



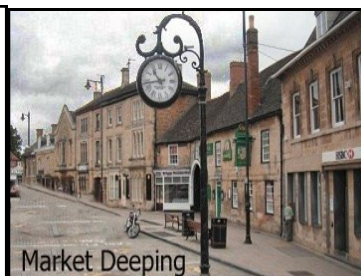
Issue No. 210

# The Deepings u3a

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

## NEWSLETTER

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Deepings Web site](#)



MARCH 2021



### *Chairman's Reflections.*



talking about the weather.

What a roller coaster of a month! From cold and snowy days we moved to abnormally high temperatures and brilliant sun, and now back again to cold and murky. The tantalising glimpse of spring for a few days was really uplifting, and it was a real pleasure to see the snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, hellebores, etc. bursting into bloom. The garden birds all seem suddenly more active, and they are attacking the feeders more vigorously, and spreading the contents further around the garden.

My daughter appreciated the brief let-up in the weather, but always approaches spring with a degree of trepidation, because of the effect on her ponies. When the weather warms up, they begin to shed their winter coats, and that activates changes in their hormones. They become very skittish and even more mischievous, and are full of new found energy. Last week, while leading them down to the field, Annette had Boris run off because a wood pigeon flew out of a tree as he passed, and Muffin run off because a cyclist went by (not a thing that normally bothers them, as the lane is often busy with walkers and cyclists).

Normally when they get into the field, being native ponies, they immediately get their heads down and eat, but in the spring they gallop around the field, bucking

and squealing, full of the joys of life. It is actually quite emotional to see such lovely animals enjoying their life so much, especially Muffin, who is 24 years old this year, but is a four year old at heart. It is also lovely to see that they get on so well together, and when Boris decides he is going to lay down for a rest, Muffin stands guard beside him, to keep him safe.

Now that the majority of us have had our first jab, we can begin to hope that the light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter and larger. Boris's Road Map was, I thought, a reassuringly cautious plan, and gives hope of something close to "normal" returning by the summer, although holidays are likely to be curtailed this year. I realised however that the window of time to get my list of jobs done has suddenly got shorter, unlike the list! I seem to have kept myself very busy through all of this, but seem to have added jobs to the list far more efficiently than clearing them off. My Mother's favourite saying, "Procrastination is the thief of time", comes into my head with increasing regularity. I am sure that I am not the only one who has said at times over the past months "That can wait for another day – I've got plenty of time to do it"!

Well, that's it, I have run out of things to say, and out of time to say them. I am fortunate to be off for a 12 mile walk tomorrow, and after an almost solid few days sat at this screen, I really want to get out in the fresh air. The land has taken a hammering over the winter, and it will take many weeks of relatively dry weather to dry it out. The increase in people walking in the countryside over the winter has churned up and widened the footpaths, but it is good to see them used more. I have just realised that I haven't actually cleaned my boots from my last walk, so I must get them done before I turn in.

Sorry it's a bit shorter this month Ed., but I am sure you will be able to find some spring flowers to pad out the front page!



*Garth, Chairman*



**PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE. IT'S A BIT DETAILED AND DRY BUT THE TOPICS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR U3A AND WE ARE OPEN TO, AND WOULD APPRECIATE, ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS THAT YOU HAVE.**

[chair@deepingsu3a.com](mailto:chair@deepingsu3a.com)

### **Where do we go from here?**

Now that we have the Government's Road Map, we have to interpret what it means to your U3A – what can we expect to be able to do – where, when, and how? The infection situation is improving now that most of us have had at least one jab, although at the moment, probably because of growing complacency amongst younger people, South Lincolnshire is still rising in the tables, to the 5<sup>th</sup> highest infection rate in the Country. So whatever we plan we will adopt a cautious approach, which we believe is what the majority of our Members would prefer.

The Road Map shows that outdoor activities will be the first to be expanded. Coffee in the garden with one person outside your household can resume from March 8<sup>th</sup>, and this is extended from 29<sup>th</sup> March by the reintroduction of outdoor gatherings of **either** six people **or** two households. This means that some Groups could choose to meet, six at a time, outdoors or in a garden, but it must be emphasised that more than one group of six in the same place will still be illegal. There is also a clause that “people can take part in formally organised outdoor sports”, which might include walking and cycling groups, but the limit is not specified clearly, so we advise that they wait until Step 2 of the map.

Step 2 (no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April) appears to allow outdoor gathering of up to 30 people, while still observing social contact rules, so we think that it would be permissible to restart walking and cycling groups. It will even be possible to “re-hydrate” outdoors at a pub! There is no specific guidance on garden meeting, but the inference is that they would be allowed under the same restrictions, but would not be permitted to extend to indoor mixing, so a garden group could not adjourn indoors for coffee, for instance. Step 3 (no earlier than 17<sup>th</sup> May) will remove “most social contact rules” outdoors, but gatherings of over 30 people will still be illegal.

Indoor gatherings are more of a problem, and it is not until 17<sup>th</sup> May at the earliest, that the rule of **either** six people **or** two households will be introduced indoors.

Step 4 (no earlier than 21<sup>st</sup> June) “It is hoped that all legal limits on social contact can be removed”. Notice that it only says that all **legal** limits will be removed – some advisory limits may still be in force.

The most difficult problem that we will have to consider is the U3A Monthly Meeting. It is considered unlikely that, in the future, even if our Members were willing to do it, we could have meetings of up to 140 people in the same venue. The indications are that if and when venues become available for hire, probably driven by Insurance restrictions and cost, they will only offer a reduced capacity, perhaps as little as 50% of their former limit (which is the limit set on larger venues in Step 3 of the road map).

We are actively exploring ways of maintaining the Monthly Meeting, such as Hybrid Meetings and Live Streaming. Hybrid Meetings would mean that half the attendees would be in a venue, and the other half would join by Zoom, or other video conferencing systems. Live Streaming would entail splitting the attendees across two venues, having a live speaker at one venue, videoing that, and simultaneously streaming the video to the second venue. Another variant of this would be to have the same online speaker's talk being projected at both venues simultaneously.

All of these approaches would involve some additional cost (eg additional venue hire, equipment, and software licences), and to ensure that the meetings were effectively self-funding, the “admission” fee would have to be raised from the current £1 by up to £2. The prospect of having to rotate the attendees so that everybody gets to meet a variety of friends face to face on alternate months is daunting to say the least! **The Committee.**

#### **Committee Members 2019/2020**

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

Now turn to page 3 for details of Web talks Lyall has arranged for us in place of the monthly meetings we are unable to hold at the moment. Full details are given on how to access them (its quite easy) and if you don't have on line access yourself, a member of your family may be able to help.





### Monthly talks to inform and amuse you.

We had an excellent on-line talk to replace of our last monthly meeting. As all comments received were very positive, the Committee has booked talks for the dates of our next three monthly meetings via the MIRTHY website. To

encourage those of you who did not take part last time to join us, information on each future talk and how to access them is given below:

#### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March: A Policeman's Lot**

The speaker, Neil Sadler, spent 30 years as a police officer. Starting "on the beat" in the exotic holiday resort of Bognor Regis in the 1970s, he retired from a post in national and international police training. Topics include:- changes in police uniform and equipment, why not to be squirted with pepper spray, where not to try and escape the traffic cops in one European country, and a novel use for a policeman's helmet! Talk length - 40 minutes.

#### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April Arsenic - The Victorian Housewife's Friend**

Graham Harrison has worked in history and heritage education for more than 20 years. He will reveal how, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Arsenic (which could be sold freely to children), was the culprit in countless careless deaths, and also many sinister and sometimes systematic murders. It is both interesting and amusing. Talk length - 38 minutes.

#### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May The London No-One Tells You About**

Geoff Harris worked as a teacher for ten years before giving it up to become a clown and later a toastmaster. The talk is just what it says - the London no-one tells you about. The Necropolis railway, the lost rivers, and why the Americans don't own their embassy, are just a few of the not so well known details brought to life. Talk length - 40 minutes. **ENJOY!**

### YOUR U3A DESPERATELY NEEDS YOU.

We have made these appeals before, with very little success, but this really could be our last attempt to ensure the survival of The Deepings U3A. We will be holding our AGM in October, primarily to appoint a Committee to take us forward. This year at least two of the three existing Officers of the Committee (Chair & Secretary) and number of the Non-Officer Members of the Committee have to step down, as specified by the Constitution, and therefore will not be eligible for re-election. We therefore need volunteers to step forward to seek election to fill these vacancies. All Committee Members are elected for an initial one year term, but can, if they so wish, seek re-election at future AGMs, until they have served up to the limits of consecutive years specified in the Constitution.

Under the Laws related to Registered Charities and the U3A Constitution if we cannot at least fill the posts of the three Officers of the Committee (Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary), then the Deepings U3A will have to be disbanded, and will therefore cease to exist. I am sure that Members do not want this to happen, but the fate of our U3A is in our own hands.

If you are prepared to put yourself forward for an Officer or Non-Officer Committee role, or want any further information about Committee service, then please contact any current Committee Member (contact details are in the Newsletter). **THE CLOCK IS TICKING**

### **U3A SCIENCE GROUP**

We are joining forces, for the next few months, with the Bourne Science Group, to provide an online monthly talk for our Groups. This is helping us both to get the hang of using the online programmes, like Zoom, to give and receive presentations, and is sharing the cost of doing this.



This month we had a presentation about the life and works of Joseph Bazalgette, who was the designer and builder of the Victorian London Sewage System, which coped with the sewage problems of inner London from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until the early 1960s, during which time the population quadrupled. His brick lined sewers are still in use to this day, a tribute to the design and craftsmanship involved. Our next "meeting" will be on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

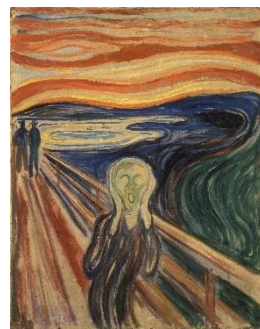
GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT  
Group Leaders

### **U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

NAME THE PAINTING AND THE ARTIST. They are all different and they are all famous.



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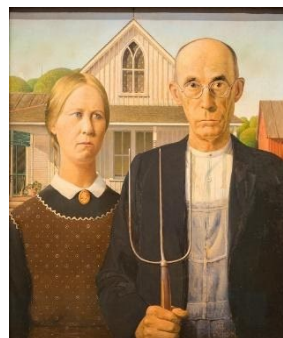
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Answers on page 5.

SANDRA JONES  
Group Leader

## U3A HISTORY GROUP

### A YEAR DOWN THE LINE!

It is almost a year since we first went into Lockdown 1. It doesn't seem possible that we are still in isolation but there is some light at the end of the tunnel now that most of us have been vaccinated at least once. How we are longing to see our families and friends again and celebrate with hugs.

This month's story is about a family from Dorset that was to spend three years apart.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1834 George Loveless was arrested. He left the village of Tolpuddle and the rest, as they say, is history.

Loveless and five fellow workers — his brother James, James Hammett, James Brine, Thomas Stanfield and Thomas's son John - were charged with having taken an illegal oath. But their real crime in the eyes of the establishment, was to have formed a trade union to protest about their meagre pay of six shillings a week - the equivalent of 30p in today's money and the third wage cut in as many years.

The trial resulted in deportation to New South Wales. The Standfields, Hammett and Brine on the ship 'The Surry', on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1834. George Loveless was ill so followed via 'The William Metcalf' to Van Diemen's Land, reaching Hobart on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

In England, the men became popular heroes and 800,000 signatures were collected demanding their release. Their supporters organized a political march, one of the most successful marches in the United Kingdom. Petitions were useful in those days too!

The Martyrs were pardoned and eventually returned home. The Lovelesses, the Standfields and Brine first settled on farms in Essex. They later immigrated to Canada. Hammett returned to Tolpuddle but died in Dorchester Workhouse in 1891.

So, although on writing this, we are still unable to hug each other and our family, take heart in the fact that we are not going to be transported!!!

SANDRA JONES  
Group Leader

## U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our programme this month was collated by David MacVitie and is a selection of his choices. It began with Glen Miller and 'Under A Blanket of Blue' then Artie Shaw gave out with 'Deep Purple', one of my favourites. The seldom heard band these days is the Joe Loss Band who played 'Let's Dance at the Make-Believe Ballroom'. I think this is a first for the Jazz group. Acker Bilk and his 'magic clarinet' played 'Rambling Rose' then 'Coronation Rag' was something different from 'The Sounds Fairground Organ'.

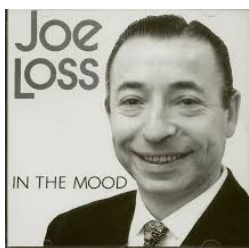
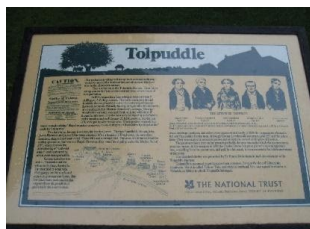
A firm favourite is Ella Fitzgerald who sang 'Every Time We Say Goodbye'. Artie Shaw again and 'My Blue Heaven'. A more recent voice is Katie Melua and her version of 'Blues In The Night'. Many favourites followed with Nat 'King' Cole Elkie Brooks, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman. Tommy Dorsey and his brother James, (Jimmy) gave us 'I Dream of You' Al Jolson, not a familiar voice these days sang 'About a Quarter to Nine'. The Torero Band gave us 'A Walk in the Black Forest' then we heard from Al Bowlly. He was killed in a bombing raid on London in WW2. We heard his version of 'The Very Thought of You'.

Johnny Mathis sang 'Gone, Gone, Gone'. Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Errol Garner followed and the programme closed with Louis Armstrong once more and 'On The Sunny Side of the Street'. A happy ending to a morning of really good listening. Thanks David for giving us a programme of enjoyable choices.

If any member has any CD's that they could offer Phil and also suggestions for programmes in future please get in touch. The programme for the year is coming together and all offers are welcome.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES.



## U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our programme this month was chosen by one of our Leaders - Jim Pringle and it was a very enjoyable selection.

### VALENTINE'S DAY = SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE.

The first piece we heard was from 'Romeo & Juliet' by Berlioz, played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Carlo Maria Giulini. A great favourite of the group and a lovely first offering. Mendelssohn followed with 'Midsummer Night's Dream' Op. 21 & 61; Nocturne- 'Wedding March' The NBC Orchestra was directed by Arturo Toscanini. I remember playing this (I use the word advisedly) at school. It was a Girls' School and we were all 15 year olds so there was a certain amount of giggling etc. to accompany it.

Berlioz again with the Overture 'Bearice et Benedict'. Sir Colin Davis conducted the London Symphony Orchestra. Andre Previn then conducted the LSO in another piece from 'Romeo & Juliet' Op.75 'Love Scene, by Prokofiev. Popular with many composers, Delius wrote 'A Village Romeo & Juliet' 'The Walk in the Paradise Garden'. The Royal Philharmonic was conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham.

Verdi followed with 'Otello' 'Love Duet from the NBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Toscanini and our morning ended with the Fantasy Overture from 'Romeo & Juliet', once more, with the Halle Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.

Shakespeare was a popular subject with so many great composers and we also had the added pleasure of hearing many great conductors. Thank you Jim, a real tonic on a cold, February morning.  
Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

## U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group joined together for another successful Zoom meeting with 11 of us, and the topic for February was "An Ancestor's Story".

Brian started by telling us of one of the Thornthwaite families in 1837, of home weavers and how the family moved on, once factories opened, to become policemen.

Brenda spoke of an ancestor who loved poetry and had a book published, and followed with a reading of one of her poems which we all agreed we enjoyed.

Lorraine followed with the story of the Merton's who had connections to the water and the further research she's doing on the Thames Watermen and a ships crew. She also told us of a website called Crew List Index Project also known as CLIP that she hoped to look at.

David Larkin was next and told us of the fascinating and illustrious military career of his Grandfather and the journey he made to become an Army Officer.

Lastly, I ended with the story of my father's journey to the Far East with the Royal Norfolk Regiment in 1941/1942. It almost sounded like a world cruise, sadly though it did not have a happy ending for many. This was a story I never heard from him but had to research and learn from others.

In two hours we had managed to travel in time from the 1830's to 1940's and learnt how to bring our ancestors stories to life for others to enjoy.

JEAN BRENNAND  
Group Leader





## U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



It hardly seems possible that a year has passed and we still haven't been able to meet as a full group. Although Spring doesn't seem to be able to make up its mind about starting fully, as Margaret Scott's photo of frost in her garden shows, there's still beauty to be had even when it's cold. Similarly, Alastair and Ray Smith's witch hazel looks glorious in the sunshine and the frogs in Mike and Sandra Bowers' pond certainly know it's Spring. Many of the group have wonderful flowers in bloom - especially hellebores such those in Kay Parker's garden. We are hoping we'll be allowed to see the fabulous display of begonias Roy and Ann Pettitt always have later in the year and with that in mind, here's some advice:

Take begonia tubers out of storage, or buy new ones, ready for planting. First of all examine the tubers to ensure that they are free of damage or rot. The tubers can be placed, hollow side upwards, in a tray of compost or in individual flower pots. Then cover the tubers with compost, flush with the top of the tuber. Water the compost around the edge of the tuber, not in the centre as water trapped in the centre hollow can cause them to rot. The tray/pots should be placed in a frost free location, ideally above 10C, and the compost kept just moist. Shoots should appear during April.

At the end of May, or when there is no risk of frost, the begonias can be planted out into tubs or troughs, or directly in the garden, and they should provide a good display for several months.

Happy gardening!

LINDA HILL  
Group Leader

## Now—CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

### SOON SPRING

She will come again, indifferent  
to the problems of the world.  
Sometimes intimidated by winter's  
reluctant fingers...  
He knows that he must give ground.  
As Snowdrops echo sky crystals,  
followed by autumn promises  
spearing the earth, bursting forth -  
Daffodils,  
trumpeting their presence  
Arrogant yet sure of a welcome.  
Soon -Spring, that can promise - but  
capricious,  
And yet, there comes a day  
when suddenly,  
she smiles....



ANNE JONES

## ONE YEAR ON

### March 2020.....

Out come the jigsaw puzzles, knitting patterns and wool, paint brushes and canvases, then, in the warmer months, gardening gloves, also outdoor safely distanced coffee mornings. With holidays cancelled we enjoyed extra time pottering in the garden. We've managed to keep occupied around the home and online shopping has been a real boon. Glinton Parish Council provided excellent support in the early days.

We've learnt about video conferencing. Using Google Meet to keep in touch, at Easter and Christmas we were linked with family around the globe in UK (GMT 12noon) which meant it was local time 7am for those in USA and 8pm for those in Australia. During this year John has found and completed many DIY projects in the home, garage and garden. ....**March 2021**  
**Also in this year.....**

In June 2020 I remembered THE TAPESTRY.

*I'd purchased this Ehrman Tapestry kit in the 1980s and knowing that It would probably be mammoth task I stored it away ready for when I would have more time!!!! Would I have ever got around to doing this? Little did I know how the opportunity would arise!*

**Flower Trellis Carpet (Kaffe Fassett design)**



and finally



One year on and I just wanted to focus on the brighter side!  
Keep safe and hope to see you all soon.

ANNE BURTON

ART APPRECIATION QUIZ RESULTS:  
(1) Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh. (2) The Scream by Edvard Munch. (3) The Football Match by L.S. Lowry. (4) The Kiss by Gustav Klimt. (5) Campbells Soup by Andy Warhol. (6) Guernica by Pablo Picasso. (7) The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dali. (8) The Laughing Cavalier by Frank Hals. (9) The Girl with a Pearl Earring by Johannes Vermeer. (10)



Thank you for all the Spring Flower photos. Please keep them coming as they do brighten up the Newsletter and remind those of us who wouldn't otherwise have seen them that Spring is here bringing what we all hope will be a better year. Also if anyone has been passing the time with a craft of some sort and would like to share the result with us (See Anne's lovely rug on page 5) do please let me have details. Do we have any wood turners or similar? Complicated jig saws ? Can you recommend a good book, etc. etc. Please share with us. A

LABEL

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: FRIDAY 9TH APRIL.**

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Thank you everyone who sent photographs, especially Natural History Group. They are all in there somewhere! Ann