



Deeping St. James

# The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

# NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 201

JUNE 2020



## Chairman's Reflections

I have given up weather forecasting. My opening in the last newsletter, crowing about the accuracy of my former prediction that "as soon as the restrictions began to ease, the weather deteriorates!" caused a bit of puzzlement. This was because I wrote my May reflections when we were experiencing frosts and very cold winds, but by the time the newsletter

was published, a week later, we were into a heat wave! So I am passing no comment on what might follow this dull, wet, and chilly weekend!

You will probably be thankful that I am going give you a break from telling you about my progress, or lack of, on my never ending DIY jobs – I expect you are as bored with them as I am! One tip that I must pass on, however, is that if you have set up fingerprint recognition on your mobile, don't use that finger to finish off the grout lines in your tiling, or you will find unlocking your phone a little difficult!

It seems that the thing that most people mention as being missed during the lockdown, is a decent haircut. It didn't bother me initially, as I thought that I would revert to my "Terry Wogan" style of earlier days. Soon it became obvious that my hair has adopted the characteristics common to a man of my age. The hairline continues to recede in an irregular fashion, and growth has almost ceased on the top of the head, but accelerated over the ears and down the back of the neck. In general hair doesn't grow where it is wanted, but grows profusely in all the places that it isn't wanted! After several failed attempts to use clippers on the back of my neck, using multiple mirrors, I decided to get a comb trimmer. Using the wonders of internet shopping, a suitable looking device was selected and ordered. It arrived seven weeks later! Anticipation was heightened by putting the package in quarantine for 72 hrs, and when unpacked it seemed ideal – a comb containing a razor blade, on a long handle, with five hair "length" settings. Imagine the frustration when it didn't cut anything, on any setting! In a rage, the article was thrown into the black bin. In a calmer moment, on the morning of "black bin day" it occurred to me that there might have been some form of protection over the blade. I dashed out to the drive, only to find that the bin had been emptied!

Hairstyle is not the only thing to have suffered during lockdown. I have found that my power of concentration has deteriorated – I have lost count of how many times I have made a cup of coffee, decided that it needed to cool a bit, nipped upstairs to fetch something that I needed from my "office" (junk filled disorderly room with a computer in it!), and returned an hour later, to discover a stone cold coffee on the worktop. Thank heavens for microwaves.

Have you noticed that as soon as you put your precautionary mask or face covering on, your nose begins to itch. When it gets unbearable, then guidelines have to be followed, and the nose has to be rubbed, but with the sleeve rather than the hand. This makes me smile to myself, as I remember how many times in my youth my ears were boxed for "cuffing it"; now the Government advises it!

I have been thinking about what I am looking forward to, and what I am not looking forward to, now that lockdown is easing. What I look forward to is Radio 4 broadcasting less poetry, which they insist everyone finds supportive and uplifting in a crisis. Sorry, but as a self confessed philistine, I can appreciate "descriptive" poetry, but not the "deeply meaningful" type, especially when read in the monotonous style of Seamus Heaney. I blame "O-Level" English lessons!

Just to balance the offence caused – what I am not looking forward to, is the resumption of football! There, that has woken everyone up, just as you were nodding off with boredom!

Hoping that you are all staying safe.

Best wishes,

**Garth,**

Chairman

**Request from Editor:** Please disregard Chairman's remarks about poetry and keep them coming! Most of us enjoy reading them and we have quite a selection this month (Page 5). If you don't I may have to resort to filling a page with extracts from Shakespeare—although I appreciate some of you may enjoy that!

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**PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ  
PAGE 2 . . .**



**IT IS IMPORTANT ALL MEMBERS READ THIS ARTICLE BECAUSE  
THE DECISIONS IT CONTAINS WILL INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF  
YOUR U3A**

### Where do we go from here?

The Committee are having discussions and trying to plan how to adapt our U3A to the “new normal” that will emerge from this pandemic. This is not easy, as we have no idea what regulations will apply and for how long. Nor do we know what the Members will be able or willing to do.

We do need, however, to be open with our Members, and inform you at every step of the way. We will also take notice of any suggestions or feedback that you communicate to us – after all, it is **your** U3A.

Where have we got so far :-

#### Membership Subscriptions.

Your current Membership runs until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020, and by now we would normally be sending out renewal forms, and be starting to take your subscriptions. However, in recognition of the fact that, apart from our newsletter, the U3A has not been delivering the usual activities since March, and that we have no indication of what we will be allowed to deliver after July 4<sup>th</sup>, we have decided to extend the Membership year until **30<sup>th</sup> September**. This means that membership renewal forms will be available from August, with payment due by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We are not in a position yet to tell you what the Subscription level will be for the 2020 / 2021 year. It will be the minimum level that we can manage with, depending on our assumptions of what we will be able and allowed to do, and, importantly, what we judge that you are prepared to do.

#### Annual General Meeting.

These proposals are yet to be agreed by the National Office of the U3A, and by implication, the Charity Commissioners.

We propose to move the AGM from October to November, to spread the workload, as we will be dealing with Membership renewals in October.

We cannot see that a “physical” AGM in November would either be allowed by “distancing” rules, or have a quorum of Members attending. Consequently, we have proposed an “electronic” AGM, but not by any of the available video conferencing systems. The notice of AGM and the Resolutions would be published in the October newsletter, giving one month’s notice. We would adopt an “opt out rather than opt in”, approach, by asking only for “not in favour” responses, by email (or telephone if no email is available). Silence will be taken as approval. This is to avoid having to handle up to 500 physical responses.

One of the resolutions for the AGM will seek permission from the Membership for specified Committee Members, who were due to stand down in October, having reached the Constitutional limits on length of continuous service, can, if willing to do so, serve for a maximum of a further 12 months, until the 2021 AGM. The majority of the present Committee were due to stand down in October, and it was felt to be unfair to drop our current problems and decisions in the lap of a largely new Committee, even in the unlikely circumstances that we would get enough volunteers to fill the spaces.

### Groups

We cannot put any pressure on Groups to resume meetings - it must be their own decision, when they feel they are willing and able to do so, are allowed to by the regulations, and are able to maintain remaining distancing and hygiene requirements.

We anticipate that these meetings will have not to be inside private homes, but in premises or locations where the rules can be observed. Probably the first groups that might restart would be the "outdoor" groups - walking (with no car sharing or pub for lunch), gardening, cycling, and "garden coffee morning" style meetings.

National Office have just raised the prospect that Organisers and Participants may be required by the Insurance Companies to produce recorded risk assessments!

#### Monthly Meetings

It is considered unlikely that we will be able to have a monthly meeting in the remainder of this year. “Distancing” is going to be mandatory for at least this year. The capacity of the Methodist Church will be, we estimate, about 40 maximum. It may be that we have to consider an alternative venue, like the Coronation Hall, where distancing is more practical, but even there we suspect the capacity will be similar, and a similar level of "stewarding" would be necessary.

Thus we could possibly be faced with the need for a "two shift" meeting (morning and afternoon), with maybe a cleaning job in between. As these meetings, to be fair to all Members, need to be largely self funding, the inevitably increased cost of accommodation and speakers will result in a significant increase in the “admission charge”.

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**As you can see** – there are a huge number of uncertainties in these discussions, and the decisions will be firmed up as we learn more about Government and National Office guidelines, but we felt that you should all be kept informed, as much as possible.

Best wishes

*Garth,*

For and on behalf of The Committee.

#### **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

## A VERY SAD COINCIDENCE

In the very month that we had a message in our newsletter from our Founder and 1<sup>st</sup> Chairman, Rosemary McCulloch, we learnt of the sudden death of our Co-Founder, Rod Sloan.

I know that we have a policy of not putting obituaries in the newsletter, but I hope you will understand that I feel we should make an exception in this case, and record his contribution to the Deepings U3A.



Rosemary and Rod organised a meeting at the Methodist Church in 2003, which resulted in the formation of a Steering Committee, with Rosemary as Chairman and Rod as Secretary. Rod held this post until October 2008, had a year on the Committee, then served as Vice Chairman, and then Chairman, until he “retired” in October 2012.

Rod started a varied selection of groups – “Enjoy Cooking” (forerunner of “Good Food Group”), “Photography” (including lessons on Photoshop), “Art”, and “Local History” (now “History”). Rod was made our 2<sup>nd</sup> “Life Member” when he left his post as Chairman in 2012. His Membership number was 2. We remember him with thanks, especially for his work for our U3A.

Our thoughts are, of course, also with Rod’s partner, Kay, at this sad time.

GARTH PERRY  
Chairman

## NEWS

### U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our May meeting was another 'virtual' one and the programme was put together by Terry Noble, who very kindly distributed a copy to each group member so that we could be united for a little while, listening together.



Entitled 'Dazzling Duos' the morning began with Vivaldi's 'Concerto for Two Cellos' played by the Prague Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Ales' Barta. Both cello parts were played by Michal Kanka, though not at the same time! Next came Bach and 'Concerto for 'Two Harpischords' (BWV 1060), Soloists, Karl Richter and Hedwig Bilgram.

'Concerto for Flute and Harp' (K 299) composed by Mozart, the 1st movement played by Jiri Valek (Flute) Hana Mullerova (Harp)' Capella Isroplitana, directed by Richard Edlinger.

The lovely 'Sonata in D for Two Pianos' (K448) also by Mozart was played by soloists Guher and Suher Pekinel, two Turkish sisters. Mozart originally intended to perform this piece with his sister, Nanneri, but actually gave the first performance in Vienna with one of his pupils.

The final duo was Schubert's Piano Duet, (four hands on One Piano) and the 'Fantasie in F minor (Grand Duo)' played by Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow, recorded in St. John the Baptist Church, Alkborough, N. Lincolnshire in 1988.

Once again a delightful selection of Duos produced by Terry, for which a big thank you. Liz produced the artwork on Terry's programme and would have produced some enjoyable refreshments, had we been at their home.

Our next meeting will also be a virtual one it seems, but we look forward to a better time in the future. Best wishes to everyone in our U3A, hope everyone is keeping well.

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

**BIG THANKS**, again, to Terry for preparing (and circulating) Anne's programme on a CD for what should have been this month's meeting. I personally spent a relaxing afternoon yesterday listening to and enjoying it. Report next month. ANN

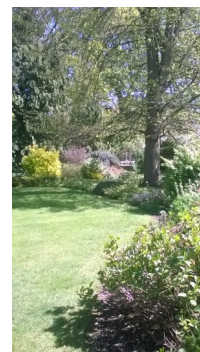
## U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Yet again, there is nothing to report but I feel it is important to keep in touch with the group. Hope you are all keeping well and at least enjoying your own gardens in this lovely weather even though no-one can go out visiting nurseries and other people's gardens as planned.

As I write this, I am hoping that we will get rain later today - my garden is looking a bit dry and we remain desperate for it on the farm.

Report: JANE COOKE

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE



## U3A TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

My right arm needs some exercise, playing darts in the garage is not enough. I miss ten pin ally as I am sure all our group do. The little fella in the picture misses it as well Wilbur cannot wait to bowl his ball at the pins. I wonder how long it will go on,

When we do start we shall have to wipe away the cobwebs off the balls, and I need a haircut. Avril said she would plait my hair if it grows much longer!

Thank goodness for U3A, at least we have something to look forward to and to be with friends again. I hope all of you are coping all right and we will come through this in the end. Here's to the next bowl whenever that will be.



DAVID LUNN  
Group Leader

## U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

With Covid 19 restrictions meaning that we couldn't go on our garden visit to Inley Drove Farm gardens kindly organised (and cancelled) by Kay Parker this month, the group has continued to share photos of plants in bloom in our gardens.

I was amused to be sent a surprise gardening book that seems perfect for today's world, Gardening for the Zombie Apocalypse! It was actually published last year and refers to the 'uncontrolled escape of a man-made virus' that 'starts in a secret animal laboratory' which is a bit unnerving. It's filled with helpful gardening tips and advice and whilst we might not be quite at the apocalypse it's worth dipping into.

Sadly social distancing and group member vulnerability has scuppered our annual summer buffet next month which should have been at the home of Sandra and Mike Bowers whose garden always looks lovely so let's hope we can get together there in July 2021.

LINDA HILL  
Group Leader



## VISIT TO COVENTRY

Unfortunately the planned visit to Coventry Cathedral, for the 'Church Mice' and Art Appreciation Groups and others interested, on 14<sup>th</sup> July, will not be able to go ahead. I very much hope that we shall be able to make the trip next year and the Cathedral have written that they look forward to welcoming us in the future. If you have any queries please contact me.



In the meantime, my best wishes to you all.

MARGARET BEARDSHAW



Once again Sandra Jones has 'come up trumps' with interesting articles for the **History** and **Art Appreciation** Groups. Thank you Sandra, I am sure our whole membership will find them of interest.

**U3A HISTORY GROUP (June 2020)**

**POEM**

I had a little bird  
 Its name was Enza  
 I opened the window And-In –Flu –Enza

(1918 Children's playground rhyme)  
 WALT DISNEY (Connection at the end)



My grandmother contracted 'Spanish Flu' in 1918. My mother was three years old, the third child of what eventually would become a family of five children. My grandfather had returned from The Western Front with shell shock, epilepsy and from what I can gather, a very short temper! Probably my mother was taken away for her own safety.

My mother lived with relatives for three months while 'Mam' battled the illness at home. Her mother and father had emigrated to South Africa so it was left to cousins and aunts to step into the breach. Lockdown must have been very difficult in those days with families being large and houses in working class areas small and overcrowded.

The 1918/19 flu epidemic was nicknamed Spanish Flu or Spanish Lady because the first recorded cases were in Spain.

It was at the end of W.W.1 and British newspapers were censored so although there were cases elsewhere, it was the Spanish ones that hit the headlines as in Spain censorship was not as enforced.

One of the first casualties was the King Alphonso XIII of Spain. Hence the named Spanish Flu. The Spanish called it The French Flu as they thought it originated in France! It spread far and wide with 40% of the world's population became infected.

While it is unlikely it began in Spain, France, China and Britain have all been blamed as the culprit. The United States has also been suggested as the birthplace of the virus as it was here that THE FIRST KNOWN CASE was reported at a military base in Kansas on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1918. The second wave of this flu was very deadly because the virus had mutated and was being spread by the massive movement of troops returning from the front.

Within the community, the spread of the infection was devastatingly quick. One could eat a hearty breakfast and be dead by tea time! Hospitals were overwhelmed and of course, there were no antibiotics.

This flu was logged as the most deadly since the Black Death. I wonder where today's Covid 19 will be recorded in the history books.

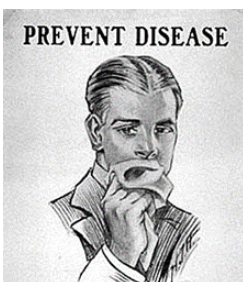
Here are a few famous names who survived the Spanish Flu:

- Prime Minister David Lloyds George
- President Woodrow Wilson
- Mahatma Ghandi
- Greta Garbo
- Walt Disney Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany
- Edvard Munch

AND last but not least Catherine Jane Owen (1887-1973) ok?

SANDRA JONES  
 Group Leader

A very interesting article Sandra. I imagine all our members will be pleased your grandmother survived, realising what a 'treasure' we would have missed had she not!! A



**U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

**TO CHEER YOU ALL UP - PAINTINGS DEPICTING VARIOUS PLAGUES**



Burying the Dead in Belgium (Black Death) 1272 -1352

The obsession with skeletons, burying the dead, death and the death dance was common in various cultures of Europe and depicted in paintings associated with the plague of the time.

There have been several major plagues over the last thousand years. The Black Death wiped out much of the known world in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The plague in London in 1665 was associated with rats coming from ships anchored close to the dockside. It was followed the year after by the great fire of London. This in turn resulted in a great deal of building made of stone rather than wood.



The drawing right. shows the PPE of the time! (1656) this drawing is in the British Museum, London



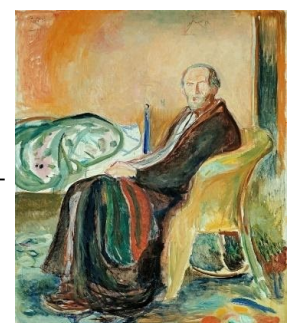
Left is The Triumph of Death (15<sup>th</sup> Century Italy) It is a timely reminder!

The one to the right is the Triumph of Death by Peter Bruegel the elder. It is rather gruesome and even has a gallows in the far corner.



The poster, left, was designed to draw attention to the Aids epidemic of the 1980s. It was designed by Keith Harding and was meant to depict Fear. Also, Hear Nothing, Say Nothing and See Nothing.

This is a self-portrait of Edvard Munch. He painted it during his recovery from Spanish Flu in 1919. His hair is thin, he is jaundiced and he is wearing a dressing gown and wrapped in a blanket. He created a number of sketches to show how ill he had become and how near to death he was.



I wonder what the current epidemic will look like on canvas in the coming years!

See you all soon. KEEP SAFE  
 SANDRA JONES, Group Leader

## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS:

Thanks very much for the newsletter and all your work producing it. You asked for contributions for the next one.....here is the very powerful little poem by Carol Ann Duffy, our last Poet Laureate.

We clap at the darkness.  
I hearken for the sound  
of my daughter's small hands,  
but she is miles away...  
though I can see her hands  
when I put my head in my own.

KATHY WARD

Hello Ann,

I read the U3A news letter this morning (which I find interesting and amusing at this difficult time) and you asked for anything that you might be able to add to next months issue.

I wrote this ode to the dreaded virus and wondered if you would like to use it. Stay safe.

Goodness, gracious what a to-do  
Can't give you a hug, can't even see you  
This bloomin' horrible Corona virus  
Has certainly been sent to try us!

But we are made of tougher stuff  
And making things smooth among the rough  
Rainbows all over to make us smile  
They help to relax us for a while

Lets look forward to better things  
However or whatever that time brings  
Sending lots of love to one and all,  
Can't wait 'til I can come and call.

SHIRLEY ALLUM

Here is one from a regular contributor:

### OUR U3A

U3A Members are being united  
With our Newsletter, envy of all.  
Though meetings may have been blighted  
Ann and David have heeded the call.  
Many 'memory-lane,' items collected  
are funny, informative too.  
Each one so carefully selected  
it's hoped will give pleasure to you.  
Yes 'All Life Is Here,' I'm quoting The Bard,  
But it seems to encompass today.  
Just what we need, so take time to read  
The Newsletter from your own U3A

ANNE JONES

The author of the following is said to be anonymous!

### A WOMAN'S POEM

He didn't like the casserole  
And he didn't like my cake,  
He said my biscuits were too hard  
Not like his mother used to make.  
I didn't perk the coffee right  
He didn't like the stew  
I didn't mend his socks  
The way his mother used to do.  
I pondered for an answer  
I was looking for a clue  
Then I turned around and smacked him one  
..... like his mother used to do.

Sent in by IRENE BEEKEN

The following piece has been shared with us by MIKE AND SANDRA BOWERS who received it from one of their friends.

### BUT SPRING DID NOT KNOW

It was March 2020... The streets were empty, the shops were closed,  
People couldn't get out,  
*But Spring didn't know.*

The flowers began to bloom, the sun shone, the birds sang, the swallows would soon arrive, the sky was blue, the morning arrived early,  
*But Spring didn't know.*

It was March 2020...Young people had to study online and find occupations at home, people could no longer go shopping or to the hairdresser. Soon there would be no more room in hospitals and people continued to get sick,  
*But spring did not know.*

The time to go in the garden arrived, the grass greened. It was March 2020...People have been put in lock down to protect grandparents, families and children. No more meals or family celebrations. The fear became real and the days were therefore similar.  
*But spring did not know.*

Apple, cherry trees and others bloomed, the leaves grew. People started reading, playing with their families, learning a language, singing on the balcony inviting neighbours to do the same, being supportive and focusing on other values. People realised the importance of health, of suffering of this world that had stopped, the economy that has plummeted.  
*But spring did not know.*

The flowers gave way to the fruit, the birds made their nests, the swallows arrived. Then the day of liberation came, people found out on the news, the virus had lost, people took to the streets, sang, cried, kissed their loved ones without masks or gloves.  
*And that's when summer came, because spring did not know.*

He taught people the power of life. Everything's going to be fine, stay home, protect yourself and enjoy life!

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*The following are extracts from messages David Scott and I have received in appreciation of our efforts to provide a Newsletter in the absence of our usual meetings and activities. It is a team effort so I thought if I published some of kind remarks, other important volunteers, ie those who help with the distribution of printed copies within the Deepings, could read them too. A*

I have really enjoyed reading about the holiday - how did I miss out on that one? Only Enid could write in such detail, I really want to go there! The piece about the first holiday in Paris brought back some happy memories, that was a wonderful holiday, we have a lot to thank Brian Thornthwaite for.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just had to say what a lovely reminder of our holiday to Oporto. A real pick me up. Absolutely love the picture of you four boys with your beers! One of my favourites.

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Thank you for the very colourful and cheering Newsletter. It is good to keep in touch with the groups and people, we meet some when we are out walking and stop to chat from a distance. Life goes on much the same with little variation, we go to Tesco once a week and walking locally especially along the river. We do the usual reading and jigsaws.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello everyone responsible for the newsletter!

Thank you very much for cheering me up. As usual I read the spots off it! It stopped me getting into mischief and I very much enjoyed reading it.

Sorry decided it was too difficult to find appropriate illustrations for this page! A



You sent me so many lovely photographs this month I decided to turn some of them (10 in this instance) into this collage. The photographs are all of local houses and gardens and are dedicated to those members, like myself, who feel they have been cheated of spring (and now summer) displays of garden flowers this year. I am not a gardener myself but do love looking at the results of other people's hard work (telling myself I have other talents)! When I was finally allowed to go for a walk I found I had almost missed the roses because everything has been appearing earlier this year.



Please keep your contributions coming. This month's edition has been so much easier to produce because of the items you sent in. There are no "Memory Lane" photos this month but please remember our Deepings U3A web site, which David Scott works so hard to maintain. He has sent a link this month which will take you straight to an exhibition of photographs held by our Photography Group in 2017. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VZQuyCGe8pnjd3dq1> (Sorry can't produce as hyperlink!).

Haven't named photographers this month and if they haven't been used this month you may see them next month. Thank you all for your various contributions and deadline date next month is **FRIDAY, 10TH July. KEEP SAFE. ANN**