heath, Manhattan Transfer and the much missed BBC's Northern Dance Orchestra. Shelley Mann played 'On the Street Where You Live' Dionne Warwick sang 'I'll Never Fall In Love Again' and Bob Leaper gave us 'Don't Bother Me' from the Big Band Beatles Songs'. Mellow Jazz and Billy Taylor played 'I Wish I Knew' followed by Kai Winding, Art Farmer and Warren Kime and The Brass Choir with 'Prelude To a Kiss' The Four Freshman, Ella and Louis, George Shearing and Peggy Lee then Nat 'King' Cole sang the first of two versions of 'That Sunday, That Summer' followed by his daughter Natalie singing the same song.

Nancy Wilson sang 'Little Girl Blue', Keely Smith gave us 'East of the Sun', Johnny Mathis was in great form with 'Sweet Loraine' Buddy Bregman played 'My Buddy' and the morning closed with a the always welcome George Shearing and his second offering of the morning - 'Send In The Clowns'. Lots of good music and lovely refreshments as always from Barbara. Thanks to Peter for the programme.

Next meeting is at the home of Phil Jones. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Nineteen members took part in our planning/celebration of 2020 morning. A very light hearted picture quiz and multiple choice puzzle, based on Van Gogh, were part of the entertainment. There was also a collection of Times Cartoons from 2019 to look at.



Members brought an array of foods to share and everyone seemed to enjoy the informal chat and get together.

Next month we are watching a DVD entitled 'Sex and Sensibility', (The Allure of Art Nouveau in Paris.) We have speakers booked for March, April and May. There is a visit to Coventry Cathedral planned for July along with The U3A "Church Mice" group.

New members are welcome. We have a number of ideas for the year ahead and if anyone has any expertise in the world of Art and would like to contribute to our programme, please let us know. A big thank you to everyone who helps make the group a success.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / YVONNE MCCULLOCH

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

The group's January visit was to Deeping Lakes Nature Reserve, on a cold, bright, winter morning. This nature reserve, so close to the Deepings, is a priceless asset, cared for by local volunteers, including U3A members



It was rather too early for flora, although catkins were showing, so our main interest was bird-spotting. There were sightings of Goldeneye ducks, one drake throwing back his head, with its green sheen, in a mating display. Cormorants were out in force, perched high on tree branches. Herons were spotted on the lakeside and by the river bank.

The highlight of the morning was the sighting of a long-eared owl, perched in branches on the far side of the lake; with guidance from the experts among us – and their powerful telescopes – we were all able to watch the owl as it sat facing us, appearing calm with the ear-tufts, probably used to communicate, clearly raised. It was a real treat to have a sighting of this secretive owl.

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

Kathleen made us most welcome for our February meeting when we had the letter 'J' to find our poems this time. It did not prove too difficult for us and we had a wide variety for the afternoon, some sad, some thought provoking, and our usual funny ones,



'Just for the sake of recovering' Loch Thom, by W. S. Graham, 'Jam Jars' by Doireann Ni Ghriofa, 'Joining the Colours' by Katherine Tynan, 'Jane's Marriage' by Rudyard Kipling, 'Jewels' by Valerie Dohren. Now for the funny ones, 'Jack and Jill' a modern version by Felix Dennis, 'Just in Case' by Charlotte Mitchell, and the inevitable Pam Ayres with 'Jones the Invisible Man of the Third'. Once again a most enjoyable afternoon, and we were joined by Sheila who was a member of the group and recently moved away but joined us as she was visiting a friend.

Thank you Kathleen for hosting this meeting and we look forward to our next challenge in March.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP

Our first stroll of the year was a return to Rutland, which has seemed to become an annual event. There were 13 of us taking in the pleasant village of Ketton, including the parts known as Aldgate and Geeston. Meeting on the main road opposite the Northwick Arms, we walked through the village along the main street, arriving at the stone cross in the centre.



We then turned towards the church, which fortunately, was open. Inside we saw a tapestry depicting village life and it's buildings at the millennium. The photograph shows members of the group perusing it.

After that we carried on over the River Chater, which joins the Welland a mile downstream at Tinwell, then entered Aldgate. A footbridge took us over the Peterborough to Leicester railway line and into Geeston. Returning back towards Aldgate we reached the Chater again and remarked how full it was, reflecting the rainfall of the previous month or so. Passing up a pleasant footpath towards the start point, the group commented on the pleasant nature of the village with some lovely well-kept cottages. We made the short journey to Stamford Garden Centre for lunch, as neither of the two public houses in the village open on Monday lunchtimes.

A good start to the year, although the stroll was a bit short, but it least it gave us a chance to get some fresh air on a pleasant morning. We hit the footpaths again on Monday 24 February, when Searle will lead us on a return to Crown Lakes at Farcet, meeting at the Farmers Arms at Yaxley, at about 10:15.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

Nine members attended to taste and discuss recipes from Gary Rhodes, who died suddenly in November 2019.



Starting with an Appetiser of Walnut Toast, with Apple and Pear, we then moved on to two soups, Cauliflower Polonaise and Green Pea. We sampled three main course dishes, Pasta with Mushrooms, Artichokes and Cheese Sauce; Shepherd's Pie, and a Risotto with Peas and Broad Beans. Desserts were not omitted, being (1) a Caramel Slice made with puff pastry and crushed Crunchy Bars, (2) an Apple and Pear Crumble with Caramel Sauce and (3) a pudding like a Jaffa Cake, with a sponge topped with orange jelly, and chocolate. All delicious.

Our March meeting will be quite different, being Asian Food, which covers a wide palette. Sadly, one of our Members was with us for the last time, as she and her husband are moving to Yorkshire but we wish them well. More Members (or people who would like to attend on a trial basis) welcome.

KATHLEEN TANNER
Group Leader

U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

Our January meeting was quite busy as we were doing our planning for the coming months. We managed to set up a good programme, but have one or two items more to finalise.



Our next meeting is on Monday February 24th when we have a return visit from Keith Talbot.
Report: IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



We had a highly entertaining morning at Alistair and Ray Smith's this month, catching up after the festive season and refining our programme for the year. Our thanks to Al and Ray for hosting us.

Having looked at some member photographs including a magnificent Daphne currently flowering in Sandra and Mike Bowers' garden and Roy Pettitt's newly designed front garden, we held what has become our annual gardening quiz. Our thanks go to David and Margaret Scott who always put in such effort to testing our memories and gardening knowledge in preparing our quiz meeting. This year the questions were particularly fiendish and certainly challenged us.

There was fierce competition with a chocolate reward for a correct answer.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP



A bright sunny day saw a group of nineteen set out for the first walk of the year around Longthorpe and Ferry Meadows. The footpaths were mainly dry and clear making the walk more enjoyable and a profusion of snowdrops and a close encounter with a heron catching fish added to our enjoyment .

The day finished with lunch at the Woodman.

Report: JEAN SHEPHERD Photo: STEVE WHITE
Group Leaders: LYNN & STEVE WHITE

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

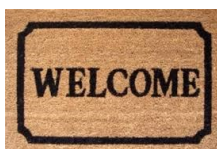
Excellent "Christmas" lunch after the January monthly meeting, lots of chatter and hopefully ideas for the new year. We are now ready to tackle a new card design from Heather Bumfrey – thanks to her. Look forward to seeing you all on 17 February at 2pm.



LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lesley Modi, Stamford, Carne Day, Bourne.



U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Twenty seven of us gathered at The Millstone, Barnack, on a bright sunny morning, but cool in the head wind. The walk was led by Ken Bunch who told us the route and facts to look out for on the way.

We walked out of Barnack passing the old butchers (fronted by tiles of cattle and sheep), a beautiful Wesleyan Church and numerous old houses. We headed towards Bainton and then diverted to Ufford across fields and paths. Some mud was found due to the bad weather we have had but not too bad - Yet !!

In Ufford we went up the Ufford Road (their High Street) then deviated near St Andrew's church, which unfortunately was closed. It is a grade 1 listed building with oldest section from 13th century. The walk continued to the Hills and Hollows which is Jurassic Limestone 150 million years old (know as Ragstone or Barnack Rag)' The hummocky terrain was caused by quarrying, firstly by the Romans 1500 years ago. The stone was also used to build Peterborough and Ely Cathedrals. Over a garden wall in Barnack was a sculpture of a stonemason working on rock but unfortunately there was no information.

Finally we returned to the pub for a good meal. Thanks to Ken and Pat for the walk. The next walk is from The New Inn, Folkingham, details to follow.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

Photo: DAVID SCOTT

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

Our first meeting of the New Year, on Tuesday 21st January was a great success, with Keith Townsend telling us about NASA's Project Juno. We had 54 people at this meeting, including some friends from Bourne and Peterborough U3As.



This month, one of our members, Fred Skipper, will be telling us about alternative methods of generating electricity. This meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February, at 2pm, at The Institute, Church Street, Deeping St James Report: GARTH PERRY

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our writing group met in February to hear a variety of pieces which included three poems and several stories, each one very different. Lacking fresh ideas, some of us read out stories we had written several years ago, but had adapted to give them a fresh feel. Maureen had written a letter from 'February' to an Agony Aunt, complaining about how unpopular she was! This gave us the idea of basing our next piece of writing around one or more of the months of the year.



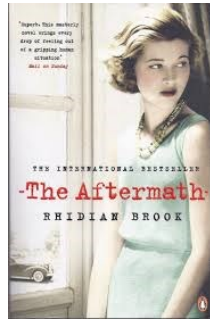
Anyone who would like to come along to one of our meetings and listen to our writing would be most welcome. There is no pressure to join our group, and no need to contact me beforehand. We are a very friendly group and enjoy the social side of our meetings as much as the writing.

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

Our book this month was one that created a consensus among us all – a rare occurrence! We had read **The Aftermath** by Rhidian Brook and without exception, felt it was an extremely good book, to which we gave five stars.

The Aftermath tells the story of Hamburg after the second world war: of the Germans who live among the wreckage of the British carpet bombing, with its associated firestorm, and of the British Army personnel who are tasked with reconstruction and reconciliation.



The characters are widely varied, from the feral children in the ruins, to the well to do Army families, and the ordinary Germans in displaced persons camps or struggling to pick up lives again; all are well drawn, so that you could see them as real, rounded people, with history and a future of their own. The good and bad in each is shown, whatever their nationality and the reader is led to feel for them all.

The ending is not neatly cut and dried, with all the loose ends tied up - any more than is the case with real life; you could imagine the city, the people, and history carrying on past the end of this particular part of the story. It felt almost like a documentary in its realism.

Thoroughly recommended by us all as a moving, involving, hopeful and thought provoking read.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

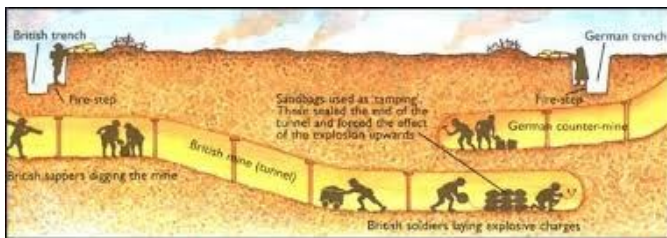
U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

January saw the Family History Group listening to a talk on how to research the history of a house and its families. The house in question was Pandy Mill near Chepstow, dated c1702. First used as a brown paper mill on the Mounton Brook and later as a flour mill. Using census, register of electors, trade directories, tithe maps, parish records, wills, newspapers and talking to the locals a picture was drawn of the millers and their families. Many more hours are still needed to complete the story.

February on a very stormy afternoon saw a small group of us brave the Community Centre to hear a talk from Stephen Perry on the "Frank Family of Peterborough" better known to many of us as Franks the Butchers. What an interesting story was told of the journey from Germany to Boston, and then on to Leicester and Peterborough with changes of name, mergers, numerous shop locations and their treatment during the First World War.



ADVANCE NOTICE:



Our March meeting (9th March) is an invitation to anyone who wishes to join us for a talk by Colin Witt on "The tunnels of the Somme", starting at 1.45 pm in the Learning Room at the Deepings Community Centre with a £2 charge. Please contact me (details below) as numbers are limited.

JEAN BRENNAND
Group Leader

U3A QUILTING GROUP

The February meeting included a display of completed Diamond Chain Block examples from the January meeting that Carol kindly lead. There were some lovely examples made by some of the group who had used this block to complete cushions. Well done ladies.



The group were tasked for this month's meeting to produce a new block of their choice and to discuss their experience of doing so. The resulting work had varied and interesting results.

Liz has kindly agreed to lead the March meeting entitled 'Creating a Scene'. A technique completely new to us. Details to follow by email.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

On a cold, bright day, fifteen members of the Wednesday Gardening Group visited Little Ponton Hall near Grantham. We were greeted by Mr George McCorquodale who gave a short introduction to the gardens and explained that he is not really a gardener—more down to his wife and the head gardener! He told us that he lives in the Hall with his wife and two young daughters, one of whom is only ten days old.



We were informed that we could go where we liked in the gardens, the only exception being the church where there was to be a funeral in the afternoon. The gardens are very well kept and the snowdrops, hellebores and aconites are stunning. Everything looks so much better when planted en masse, particularly with the sun shining.

There were also several winter flowering shrubs as well as cyclamen and a few iris. There were plants for sale in the glass houses within the walled garden and most members went home with one or more plants. Mr McCorquodale, ably assisted by his elder daughter, then served us with hot drinks and cake in one of the barns.

The next meeting will be at Sue's house in Maxey on 11th March at 10 am as usual.
Report: JANE COOKE

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

This month we decided to avoid spending money on expensive fresh flowers and use artificial or preserved flowers and foliage. It was interesting to see different ideas and styles. They should last till we get bored with them or they get too dusty!



In March we will return to a traditional theme of Spring arrangements, my favourite season with beautiful flowers and colours, but generally short lived blooms, once they are cut. It's great to see some of them appearing in the garden.

PAT LUDLOW
Group Leader

U3A “WANDERERS” WALKING GROUP

Unfortunately no photo for our group this month as we had to cancel our February walk. It was planned for the Tuesday after Storm Ciara hit the UK and Gary and I had planned an easy stroll starting at the rowing lake in Thorpe Meadows to take advantage of fairly dry walking conditions, bearing in mind it was February.

We were going to have a good turnout and it was also to be the last “hurrah” for Tony and Liz Gilbank, who are moving north shortly. But on the morning we looked at the weather and decided that walking through trees in 45-50 mph winds was not a sensible option from a safety point of view. We could only imagine the possible headlines had something awful happened:

Disaster Strikes on U3A organised walk Group of old people injured by falling trees

It wouldn't have been a great advert for the U3A and possibly a field day for the insurance companies! So, regretfully we had to cancel and felt really cheated because otherwise it was a perfect walking day – sunshine and blue skies.

Looking forward to some better weather soon – although as I write apparently Storm Denis is now looming!



Report; MARJE ARMSTRONG
Group Leaders: HILARY and BARRY AKAM

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Garth Perry led 18 members on a fine brisk sunny day for a 5.5 mile walk through the rolling hills of Rutland for our

February walk, albeit after a week of heavy rainfall.

Starting from the Horse and Jockey at Manton the group headed out of the village over the A6003 road before descending down a very muddy slope to the Fox Covert stream and then across the valley.

From here there was a stiff climb back up to Preston before some road walking with a plentiful show of snowdrops. Then over a railway bridge before crossing a ‘bog’ and over a railway line and then negotiating through a torrent of water falling down our steeped footpath to climb up towards Wing village. The walk continued through the village and then downhill towards the River Chater and hence to the main railway bridge just before Manton Junction. Now the walk took us up alongside the very muddy and often flooded pathway which



gave us views over the junction before arriving back in Manton. We all agreed it had been the Muddiest walk ever!! But all had enjoyed it. We retired to the pub for a well earned drink and lunch.

Many thanks to Garth for leading the walk and organising the lunch.

The next walk on 12 March will be led by Claire and Simon Bysshe and is ‘Walk Salters Way’ (five miles around Castor and Ailsworth) with lunch at ‘The Prince of Wales Feathers’ (38, Peterborough Road Castor PE5 7AL).

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT

U3A “CHURCH MICE” GROUP

Twenty two Church Mice were welcomed to Castor by a howling gale, heavy rain showers and the tail end of Storm Ciara, but it was all worth while. For long-standing members of the group, this was a return visit, but nonetheless interesting for that, and the first visit was a long time ago.



St Kyneburgha’s church stands on rising ground, and its superb tower can be seen for miles around, The Rector welcomed us before we broke into three groups, each of which was conducted round the church by one of three very knowledgeable guides.

Castor lies on the other side of Ermine Street and of the River Nene from the Roman town of Durobrivae, and very close to Castor church are the remains of a very large Roman building, known as the Praetorium. Its function is uncertain, but it probably controlled the administration of the very extensive Roman fenland. The earliest known collection of Christian silverware, dating from the 4th century, was found at Durobrivae, raising the possibility of a Christian community at Castor at that time.



St Kyneburgha and her sister Kyneswitha were the daughters of the pagan king Penda of Mercia. Her brother married the daughter of the Christian King Oswy of Mercia, and Kyneburgha married Oswy’s son, Brother and sister moved to Northumbria, and converted to Christianity. Following her husband’s disappearance from the records around 664, Kyneburgha came to Castor and founded a double monastery of monks and nuns. Ample building material was available from the Roman ruins all around, and after her death Kyneburgha was succeeded as abbess by her sister Kyneswitha; it is likely that in due course an impressive shrine was built over their remains.

The Christian settlement at Castor was probably sacked twice by Viking raiders, once in 870 and again before 1012 when Kyneburgha’s remains were translated to Peterborough Abbey by Abbot Elsinus, Contemporary records describe the church at Castor as being a ruin as a result of Viking raids and evidence of fire is clear in the stonework of the present church.. At some stage it ceased to function as a convent and became a Saxon Minster church, the only church dedicated to St Kyneburgha.

Over the Priest’s Door in the Chancel is an inscription which reads, in Latin, “The dedication of this church was on the 17th April 1124” – a rare feature. Building and alteration continued through succeeding centuries, the most prominent feature being the magnificent three-stage tower of the 13th and 14th centuries. Other outstanding features are too numerous to mention, but include wall paintings of the martyrdom of St Catherine, the original altar stone, and gilded angels in the roof of the nave.



Our tours ended with very welcome hot drinks and cake, and the Rector and the guides were thanked for their very welcome contributions. This was one of the most interesting visits paid by the group.

In March the Group will be visiting the Church at Heckington, near Sleaford. Final details will be emailed to members as usual.

Report: JIM PRINGLE

Group Leader: HENRY ROBERTS

Note: Above illustrations taken from Google images. A