

Deeping St. James

Issue No.217

The Deepings u3a

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

[Click here to visit our Deepings Web site](#)



Market Deeping

OCTOBER 2021

GLIMPSES OF AUTUMN



Very many thanks, once again, to David Scott for sharing his 'out and about' pictures with us. Perhaps next year we may have coach trips again so that we can see the changing seasons for ourselves.

FUTURE MEETINGS—PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

- 18 October AGM to include coffee and biscuits and "chat". **Methodist Church**
- 15 November Talk by Steve Brown—Driving Instructor. His talk is "It's Hell on Wheels" (his driving school is named "L on Wheels"). **Methodist Church**
- 20 December "Holly and Ivy, Boear's Head and Grete Pies—A History of Carols" by Kate Whitney. **Coronation Hall.**

Further details for the November and December meetings will be Published in the November issue of the Newsletter.

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
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Chairman's Reflections



"Procrastination is the thief of time" was my Mother's favourite saying, and I keep proving that it is a true statement! I have had two days of heavy manual labour, which has proved once again that age is catching up with me! So since I packed up at 6pm, I have found a variety of excuses not to start my Reflections.

Cooking tea was slowed down by me doing other things that needed doing, but not at that moment. When I sat down for tea, raising my aching legs and snuggling into the soft cushions behind my sore back, I made the mistake of turning on the TV, telling myself that I would turn it off when tea was finished. After dozing my way through half of Antiques Road Trip, with Mum's words ringing in my ears, I turned it off, put my dishes beside the sink (resisting the temptation to wash them up immediately), and came up to my computer. Did it get better then – did it heck! I decided that I would do the Science Group report first, as it was easier, and I still hadn't got a clue what to write about for the "Reflections"! So here I am, three-and-a-half hours after coming in, with only 212 words produced so far! It's no wonder that everything seems to take much longer than it should do these days!

I quite like watching Antiques Road Trip, but often try to analyse why. Apart from the fact that there are some interesting items and histories that come up, there is the hope that one day one of the items that makes a lot of money will be just like the one that is languishing in your loft. I also have to admit that I enjoy, and am amazed by, the frequency with which the "experts" are proved wrong. On the other hand I am annoyed by the dishonest way in which the Antique Centres set their prices.

Talking about "experts" getting it wrong – "fake news" has been dominating the airwaves over the past two weeks hasn't it? First of all it was the panic over an alleged dreadful shortage of gas, while 80% of our requirement was quietly and reliably flowing down our pipeline from Norway. Social Media, and other media, all joined in to build up a crisis, especially the BBC and other TV news services. The crisis turned out to be not a shortage, but the rapidly rising cost of gas – not that we can be complacent about the problem, which will bite us all this winter.

Then there was the media generated crisis over the shortage of petrol and diesel – the resultant panic buying just greatly magnifying the effect of a long standing shortage of HGV drivers all over Europe. Again the media stoked up the panic, especially amongst the younger "must have everything today" generations.

Sorry – I have strayed onto my "Victor Meldrew" soapbox! But, with the news that some high energy consuming industries, like the paper industry, may have to cut production to save costs, I can see another loo roll crisis looming. So I warn all members who are DIY enthusiasts that this will cause a global shortage of 6-inch nails, as we all revert to carefully cut squares of newspaper hung on the toilet wall!

I'm not sure whether it is the World or me that's going mad at the moment!

Garth,
Chairman

Thanks Garth. I am sad that we have come to the end of your 'reflections', which have kept us entertained for the last four years. I hope you realise you may be remembered for your prediction in the penultimate paragraph! On a personal note, thank you for usually meeting the deadline date with your contributions and also 'tailoring' them to fit your allotted space! ANN

Closing date for November issue : FRIDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER

Email address: deepingsu3anews@gmail.com





U3A CYCLING GROUP



The 17th September gave ideal weather for cycling – temperature just right, no wind and good visibility. Five of us started out from Market Deeping Bridge and made our way through Deeping St James to Low Locks where we crossed to the other side of the river. Then it was real “cross country” stuff as the route took us alongside the Welland and the Spalding branch railway track. Then on to Glinton where a brief stop was made to view the famous gargoyle on St Benedict’s Church. Onward to Helpston and then up King Street, turning right to Langtoft and the Wagon and Horses to enjoy a most welcome pub lunch – 17 miles total distance in 2 ¼ hours.

Thanks must go to Brad Adolphson for organising this most interesting ride. Some of the riders were unaware of the “cross country” part.

Our next ride will be on 15th October, 10:30 am at the usual Market Deeping Bridge. Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE

U3A “WANDERERS” WALKING GROUP (September)



Eight intrepid Wanderers and Tess the dog, led by Geoff Fitzjohn, set off from the Prince of Wales Feathers pub in Castor for their five mile walk, prepared to get very wet!

Setting off through St Kyneburgha’s churchyard we dropped into Splash Lane and followed the river bank to the Castor backwaters. We crossed the meadow heading towards the Water Newton lock and then around in front of the Mill into the village. Even in the rain and mist this is a very picturesque scene.

After walking through the village and around the church we retraced our steps and set off again along the river bank towards the weir.

On our way back we passed through Normangate field, site of much Roman industry and over Ermine Street, picking up Port Lane back into Castor.

In front of us was the pub and our much deserved lunch. We were very wet but all agreed that it had been a good morning.

Report: JULIE FITZJOHN
Group Leaders: HILARY & BARRY AKAM

NOTE FROM EDITOR : Some reports arrived after the closing date for the September issue of the Newsletter and those Groups will probably have held their October meeting before publication of our October issue.

Some Group Leaders may not have realised the Newsletter is now printed by a professional printer and I have to meet his deadline so I no longer have the flexibility to squeeze in late reports. It is therefore important that the closing date, given on the last page of the Newsletter is adhered to. ANN

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!



After many months of lockdown and Zoom meetings, the family history group has now regrouped and are meeting each month in the Community Centre.

Many of us have had time to think about lots of things during this isolation, and now that the nights are getting longer, I have been wondering if there is anyone out there who has been

pondering about their unknown family.

Genealogy (or family history) is a fascinating hobby. It can take us to places unheard of and help us understand what our ancestors encountered in their daily lives. Some of you may feel that you would like to start but are not sure what to do and how to get going.

For many years now I have been involved with the Family History Group and handed the reins over to Jean in 2019. I am still a very active member of the group. I have, in the past, run beginner’s courses to get people started. **I would like to offer to all our members, the chance to join in a new beginner’s course,** and then an opportunity to join in with the group each month.

If there is anyone who would like to be included in a course on ‘How to Get Started’, please could you contact me,

PEG TORRANCE

Deepings U3A – Family History Group.

Report of September meeting of the Family History Group on page 4



U3A QUILTING GROUP

September saw our group resume meetings at the Community Centre. Everyone was pleased to be able to finally get together to decide our activities for the forthcoming term.

The committed few displayed beautiful work completed during lockdown. Well done ladies for being so self motivated.

It was a group decision that the next activity would be that each member complete a panel using their own choice of fabric. Once completed these panels would be sewn together by Ann Thornthwaite to form a quilt and given to charity. This is a new technique to the group sewing directly on printed batting.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader



My apologies to Jim Winstone—he sent the following report to me in good time last month but regrettably it did not appear! I know I included it, then must have altered the page for a better fit and omitted to reinstate this report elsewhere.

U3A DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group is up and running again and is hoping some new members will come and join us. Meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of each month starting at 10.30am and ending around noon. We meet in members' homes but there is no obligation to host.

Topics for discussion are agreed in advance to form a programme of three or four meetings with a brief introduction to each topic, usually. No topics are taboo and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly with more than a little mirth.

If you would like to know more please call me

JIM WINSTONE
Group Leader



U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group met for its first face-to-face meeting on the 13th September, with 10 of us getting together in the Training Room in the Community Centre. Over the last year a number of the members have managed to stay in contact through numerous Zoom chats and email newsletters each month, and very varied the subjects have been.



The meeting started with a discussion on how the Group could move forward into 2022 and subjects were organised for the coming months. Zoom talks, member presentations and Group discussions until April of next year were entered in the calendar including what we could do for our Christmas meeting, Covid permitting.

We continued with some items of interest seen in the last few weeks including a new film out in the cinemas in October called "War Below" with Sam Hazeldine telling the story of British Miners tunnelling in France in the First World War, this is the story we heard from Colin Lukacs-Winn in our last meeting together in March 2020.

Group Leader: JEAN BRENNAND

(If Family History interests you and you would like to know more about how to trace past generations of your family see also article on page 3.)

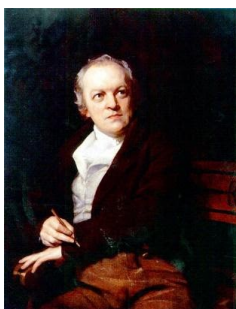
U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

WILLIAM BLAKE

Voted 38th out of 100 greatest Britains in 2002.

Born Nov 28th 1757 died 12th August 1827.

William Blake was an English poet, visionary, painter and printmaker. He was born and died in London. During his lifetime he wasn't well known but today his work is thought to be important in the history of both poetry and the visual arts. Blake's collection of poems, political sketches was printed around



1873.

His most famous poem 'And did those feet in ancient times', was, over 100 years later, put to music by Hubert Parry in the hymn now known as Jerusalem.

Blake's impression of Isaac Newton



SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

U3A HISTORY GROUP

OCTOBER 4TH THE BIRTH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Several years ago, we went on a holiday with Titan Travels called The Treasures of Italy. The itinerary included a visit to Assisi. The sight of the small town in the distance was impressive as it didn't show any sign of the earthquake that had struck a few years before.

The walk around the town was also very interesting. To all intents it was an old medieval town but obviously it had been rebuilt following the earthquake.



St Francis was born to Pietro Bernadone, a wealthy cloth merchant and his wife Pica. He was originally named Giovanni Francesco. In his youth he was first interested in the French troubadours, known as wanderers who improvised songs on a stringed instrument. He later planned a military career. When he was serving in the war between Assisi and Perugia in 1202, he was taken prisoner and held for a year.

He had a religious conversion experience when he returned home, a calling from Christ to leave his worldly life. He began taking his Christian faith seriously. He took Jesus Christ as a literal example for loving each other. He began to dress in rough clothes, asked and begged for food and preached purity and peace. His family renounced him and he had nothing more to do with his wealth and fortune. He started visiting hospitals and caring for the sick, including those with leprosy.

He founded the Franciscan Order and is patron saint of animals, the environment, merchants and Italy and Catholic Action. There is a large basilica built in his honour.

YOU WILL HOPEFULLY RECEIVE AN AUTHENTIC PROPER HISTORY REPORT NEXT MONTH (FINGERS CROSSED)!

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader



U3A TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

Just had another morning Ten Pin Bowling, very enjoyable. If anyone would like to join us for a morning's game, they would be welcome. We are a friendly crowd and play for fun. No competition between us just try and score as many as you can.

We play on the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of each month, so with the weather changing, and you cannot get in your garden for some exercise, how about a game of Ten Pin Bowling? For further details contact:

Group Leaders DAVID LUNN / CHRIS PATMAN

U3A POETS AND THEIR POETRY GROUP

Our Poetry Group met at Kathleen's home for our October meeting. We had all been searching for poems with the letter 'R', and we came up with some very good results - some sad, some funny, but very interesting.



We had 'Rules and Regulations' by Lewis Carroll; 'Richard Corey' by Edwin Arlington; 'Roman Wall Blues' by W H Auden; 'Reflections' by Max Eherman; 'The Road not Taken' by Robert Frost; 'Romance' by W J Turner; 'Returned Soldier' by EG Moll; 'Reluctance' by Robert Frost; 'Rainbow' by John Agard, and the lovely 'Red and White Stockings' by May M Dodge, and beautifully read out by Lin.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon meeting up with everyone, our thanks to Kathleen for hosting the meeting, and keeping us warm and refreshed.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Peter Gray's programme, Jazz and Big Bands, September 21



Peter Gray has compiled this month's programme, which contains many memories of old songs and music when '78 records' were the fashion, played on old gramophones with steel needles. They were given to him by his old friend, Brian Hall. With modern technology and Wikipedia we can share some of them in Peter's programme today.

Bob Crosby got us off to a rousing start with 'Honky Tonk Train Blues' and this was followed by 'The Big Noise From Winnetka' with Bob Haggart and the ABRSM Jazz Piano Tunes. Glenn Miller gave us 'Song of the Volga Boatmen' and also 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again'. 'Loose Lid Special' was from Tommy Dorsey and also 'Yes Indeed' - recordings made from 1939 to 1945.

'Back Bay Shuffle' and 'Jungle Drums' featured Artie Shaw's Orchestra. Benny Goodman was doing the 'One O'clock Jump' and then he featured Martha Tilton vocalizing along 'Loch Lomond'. 'Rose Room' came from Barney Bigard's Quintet as did 'Coquette'. Vocalist Rosemary Clooney with the Duke Ellington Band sang 'Me and You, and then the Duke played 'Concert for Cootie'. No ignoring Louis Armstrong with 'Got No Blues' with his Hot 5 and 'Sugar Foot Strut'.

Bob Crosby came back, this time with two offerings from his Big Band and 'Brass Boogie', Part 2. Then Albert Ammons offered two items - 'Boogie Woogie Stomp' and 'Nagasaki', a popular item often included at the Toft Jazz evenings. 'Three-Quarter Boogie' and 'Pig Foot Sonata' (where did the inspiration for that one come from?) was the Lionel Hampton offering and the programme closed with two more items from Artie Shaw, 'Prelude in C Major' and 'Beau Night in Hotchkiss Corn'. This was the Ultimate Artie Shaw. Well that title must have been a show stopper!

Some rare treats were included in this selection and many must have been unfamiliar to the group. We also had lots of information about the artists too which makes fascinating reading and lots of research from Brian. Many thanks to Peter for collating this program me and to Brian for giving us a programme of jazz little heard these days.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

ABERFAN - 1966

Yes, I remember Aberfan.
The morning started - cool.
Just an ordinary morning;
I took my kids to school.
No ordinary morning in that village far away.
The rain had moved a mountain,
No more voices heard at play.

Guilt looked for loopholes
sliding, hiding, buried on that day.
We held our children tight.
Burdened them, and wondered how
Those other arms would fill
that long, long night.

Now...

Aberfan moved into yesterday.
But one day in October, colder.
Always, grey.
They remember as they grow older.

And on that quiet Welsh hill
the children lie;
looped in childhood, still.

ANNE JONES

It should be remembered.

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Eighteen of us met at The White Hart, Lyddington, on a bright sunny day. The First comment I got was that winter was creeping in as I was not wearing shorts. I admit I had thought about it !!!



The walk leaders were Penny and Geoff and they led us initially through the picturesque village of Lyddington (the oldest building I saw was dated 1575) and then out into open countryside on footpaths and bits of road. We were headed towards Uppingham— there were lots of "Kissing Gates" on the outward journey and many, many stiles on the return leg. It is thought that we might have broken the Group record for number of stiles on a

walk, possibly 18 +. Unfortunately nobody volunteered to re walk the route for a recount !!

The weather was fine for us all walking and a bit breezy on the hills. On the return leg the farmer had electric fenced off part of a field for sheep to graze. We had to climb over the fence to get to the opposite side of the field and the advance party went the wrong way. Penny soon sorted us out on the right course.

Later we realised that the farmer had placed some black post to show the way, even though at the time they didn't mean anything to us. The walk was between 6.6 and 6.99 miles (as usual conflicting app's came to the fore). A good lunch was had at the pub.

The next walk is by The Coulsons from the Crab and Winkle, details to follow. **Please contact me as I now require Walk Leaders for 2022, only March is taken so far.**

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

In September, Terry Noble demonstrated not only his knowledge of the intricacies of gear design and application, but his mastery of Google Meet, to include some animations in his talk! He led us gently through the large number of types of gears, and clearly explained the function of each design, and managed not to lose us along the way. Thank you Terry for the work that you put in to produce an informative and interesting talk.



Our meeting at 2pm on Tuesday 19th October, will be in the Lionel Beck Room of the Deepings Community Centre. Part of the meeting will be a "Micawber Moment" – ie Garth has said that he will present a short topic, but is hoping that "something will turn up"! The main object of the meeting is to assess members' feelings about returning to face-to-face contact in that size of room, and to map out a programme for the next year.

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



We really struck lucky with our meeting this month, the sun shone and it was warm enough to sit without coats outside on Kay Parker's new addition to her garden - a patio created in lockdown in a sunny position in her lovely extensive garden. We all caught up with the successes and failures of our summer gardening which included a tour of Kay's still colourful garden. Roy Pettitt supplied us all with some of his lovely fruit, pears this time, and showed us a large pear from his tree weighing in at 1lb 2oz. He obviously has the right touch for all the fruit. Thank you to both Roy for the pears and Kay for great refreshments and hosting the meeting.

Next month (4th November at 10.30am) we are not anticipating sitting outside (but who knows with this climate) at Margaret and David Scott's home, when we will be taxing our little grey cells with one of their famous quizzes. Look forward to seeing you there.

Report: LIZ NOBLE

Group Leaders: LINDA HILL / KAY PARKER

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP



For the October meeting we started in Northborough with Geoff Whittle leading the walk. This was the 'Bridgegate Lane' walk and started up the road beside the pub, past the Church and school before leaving the village, crossing the Peakirk road and, along a farm track to get to the river. On the way we met a couple of dumb friends (see picture - make up your own jokes) which was a good excuse for a brief stop. We then walked along the river bank. No Otters to be seen but Eaglets, Herons, Swans and Ducks a plenty.

We turned left at the narrow bridge and then right onto Bridgegate Lane and back on the old road to the pub. Nice weather for an enjoyable 4.5 mile walk. We had lunch at the Packhorse and very excellent it was - can be recommended. Also service was good and efficient.

New members are always welcome, please contact one of us if you fancy a not too hard walk on the first Wednesday of the month. We usually walk between four and five miles. Our Next walk on Wednesday 3rd November will be led by Jo Astle and Margaret Beardshaw - details as usual by email. Report: GEOFF WHITTLE

Group Leaders: GEOFF WHITTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP

The omens didn't look too good as daybreak arrived on the morning of our walk in September, although the forecast suggested that the rain would pass over by midmorning.

However, by the time we arrived at the car park of the White Hart at Ufford, blue skies were the order of the day and 11 Strollers set off, led by Glenys, with Susan as back-marker.

As we walked down the hill, which is lined with cottages dressed in Barnack Rag enhanced by the soft early autumn sunlight, conversation veered from the fortune that Lady Luck had smiled on us again to the last remnants of summer flowers in the various gardens. Happily, once again, there was little mention of the virus which has plagued our lives this last 18 months. Forgive me if I cannot remember it's name!

As we approached Bainton, the group were fascinated by a sheep-dip alongside the road, which looked like it hadn't been used for decades. We then branched off through the quiet village of Ashton where the group photograph was taken which depicts the village green with the village sign which looks it was forged, possibly by a local blacksmith. Passing through the village and up the hill, we cut across fields back to Ufford. Our lunch was taken at The Granary at Willowbrook Farm, located at Helpston Heath.

This month, David and Linda will be leading a stroll on Monday 25 October, starting from Springfields at Spalding, which will take in the Coronation Channel. Members of the group who wish to take part, please contact David or Linda a few days before on 01778 345118 or email at 'mann296@btinternet.com'.

BOB DELLER

Group Leader

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

The group's September outing was to Burghley Park, where the flora and fauna were competing with the vast paraphernalia for the filming of the next series of a popular TV drama - we're not supposed to know which!! So an unexpected species we recorded was that of beautifully turned out carriage horses.

Walking past the house, towards the lake we spotted a heron and mute swans. Our route took us along Queen Elizabeth's Avenue, from where we had some great views of the Stamford churches. We continued along the paths through the trees, some beginning to display autumn colours; the sweet chestnuts were impressive, with plenty of "conkers". We noted the conservation work in progress to preserve the ancient trees, alongside more recent planting of lime avenues. One tree sported an impressive display of bracket fungus. (Our October visit will be to Bourne Woods on a Fungus Foray.) Nuthatches were singing, flying between the trees.

A few of us stayed in the park for a picnic lunch, amidst the comings and goings of the filming. Report: MARGARET BEARDSHAW

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW



Any queries re Coffee Rota please ring Marje Cornish or Glenys Nice

Someone else has 'been out and about' too and shares this delightful photograph with us. (I do wonder what the lambs thoughts were as the group were passing!! ANN)

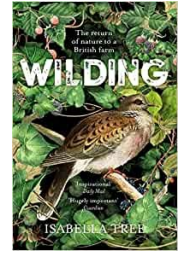


Taken last week on a wet Cumbrian walk, the sheep just watched us as we the crossed a bridge with the water passing either side of them. GODFREY PARKES

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

Our thanks once again to Helen Bembridge for hosting our meeting this month. We were delighted to hear Liz Waterland is making good progress too.

Our book for discussion was the non-fiction *Wilding* by the aptly named Isabella Tree. Although few of us could claim to have read every word because there was considerable technical and scientific detail that felt a little heavy at times, all of the group thought *Wilding* was a fascinating and important book and we all enjoyed it the aspects we'd read, discovering aspects of nature about which we'd been totally ignorant previously. *Wilding* led to passionate discussions about the environment ranging from the potential of Prince Charles to affect change as a future king to the astounding number of microbes in a handful of soil so that the book thoroughly engaged all of us.



Report: LINDA HILL
Group Leader LIZ WATERLAND