

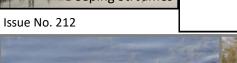
The Deepings u3c

NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2021







Chairman's Reflections.

What a couple of months we are having. Just as all the plants and bulbs were beginning to get going, along comes one of the driest and coldest Aprils on record, and growth shuddered (or shivered) to a stop. It has picked up again during May, as a result of the welcomed rain, but the frequent frosts have made it touch and go.

I was pleased to see my bulbs beginning to show – a bit late, but then I did plant them at least a month later than I should have! I realised that my bulb planting had had some help from an unexpected quarter - the cat next door.

I usually curse at the cats that use my garden as a toilet, because they dig up or bury the young plants and seedlings – but in this case they have moved the bulbs around into a natural looking random planting. Try as I may, I can't do this – I always plant them in straight lines or patterns – I don't do random! I blame my older brother, who was a printer, and used to bring graph paper home for me to draw on, and invariably I used to form geometric patterns, by filling in the squares. This engrained tendency has dogged me all my life, and particularly in the DIY sphere – I don't do random.

For instance, when I tiled one of the bathrooms, floor to ceiling, Sue, to my horror, suggested (which as we chaps know meant insisted!) that we broke up the plain walls by adding random feature tiles. I tried to plan this out on paper, but couldn't avoid generating geometric patterns.

Sue came up with a solution, which involved me standing with my eyes closed and my back to the wall to be tiled, armed with a small damp sponge, which I threw over both shoulders in different directions and with varying force, and where that produced a splodge, that's where the feature tile went!

If I had been naked it would have made a good Monty Python sketch. Even so, Sue had to keep an eye on me while I fixed the tiles, so that I didn't move any feature tiles from a position that offended my OCD!

This problem got even more extreme when I tiled the kitchen, using 41/4 inch tiles in 4 colours! Sue took over again, designing four 4 tile X 3 tile panels, then building up the walls by randomly arranging these panels, and it worked – despite my best efforts to correct anomalies!

My Daughter and I discovered an unexpected consequence of the weather in April. The electric fence around her paddocks failed to operate, initially in a random (there's that word again!) manner, and then packed up altogether. This is not a good situation if the paddocks contain two Exmoor ponies who are expert escape artists! So Dad was called in - contacts, wiring, solar panel output, and battery condition were all checked, with no sign of a fault, and just as a precaution a new battery was purchased and installed – all to no avail! While we were scratching our heads, an old chap with a lot of experience of keeping horses came along, and advised that every time that we went down to the paddocks, we should pee on the three 2ft deep earthing rods! Now my daughter is far too ladylike to consider that, so Dad hastily installed a 120 metre hosepipe. The old chap was quite right. April was so dry that the ground around the rods had completely dried out, become less conductive, and shrunk away from contact with the rods. Regular watering, assisted by the recent rain, restored the fence to reliable operation.

I hope that you will all be able to take advantage of the easing on May 17th, and actually meet a few people indoors, rather than shivering in the garden. Take care of yourselves, and others.

Best wishes

Garth, Chairman

Grateful thanks to Pete and Kath Allen for top left and right pics, David Scott for top centre pic and Steve Hanson for all the Bluebells. ANN



PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE. IT'S A BIT DETAILED AND DRY, BUT THE TOPICS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF <u>YOUR U3A</u>, 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.

The **Step 1** (29th March) and **Step 2** (12th April) easing of restrictions have occurred on time, and as a result some of our Walking Groups and our Cycling Group have resumed meetings. The remaining guidance on garden meeting of six people or two households, as well as the unfriendly weather, has meant that most of the other groups have not met, but they have plans to restart in May or June.

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 will continue to be more of a problem, even though 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.

In our opinion, the biggest problem that we will face over the next year is the availability of meeting venues. Preliminary results of a revue of venues that we are carrying out, show that some venues used by Groups are not going to be available for hire (permanently or at least for the rest of the year), some are imposing severe capacity reductions, and some have no plans of when they are to open. Because of the numbers of attendees, and the social aspects of the meeting, the most difficult problem that we will have to tackle 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 intending to book further talks, up to August.

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 STILL NEEDS YOU!

The risk to the survival of your U3A grows each month. I remind you that we will be holding our AGM in October, primarily to appoint a Committee to take us forward. This year two of the three existing Officers of the Committee (Chair & Secretary) have to step down, as specified by the Constitution, and therefore will not be eligible for re-election.

Our Treasurer can serve for one more year, but it would be good to have a new Committee Member to shadow her work, with a view to taking over in October 2022. In addition we are currently without a Group Organiser (this could be shared with another Committee Member). 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.

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 on 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.

<u>THE CLOCK IS TICKING – 22 WEEKS TO AGM.</u>

EVERYBODY, ANYBODY, SOMEBODY, and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done, and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it, **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, But **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** When **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.



Monthly talks to inform and amuse you.

We had an excellent on-line talk to replace our last monthly meeting. The subject was Arsenic, and it left us looking suspiciously at any wallpaper, clothes, food, or drink that are bright green in colour. All comments received were very positive. To encourage those of you who did not take part last time to join us, information on the next talk, and how to access it, is given below:

Monday 17th 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.

Members must pre-register to attend these talks—the process for doing this is explained in the Member's Newsletter.

Unfortunately we have just been notified that MIRTHY are changing how they operate from 1st June, and the cost of each talk will be tripled to £150.

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As we are funding these talks from our diminishing reserves, it is likely that we will not be offering monthly talks from this source in the future, unless we can share the cost with adjacent U3As. We will endeavour to continue to provide a monthly talk from alternative sources until we can re-establish some form of Monthly Meeting.

Two households who have been watching the Mirthy Talks sent us the following comments:

Well that was a lovely one today, really enjoyed it. It said 60 people were watching but I am sure there were lots more than that as like us there were two in the household. Please pass our thanks to who ever organised it. P & J

Just to say I really enjoyed the talk this morning, a very interesting story. The talk about the police last month was also good, so I look forward next month the next one. Thank-you to all. IB

Well hopefully that is all the "official" business dealt with and we can now get on with the rest of the Newsletter!

To clear our heads a little here is a pic from 2018 of the Natural History Group taking a stroll in Burghley Park.



Do you remember those lovely days? Hopefully we will enjoy similar ones again. A.



Unfortunately, I have to begin with an apology!

You probably all spotted last month's 'deliberate' mistake. Cannot give an

explanation of how it happened so am blaming my 'enemy' - Google. (Think it hates me as much as I hate it!) What was the mistake? - The Jazz report somehow transposed itself into one that related to a meeting held in April 2019. I admit I did wonder how come the group were enjoying Barbara's fruit cake but decided Terry must be delivering it alongside the CDs he so kindly distributes to members of both Music Groups each month!! (I think it's a sign I'm suffering from "Lockdown Syndrome" - any other time I would have picked up the phone and queried it!) So my sincere apologies and here is the one you should have had. ANN

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP (March)

Our Virtual March meeting was compiled by Peter Gray and we had an interesting selection which he entitled: 'THE BEST OF BRITISH JAZZ'.

Lonnie Donegan began our programme.

Although he had a Skiffle group, he played folk music too but his influences were blues and jazz. He gave us 'I Don't Know', followed by his 'hit' 'My Old Man's a Dustman'. (Something not many folks know is that Lonnie died in Market Deeping aged 71, visiting a friend.) Terry Lightfoot performed 'Tavern in the Town', followed by something completely different the Animals and 'House Of the Rising Sun'. Another surprise - George Formby and his 'Leaning on a Lamp Post', which is a song most are familiar with, George being a very popular entertainer and an accomplished banjo player.

'Lime House Blues' from Harry Stoneham came next and then Alexis Andrew Nicholas Koemer, professional name, Alexis Korner, played 'Beirut' and this was followed by 'Sweet Little Sixteen' from a trio - Colin Hodgkinson, Adrian Titman and Rex Gates. 'Evolution Mania' was also performed by the group. It was recorded at the Dolphin House in St Ives, Huntingdonshire and Peter, who was there, was given a copy.

The popular Temperance Seven gave us 'You're Driving Me Crazy' and Acker Bilk played 'Stranger on the Shore'. Acker Bilk was awarded an MBE. Johnny Dankworth (later Sir) played 'Stompin at the Savoy' and then we heard Mrs Dankworth, (Cleo Lane) sing 'Just the Way You Are'. They also performed 'Let's Slip Away'. Chris Barber, another well-known figure in the world of Jazz, played 'Big Bass Drum', he was an OBE. He was also a bandleader and a trombonist. Kenny Ball (they are all here) played 'The Green Leaves of Summer'. Dudley Moore performed 'My Blue Heaven'. Ted Heath and his orchestra followed with 'Out of Nowhere'. The programme ended with the always welcome - Humphrey Lyttleton and 'Maple Leaf Rag'. Humph' was a great jazz musician and also from the Lyttleton Aristocratic family. He seldom mentioned it!

Well, we certainly covered some musical ground with Peter's selection and it was a really enjoyable mixture so 'Thank You' Peter. We still have some gaps in our programme to fill so if anyone can help please let Phil know. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES.

The next item arrived too late for last month's issue:

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP



Judy, our group leader for many years, has decided that the time is right for her to move on to pastures new.

On behalf of the writing group, I would like to say a very big thank to Judy for her support, hospitality and friendship. We will miss her wonderfully descriptive tales of riding across the

south downs and who could forget the detailed account of her enthusiastic yet disastrous attempt at taxidermy. We wish her well in her new home and in all that she pursues.

During the last year we have managed to keep our group going online, although I think inspiration is beginning to wane. We are looking forward to getting together soon to discuss the future of the group. JULIE MANCEY

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History group met again on Monday via Zoom. The meetings go very well and it is amazing how people are adapting to using technology. The topic for the month was News Papers and how they help in family history.



Lorraine started us off with an article about a 3rd cousin who was an RSPCA office who made the news by a heroic rescue of a dog. And another aunt who won a TV as a prize from the Milk Marketing Board. (picture as well)

Brenda told us about the time she was stopped in Boston and consulted about the level of crime.

Brian told us of his g g grandfather who became a police officer in Liverpool and even had a mention in a case at the Old Bailey.

Geoff is still trying to find the death of his great grandfather whom he believes died at sea during a storm. The newspaper reports that on the 18 October 1869 there was the biggest storm and that many fishing boats were lost.

News papers are of tremendous usefulness in research as often they covered things that would not be found else were. Most local news papers cover, what I suppose today we call trivia but even if it is only a school prize day noting who won a prize, it helps make our people

Report: PEG TORRNCE

Group Leader: JEAN BRENNAND

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

So what's the Point?

Georges Seurat was born in 1859 and died 31 years later. He is well known for his style of painting known as Pointillism. The image is constructed of thousands of tiny dots of paint which allow the viewer's eyes to blend the colours even though they are not blended in the painting

The famous 'Sunday Afternoon on the Island of Grande Jatte' was started in 1884 and completed in 1886. He died of either meningitis, diphtheria or pneumonia.



He started a painting called Circus but died before it was finished.



If you are fed up then try pointillism on the outline left.

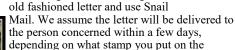
U3A HISTORY GROUP

POSTAGE

MONE PENNY.H

We take instant communication for granted these days. Emails, phone calls, Zoom and Social Media of all kinds. When something goes wrong, chaos ensues.

However, when wanting to make a point and failing to make a connection, the best thing to do is write a good



envelope.

Stamps are taken for granted but it isn't all that long ago that they were brought into use. The Penny Black was the world's first official adhesive postage stamp. It was issued on 1st of May 1840 and in use from 6th of May 1840.

This world famous stamp features a portrait of the young Queen Victoria. It had a small crown water mark.

The stamps were printed on large sheets each containing 240 stamps which were cut apart by scissors. The small crown watermarks were there to prevent forgeries. They also had check letters on the bottom corners. These were impressed by hand with a punch.

The Penny Blacks were initially cancelled with a red Maltese cross but this was difficult to see and easy to remove from a black stamp. The Penny Black was replaced after a year by The Penny Red but it still remains a design icon.

Quiz question

Where does the word Penny originate? (Could be a pledge, a token or a pawned item. Could originate from Old English, pening and also relates to Germanic regions where the words pfennig and pfenje were the names of small denomination coins). 10 points if you got all the answers correct. Don't spend it all at once!



SANDRA JONES Group Leader

U3A CYCLING GROUP

Our last cycle outing was on 16 October 2020. Therefore, it made a wonderful change to get back in the saddle again on 16 April after a six month absence of regular U3A Cycle Group activity. route was



organised by Kevin who unfortunately had to miss out on the ride owing to another commitment.

Five of us started out from Market Deeping Bridge and headed out through Maxey, followed by Glinton and Peakirk. Then on to what used to be the Decoy on Werrington Bridge Road where a (socially distanced) stop was made at the newly opened Moor Farm Shop and Café for coffee and cake – a lovely discovery. Then back to Deeping. A gentle 13 mile route to get us back cycling again.

Thank you Kevin for organising this. A pity you had to miss out.

Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leader and photograph: JIM TORRANCE.

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING CLUB



It's a personal entry from me this month as I would like to say an enormous thank you to the Thursday Garden Group for my wonderful birthday card and gifts. It was a huge surprise to find Liz Noble on the doorstep clutching a 'Many Congratulations' rose tree and a super framed photo that brings back so many happy memories every time I look at it. I have a feeling Liz had been very busy organising everything!

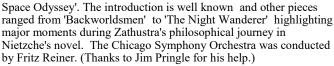
The Thursday Garden Group is such a lovely, friendly bunch and I think this illustrates them perfectly. Thank you all very much indeed.

Our first meeting in over a year, weather permitting, will be at Liz Noble's on Thursday 3rd June at 10 am. Fingers crossed for sunshine!

LINDA HILL Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our April 'Virtual' meeting was compiled by Frank Mills who chose 'CLASSICAL FILM THEMES'. His first piece was Richard Strauss and also Sprach Zarathustra - 'Introduction and sunrise'. This was used in the 2001 film 'A



Rachmaninov gave us his Piano Concerto No. 2, 2nd movement, familiar to many of us as the music featured in the film 'Brief Encounter'. Much of this was filmed on Carnforth Station, with which I am very familiar, having spent hours there waiting for trains to Carlisle. 'Out of Africa' used the music of Mozart. His 'Clarinet Concerto', (K.622) 2nd. movement - Adagio was played to great effect. Mozart again with the Piano Concerto No.21 (K.467) 2nd movement - Andante had Alfred Brendel playing piano and Sir Neville Mariner conducting the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. This was the theme music for the film 'Elvira Madigan' from 1967. The novel by Tomas Mann became the film 'Death in Venice' and it was Mahler's Symphony No.5, 4th movement - Adagietto that became the theme music.

Wagner ended this journey of musical film themes with 'Die Walkure' ('Ride of the Valkyries)'. The film was 'Apocalypse Now' based on a Joseph Conrad novel, 'Heart of Darkness' written in 1899, given a modern setting in the Vietnam war (used to accompany a terrifying helicopter gun-ship attack on a Vietnam village) with James Levine giving a live performance with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Frank gave us something quite different this month and it was a very enjoyable experience for which we thank him. Our thanks also to Terry once again for being postman. The May programme will be from Chris Hartley Report: Anne Jones

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP



Well, last month was our return to action and Tuesday 27th March was the return date. The change of day was due to three members of the group receiving their second vaccination for what, I just can't remember, on the day before. I am sure it will return to me.

Following a revised risk assessment undertaken before the day we met at the Golden Pheasant at Etton, where our hosts issued us with a menu, if you can remember what one of those is, for a post-stroll lunch, albeit outdoors and access to toilets.

Prior to setting off, we had the Covid briefing, which we must all know instinctively by now. It seems to have become the present day 'Lord's Prayer'. Geoff led us on our way through the village, on what I would like to say was a bright Spring morn, but brrrrrr, it wasn't. Not quite the 'beast from the east' but heading north, we soon knew which way the wind was blowing.

After passing through Etton and crossing over the Maxey Cut, we turned left to follow it's north bank as far as Woodgate Lane, which at this point is a mere bridle track. Just before reaching this point we noted a swan's nest in the near distance, which was a welcome reminder that it was Spring.

We then skirted one of the lakes at Maxey, where the photograph was taken and returned back to Etton, with a slight change in the route, during which we saw another swan's nest and two geese taking approximately 10 goslings for a paddle.

To sit down for lunch together was a novelty, but thankfully we were in the lea of the north wind. Conversation was positive with people talking about the future rather than the trials and tribulations of the past year, as they tucked in to their 'Etton Mess'.

That's the initial stroll over and done with and the efforts put in to get the risk assessment done and the formalities for 'inviting' members to take part, now paid off, the morning was a success. Thanks to Geoff and Julie for organising the stroll and arranging the lunch

This month's stroll will be at Bourne Wood and hopefully we will be having lunch indoors at the Sugar Mill, but at the time of writing I am awaiting Boris's update, which should confirm this can be a reality.

I've just remembered, it was Covid, or something like that.

BOB DELLER Group Leader

IT'S ANOTHER LANGUAGE

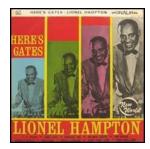
Can you 'ZOOM,?' my neighbour asked. 'Well, I'm not sure,' I said.
My'Oxford's' definition
Instilled a feeling of dread.
'To move quickly, with a buzzing sound.'
Well, those days for me - long gone.
And now each movement I have found needs a deal of consideration.

Oh what would Doctor Johnson say? Eight years! Diligent his labour. 'Alas, 'tis another language today. I would consult your neighbour....'

Anne Jones

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our 'virtual' April meeting was compiled by Terry Noble and began with—'Rosetta'. Musicians were Earl Hines (piano), Milt Hinton (bass), Grady Tate (drums), Sam Turner (conga) and Lionel Hampton (Vibes). Lionel Hampton features on several of Terry's selections, 'On Green Dolphin Street', being another.



Stephane Grappelli gave us 'You Are The Sunshine of My Life', then

Buddy Rich played 'Moments Notice' (wonder where that inspiration came from?). 'Blues For Gates' featured among others - Lionel again. 'Heart Place' featured Stan Getz, 'What's New' had McCoy Tyner on piano followed by a 'Soulful Mr. Timmons' with Art Blakey. Then 'Blight of the Fumble Bee,' (yes, that's right). Gerry Mulligan and others, including Lionel Hampton once again, entertained with that. 'Happy Go Lucky Local' came from Jimmy Hamilton, 'So Long Eric', another intriguing title, with Charles Mingus on bass, Lionel and Gerry Mulligan on b'ton sax too. 'Airmail Special', featured Hampton once more with the Oliver Jackman Orchestra and Buddy Rich gave us 'Buddy's Cherokee'. A favourite of mine—Spike Jones with his City Slickers - created their usual mayhem with 'Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Jeep'. Spike Jones was rather like Marmite. One either liked him or one didn't. He did murder most of the songs he recorded and he closed Terry's selection, in great style.. It was a real mix with lots of wonderful musicians playing great music. Many thanks Terry.

Our next programme will be my choices with lots of help from Phil Jones. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

Now something sent in by Steve Hanson which I am sure will make us all smile and say "that's me!"



I JUST discovered my age group! I am a Seenager (senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a **Seenager**. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

Label

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FRIDAY, 11 JUNE U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Thursday 13 May 2021 turned out to be the day when the Thursday Walking Group were able to re-commence its walks on what happened to be a fine sunny morning after all the recent heavy showers. 16 members joined in a just under 6 mile local walk commencing from Market Deeping along the Stamford Road to Molecey Mill before turning left down the footpath and along the stream to West Deeping. Turning left in this village we progressed back over the first humpback bridge before turning left again and following the footpath to arrive at Maxey Mill. Taking the footpath opposite we were then able to walk around part of Maxey Lakes before detouring through the village and then following the old Mill Lane back to our starting point. The walk was led by myself and David.

Details of the next walk on 10 June will be circulated in due course by the usual e-mail when we are planning to follow the walk with a resumption of a pub lunch.

GODFREY PARKES Group Leader 01778 34376 DAVID SCOTT Deputy Group Leader 01778 344753

Great to have three walking groups up and 'running' again. Hope other groups will be encouraged to follow soon.

Thanks to Pete Allen for photograph. A



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

