



Deeping St. James

Issue No. 211

The Deepings u3a

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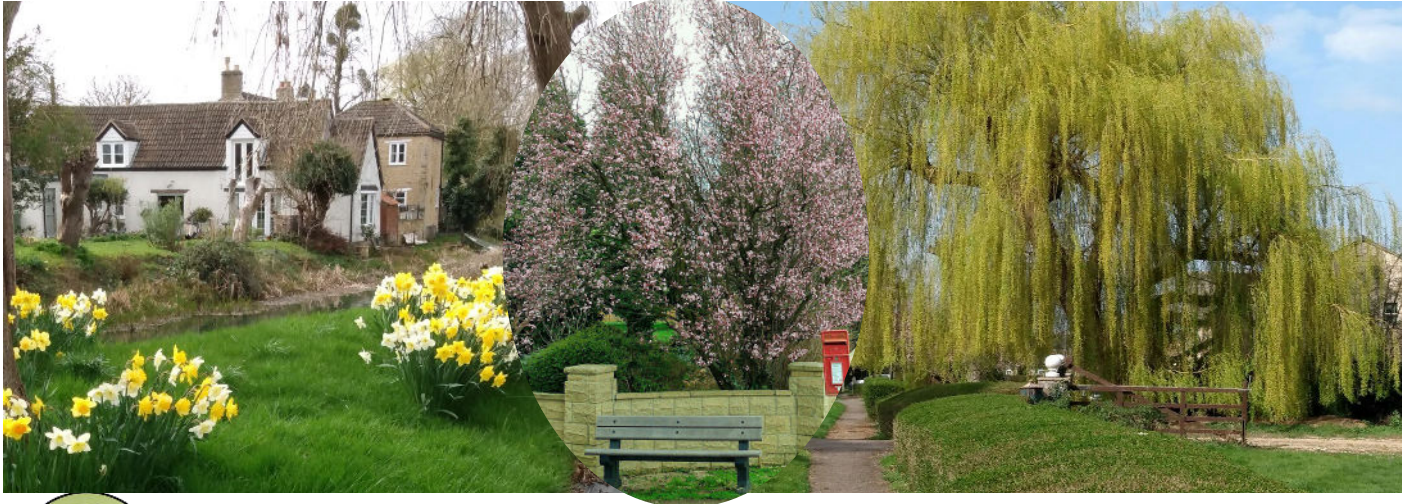
NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

APRIL 2021



Chairman's Reflections.

Just as I was about to see if a second glass of wine might relieve my writer's block, and enable me to produce something for the newsletter, our Editor came to my rescue. Ann very

diplomatically suggested that since she had got a lot of stuff to go on the front page, I might like to shorten my piece this month – I didn't need to be asked twice! To use a word that I have liked since it was used on one of my performance reviews at Perkins, she wanted me to be less circumlocutious! I find words and their origins fascinating. Although it is usually the Germans who get teased about their tendency to join several nouns together to form long compound nouns, the English language has its share of long and complicated words. I stumbled across a new one this week, a noun – *Librocubicularist* – one who prefers the comfort of reading in bed! Try getting your tongue around that when you are half asleep!

I have always been an avid radio listener, and enjoy what Terry Wogan referred to as "picking up the chewing gum of life on the sole of your foot". One such sticky morsel appeared this week – the origin of the unit of length, the metre, decided by the French Academy (incidentally on the day before the storming of the Bastille!), was one 10 millionth of the length of a straight line joining the North and South poles, passing through Paris – they obviously thought themselves the centre of the Earth long before Macron!

An unfortunate effect on me of the Covid situation is that whereas I used to have Radio 4 on whenever I was at home alone, I now only put it on if there is a particular programme that I want to hear.

This change is because I am enraged by the procession of whingers, self-appointed experts with a surplus of hindsight, so-called libertarians, and MPs who seem to have taken leave of their senses, holding forth about Covid policies at every opportunity. None of them are capable of doing anything better! Sorry, I don't often give way to my Victor Meldrew tendencies, but they make me mad!

Today's sad news makes these people insignificant, when compared with the long and dedicated life of public service, and support to The Queen, of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. He is owed a great debt of gratitude by millions of people worldwide, and I'm sure our thoughts and sympathy are with Her Majesty The Queen and her family.

Best wishes
Garth,
Chairman

Thanks Garth—and thanks to David Scott who has walked his socks off this month to provide lovely photos of Spring in the Deepings, which many of us may not otherwise have seen. ANN



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

Where do we go from here?

Thanks mainly to the progress of the Vaccination programme, the Government's Road Map is still on course. However, we will adopt a cautious approach, which we believe is what the majority of our Members would prefer.

Since 29th March outdoor gatherings of **either** 6 people **or** 2 households have been permitted, but the weather hasn't exactly encouraged it! This has meant that some Groups could choose to meet, 6 at a time, outdoors or in a garden, but not with more than one group of 6 in the same place. 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 advised that they wait until Step 2 of the map.

Step 2 (12th April) A closer reading of the 68 page detailed Road Map indicates that the rule of 6 people or 2 households is still the general rule for outdoor gatherings. However we can confirm that walking and cycling groups are accepted by the Government as "formally organised outdoor sports", but without any clear limits to numbers! The Ramblers Association are recommending up to 15 participants. As a result these Groups have been notified that they can go ahead, when the Group Leaders and Members agree to do so. Because of the remaining vagueness over total numbers, and the concerns of Members about closer contact, we have recommended that they operate the procedures that we agreed last summer (groups of 6 that do not mingle), until the easing of the rules after 17th May. It will even be possible to "re-hydrate" outdoors at a pub! The guidance on garden meeting remains at 6 people or 2 households, and it is emphasised that indoor mixing is not allowed, so a garden group could not adjourn indoors for coffee, for instance.

Step 3 (no earlier than 17th May) will remove "most social contact rules" outdoors, and gatherings of up to 30 persons will be legal. Indoor gatherings are more of a problem, and it is not until 17th May at the earliest, that the rule of **either** 6 people **or** 2 households will be introduced indoors.

Step 4 (no earlier than 21st 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.

As we said last month, the most difficult problem that we will have to consider is the U3A Monthly Meeting. We do not see that this problem will be resolved until the autumn at the earliest, and then only if we can find a source of funding for the equipment that is likely to be needed. The online monthly talks are slowly gaining more "attendees", and have been well received, and so we are booking further talks.

We have had no comments or suggestions following last month's article on the way forward – please feel free to give us some feedback.

The Committee.

DEEPINGS 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 1 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— page 6). If you are unsure, and would like to "sit in" as a guest on any of our Committee Meetings, then please get in touch.

If everybody sits back, takes advantage of what is provided, and assumes that someone else will do the work, then Deepings U3A will cease to exist.

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

It seems impossible that it's now well over a year since we all met together as a full group. With gardens beginning to open in the area (see <https://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk/news/gardens-open-their-gates-as-lockdown-lifts-9191637/>) and the rule of six now applying, hopefully, once we're all fully jabbed a few of us might see one another in one of the gardens advertised.

Until then, group members are all keeping busy in our gardens. Having threatened to revamp our own space for several years we have finally ordered a new fence which has required attacking a pyracantha, taking it from over six feet high to ground level. I'm not sure which of us came off worse!



In Gill Ronaldson's garden, a branch taken from a hazel has been turned into a really useful handrail - the ultimate in environmentally friendly recycling!

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

Message from a little bird : Congratulations to the baby of our group, (who happens to be our Group Leader) Linda on her special birthday ending in a 0!

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our April meeting was hosted by Barbara and Peter Baylis and given Peter's knowledge of the music scene we knew that we would have an enjoyable morning with something a little different as well as some old friends. Peter's programme began with 'something a little different.'



Michel LeGrand played 'The Jitterbug Walt from the album, "From The Top" (Disc 2). We heard The Carpenters and 'This Masquerade', then Shakatak and 'Nightbirds', a favourite of mine. Manha De Carnaval came from Quincy Jones and 'Softly As in a Morning Sunrise' was played by the Modern Jazz Quartet. Dinah Washington sang 'Mad About The Boy' and Edgar Sampson in his only recording gave us 'If Dreams Come True' which we then heard vocalised by Peggy Lee with George Shearing. Eva Cassidy sang 'Over The Rainbow' and Thom Rotella's Band played 'Come Down Easy' new to many of us. Two recordings from a test CD were also unusual as they were only recorded to test out the quality of sound in new systems. 'Knee Drops' and 'All Quiet On The Weastern Front' (spelling questionable?) were definitely different, but no surprise. Peter always finds something to get us guessing!

Lou Busch followed with 'Rainbows End', Nancy Wilson sang 'Midnight Sun' a lovely lyric this one, and then Shelly Mann and Nelson Riddle were followed by Grover Washington Jnr. with 'Winelight'. Diana Krall played and sang 'East of The Sun' from the album 'A Night in Paris' which completed Peter's programme.

A pleasant morning filled with pleasant music for which we thank Peter and Barbara and our lovely fruitcake, tea and coffee. Next month we will meet at the home of Phil Jones.

Report: ANNE JONES
Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

SMALL STEPS. (For M.S. who gave me the idea)

Locked down, locked in, self-isolating.
Confidence has all but gone.
Months ago, no problem
but now courage will be hard won.
From my front room window
the outside calls, 'Come try.'
But thoughts; still undecided,
are echoed with a sigh.
Small Steps, small steps, may be the way
to start, to win again.
That's it, small steps, I can do those -
Here's where I began again.



ANNE JONES

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP (APRIL 2021)

PRE- RAPHAELITE MOVEMENT

A visit to The Tate Britain before Lockdown resulted in joining a free guided talk. The guide was excellent but exposed my ignorance about the pre Raphaelite period. If Raphael was an artist in the C15th why were the pre Raphaelites making their names in Victorian times?



Lockdown does have its advantages, and looking things up is one of them!

Raphael was a famous artist, born on April 6th 1483 in Urbino, Italy. He died on April 6th 1520 in Rome. Famous works include The Sistine Madonna.



The Transfiguration and The School of Athens which is a fresco, painted on the wall of the library in The Vatican.



It shows the philosophers of Ancient Greece. The Transfiguration is the largest painting on canvas and was the last painted before his death.

So, who were the Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood?



It was formed initially by a group of English artists, including painters, writers and critics who included Millais, Hunt, Everett and Dante. It was founded by William Holman. They believed that art should be as similar to the real world as possible. This meant, for

example, that you couldn't paint grass blue when you knew it was green! It had to be true to life. They believed that Raphael was the greatest painter of all time and that artists should go back in time to the period leading up to his great achievements.

So now you know!! Just in case you are asked the question in a quiz!!

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



On Easter Monday eight of us did a five mile walk from Ryhall. Before travelling to Ryhall it snowed so we were all geared up for a cold walk. The sun came out which helped, but there was still a biting wind in places. A good start to the Monday group for 2021.

Thanks to Richard Coulson for the photo. Walk led by myself.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Eleven members of the Group met on Zoom for our monthly meeting for March. It was a continuation of February with “An Ancestors Story”.



Althea began by telling us of a family member who began as a Miner, then a Grocer with Own Account and went on to be an Evangelist and his son’s journey to America and the Pacific and Atlantic Tea Company.

Sue continued with her story of her Grandfather who was an Industrial Photographer and in the Fire Team at Perkins. She showed us the beautiful Photograph Album she had been gifted and some photos he had taken of her Mum eating an orange for the first time after the War.

Next was Liz’s turn. Her ancestor was from a hosiery family, she was an independent woman working as a Governess. The family story says she went on an Italian trip and brought back lovely jewellery that Liz was able to show us. She then went on to marry, as was expected by the family.

Hugh continued with the story of Thomas Jenyson, a County Squire and Justice of the Peace and “The Matter of Isham Cross” by Puritans in 1642 and the letter he wrote to Lord Montague. Jenyson at this time was grieving over the death of his grandchild whose mother and other family were also ill with the smallpox.

Peg completed the meeting with details of the tragic story of Susannah and her life in the mid 1800’s. Her husband became a debtor and then at the age of 37 years lost his life through drowning in the River Thames and was buried in a common grave. She was then left with a small family to raise on her own.

Thank you to everyone for your stories over the last two months. It made us realise that all of our ancestors had a life not just a name.

The subject of our next Zoom meeting in April is: “Discovering Your Family History in Newspapers”. Hope to see you then and that all of you have managed to watch the Find My Past Videos to help understand the newspapers better.

JEAN BRENNAND
Group Leader



David Scott has spent many hours (or so it seems) this month walking the length and breadth of Deeping looking for interesting pictures to help me compile yet another Newsletter without very much news to impart. These two just had to be included. Hope you didn’t have bacon for your breakfast!! A



U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Familiar Tunes in Unfamiliar Settings.



This month’s ‘Virtual’ programme should have been provided by Ann Holmes but thankfully Terry came to her rescue with the following :

We had a very wide group of composers with many pieces of music. Purcell, Bach, and Haydn to name a few. Purcell began to entertain with ‘O God, Thou Art my God’. The Oxford Camerata with Jeremy Summerly. Two pieces from J S Bach, The Brandenburg Concerto No.3 (1st. movement) played by the English Chamber Orchestra, conductor Raymond Leonard and then Sinfonia from Cantata BWV 174 with Concert Italiano and Rinaldo Alessandro.

Two pieces from Handel came next . One from the Messiah and then Concerto a due con no.2. Haydn followed with the Konaly Quartet playing String Quartet in C Major, Op 76 No.3. Bach again with the Chorale from Cantata No 147, known to us in the familiar ‘Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring’ in a lovely version from Myra Hess and then a slightly different version from the Jacques Loussier Trio. Following that came Nicholas Choveaux. ‘Introduction 7 Toccata , Christopher Dearnley playing the organ of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London.

Seven Variations of ‘God Save The King’ came from Beethoven. Anthony Goldstone was playing the Steinway at Wisbech Grammar School and then we had Mahler with Symphony No1, 3rd movement with Manfred Honeck conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Mendelssohn’s ‘Lobgesang - Nun danket alle Gott’ with the Halle Orchestra and Choir was conducted by Mark Elder from a 2009 Prom Concert and the Mozart’s ‘Horn Concerto’, a popular piece with the group. The programme ended with Weber and the ‘Jubel Overture together with the London Symphony Orchestra, conductor Pierre Monteux.

There was some stirring stuff in this month’s programme and some favourite pieces that are always enjoyable. Ann gave us a lovely morning of music and so it’s a big ‘Thank You’ to her and thanks once more to Terry for enabling us all to share the music.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

I left Anne’s last paragraph in but I have to ‘come clean’ - the whole programme was compiled by Terry Noble. I just wish I had the capability to put together such a selection but I haven’t. I did however enjoy every piece and Terry’s descriptive title was very apt. Many thanks Terry and I will try to do better next time!
ANN

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2 (Alternative to Mother’s Day Bouquet)

With our craft group unable to meet at the moment, one of my thoughtful daughters decided I would have to earn my flowers for Mothering Sunday and sent a plain square of glass in a box with several small poly bags of coloured shards of glass and a little pot of glue.

Armed with tweezers, a cocktail stick and kitchen roll I set to work creating a picture – this is definitely not a craft for children (or even those in their second childhood!) the glass is VERY sharp! Fun to do and then part of the deal is to repack the finished product and send it in the box back to the supplier for firing and adding a loop for hanging and a few days later I had this....spot the difference, although really ou have to feel it!



Before



After

Not a Monet but a very original alternative to fresh flowers, thank you Jo.

LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

A walk down Memory Lane with our U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP in June 2016

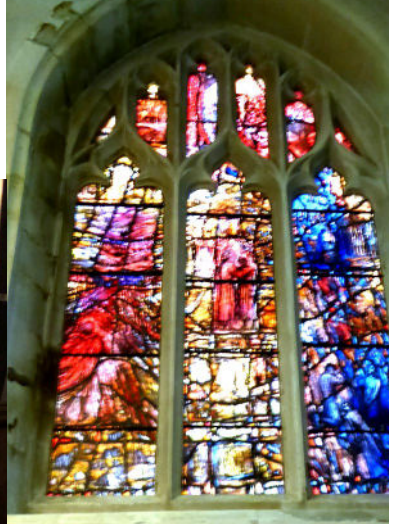
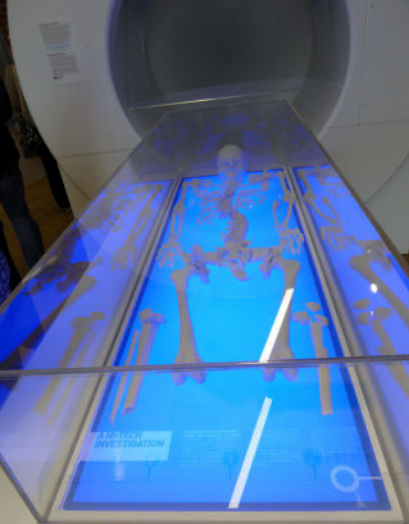


Last Tuesday, 46 Church Mice and friends had a superb visit to Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre and Cathedral.

The Centre provides an excellent exhibition of Richard's life and death and of the archaeological and forensic investigations which found the remains and confirmed that they were his. At the outset the archaeologists thought their chances of finding his remains were negligible, but his leg was the first item discovered and, among several coincidences, the grave was almost directly under an R painted on the tarmac. Also displayed were a replica (3D print) of his skeleton showing the curved spine, and his facial reconstruction.

Following lunch, we visited St Martin's Church which, with formation of the Leicester diocese in 1927, became the Cathedral. The church was significantly rebuilt in 13th, 15th and early 20th Centuries so there was little Norman stonework on view, but excavations have shown evidence of a Saxon church and Roman temple.

The centrepiece of the church was remodelled in 2015 to accommodate Richard III's tomb of Swaledale fossil stone. Also of significant interest were the embroidered pall for Richard's coffin and St Katherine's Chapel with its two new (2016) stained glass windows.



Report: LYALL SEALE
 Photos: LYALL AND ANN
 Group Leaders: LYALL SEALE / JIM PRINGLE

Reproduced at request of one of our members. A.

U3A HISTORY GROUP

BIG BEN

On April 24th 1858 Big Ben was cast! (Again, not many people know that!) Big Ben is the name given to the great bell of the clock of The Elizabeth Tower, situated in Westminster. The official name is The Great Bell. Usually, both the tower and the clock are referred to as BIG BEN.

The tower's construction was completed in 1859. Before 2012, the tower was just called Clock Tower. It was changed in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. All four nations are represented on the shields of the clock, Rose, Thistle, Shamrock and Leek.



Hopefully next month at least some of the "outdoor" groups will have managed to hold meetings. Do please send in reports and any photographs you have taken. It is getting more and more difficult to produce the Newsletter despite the valiant efforts of a few members who have unfailingly sent me material each month for the last year. My heartfelt thanks to them all. I couldn't have done it without you! ANN

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FRIDAY 7TH MAY.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020/2021

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



Big Ben may have been named after Sir Benjamin Hall who was the first commissioner of works, OR it could have been named after Benjamin Count who was a heavy weight boxer and had the nick name Big Ben.

Big Ben (the clock) became famous as it an accurate time keeper and is noted for the sound of the bell. Its chimes were aired by the BBC World Service, across the nations. During WW2 people waited for its

chimes on the radio as it gave confidence that Great Britain had not been defeated.



Do you remember the end of The 39 Steps? In the version starring Robert Powell, he is seen clinging to the hands of Big Ben.

Below are some facts:

1. Every number is two feet tall
2. It is wound three times a week
3. It has four clock faces
4. The words written below every clock face reads.....DOMINE SALVAM REGINAM NOSTRAM VICTORIAM PRIMAM. (Oh Lord keep safe our Queen Victoria the First).
5. All is silent at the moment

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader



Also Steve Hanson

Many thanks Anne Burton

..... and Lyll Seale

