



Issue No.218

# The Deepings u3a

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

## NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2021

### AN AUTUMN GARDEN

Thanks to Anne Burton for photographs



#### Programme of Speakers

- 15 November **Its Hell on Wheels – the Learning to Drive industry, by Steve Brown (Admission £2.)**  
Steve aims to bring us up to date with the current car driving test as there have been a lot of changes over the years. Along the way, he will also tell us the funny things learner pupils have asked and said to him over the last 36 years. We will also be having a mock driving lesson - anyone remember Bob Newhart?
- 20 December **Holly & Ivy, Boar’s Head and Grete Pies - A History of Carols, by Kate Witney (see bottom right).**  
Kate Witney will perform and talk about some lesser known and ancient carols and the stories behind them. Kate is a seasoned performer, especially known for her unaccompanied traditional folk singing.

**NOTE:** The November meeting will be at **THE METHODIST CHURCH**, Deeping St. James. The December meeting (**ticket only—see column on right**) will be at the **CORONATION HALL**, Market Deeping. Doors open at 9.30 am. To enable us to set out chairs, etc. **please do not arrive before this time.** Coffee is served until 10.20 and meetings begin at 10.30 am.

#### Committee Members 2021/2022

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Elaine Batchelor
Treasurer	Anne Burton
Deputy Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Membership Secretary	Liz Noble
Speaker Finder	Lyll Seale
Group Co-ordination Team:	June Wheatcroft
	Phil Jones
	Jennifer Rogers
Vote of Thanks Organiser	Kath Allen
Newsletter Editor	Ann Holmes
Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster	David Scott

### ‘MARGARET’S MUSINGS’



As I introduce myself as the new Chair (man/woman/person?) of the Deepings u3a, it is a great pleasure to be able to begin my first “musings” by anticipating welcoming you to the first post-lockdown monthly meeting with a speaker.

It was good to see so many members at the AGM last month and we can now look forward to regular monthly meetings. (Please remember to follow the measures to control Covid by wearing a mask – unless you are exempt – when moving around the hall).

I would like to thank the retiring members of the Committee for their service and all members of the Committee and Group Leaders for their work to keep us in touch during the past months. In recognition of his 11 years service on the Committee in various guises - the last four as Chairman - Garth Perry has been made a Life Member of Deepings u3a.

It is heartening to see groups emerging from “quarantine”. Beginning with those able to meet outdoors, more activities are restarting. We are always happy to welcome new groups.

The Newsletter has been a welcome source of interest and contact in recent months and I shall enjoy sharing my thoughts with you in the future.

I now look forward to my drive along the Welland from Crowland to meet many of you on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

*Margaret*

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

This delicious cake, baked by Liz (our Membership Secretary), greeted your committee as we arrived for our last meeting prior to the AGM where sadly we had to say goodbye to two of our members—our Chairman, Garth, and Secretary, Ann (Parkes).



Needless to say the meeting was kept as short as possible.. Thanks Liz, the cake tasted fabulous.

### CHRISTMAS MEETING TICKETS ON SALE: coffee – speaker - mince pies

20<sup>th</sup> December in the Coronation Hall and entry is by **ticket only - tickets are £3** and can be reserved by contacting Liz Noble. Tickets also available at the November meeting in the Methodist Church Deeping St James.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

January to December 2022

Renewal time again and here is how:

1. Application form is attached to the November Newsletter
2. Subscriptions are £10 for full membership, £6 for Affiliated members who belong to another U3A.
3. Methods to pay—reluctantly we are not accepting cash this year for security reasons.

### Either pay by:

BACS or TELEPHONE BANKING—please quote your membership number and surname.

CHEQUE payable to “The DeepingsU3A”

### ALL methods of payment require a completed application form:

REMOTE BANKING PAYMENT forms should be signed, scanned and emailed .

CHEQUES should be enclosed with the completed Application form, and posted or delivered to me at: **Membership Secretary**

New badges will be delivered or posted to you as quickly as possible.

If you have any queries please ring me and I look forward to receiving the subscription in due course.

LIZ NOBLE

## NOTICE (1)

### \*\*\*\*\* U3A 2022 Diaries \*\*\*\*\*

A very limited number of U3A 2022 Diaries have been ordered and hopefully will be available for our first ‘live’ meeting. The diaries cost £3.20 each. If you would like to reserve one, please ring or text “The Diary Lady”, June Wheatcroft

NB. As the price is £3.20, please bring the correct money as getting change is difficult.



## GROUP NEWS

### U3A “PACERS” WALKING GROUP



On a rainy November morning, eight of the Pacers Walking Group met at Fineshades Wood for the last walk of 2021. Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable walk with the beautiful autumn colours, good views across the countryside and good walking trails underfoot.

As always we finished the morning with a very welcome lunch at the Cafe.

Report: JO ASTLE  
Group Leader: GEOFF WHITTLE

Photo: STEVE WHITE

### U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



This month we stayed firmly indoors away from the winds and exercised our little grey cells on one of Margaret and David Scott’s excellent quizzes they traditionally put together.

Thank you to them for hosting the meeting. We all had a good laugh and also had a tour of their fascinating garden which was still full of colour.

We are Christmas lunching next month and looking forward to a new year programme. Report: LIZ NOBLE

Group Leaders: LINDA HILL / KAY PARKER

## NOTICE (2)

Since we formed in 2003 our entrance fee to monthly meetings has been a £1, but regretfully running costs have increased (speakers, hall hire etc.) over 18 years and so as from the November meeting the entrance will be increased to £2. Coffee provided too of course so it is still really good value!

### U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



*'Hail, humble Helpstone ! Where thy valleys spread, And thy mean village lifts its lowly head; Unkown to grandeur, and unkown to fame; No minstrel boasting to advance thy name:.....' John Clare.*

As you may have guessed the theme for our walk this month was very much based on the countryside John Clare strode whilst constructing his poems. In fact we started off the day by organising our post walk lunch at the Bluebell Inn at Helpston where John Clare was a pot washer in his youth.

We then went on to commence our listed John Clare walk from Ufford through Southey Woods and back via High Field road and the edge of Jubilee Wood. The 4.5 mile (approx.) circular walk covered varied terrain, including pathways, drove ways, woodland paths, lanes, and fields.

On this warm and pleasant October day the morning proved to be an interesting new walk for the 'Wanderers' walking group.

Report: HUGH CASSIDY Photo: ANNE CASSIDY  
Group Leaders HILARY & BARRY AKAM

### U3A CYCLING GROUP



With Autumn firmly established, the weather on 15th October was ideal for cycling – a cornflower blue sky with cotton wool clouds and not too hot or cold. Four of us ventured out on the route this time organised by Kevin.

Starting out from Market Deeping Bridge we headed to West Deeping, left at Lolham Corner and through Maxey. Turning right towards Etton but cutting through the tunnels under the A15 before Etton. On to Glington (see photo) and the back lane eventually bringing us out on the Peakirk Road. Heading back to Deeping St James the route led us along the river towards the Priory Church and on to Back Lane. Then along Stowgate Road eventually leading to Frognall and finally lunch at The Goat having covered 16 miles.

Thank you Kevin for organising such an imaginative route mainly on cycle tracks and avoiding main roads.  
Family History Group Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE

### U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



Unfortunately we had to change the planned talk for our October Meeting at the last moment due to internet connection problems at the Community Centre, but hopefully we will be able to hear Stephen Perry's talk in 2022.

Twelve of the Family History Group met in the Community Centre and I spoke of the story of the 'British Home Children', a subject I had learned more about over the first lockdown. A subject not well known in our history. Over 118,000 children from our children's homes and through 50 charities, were sent to Canada to work on farms or as domestics from the 1800's until as late as 1948. Dr Barnardo's sent 33,000 of them. The children were believed by the Canadians to be orphans, but only about 2% of them were. We then watched a video from the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association about their story which showed many individual photos of the children and told of the horrific treatment some of them received from the families they were sent to.

The desire to get back to the UK was also highlighted by the number of young boys who enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, knowing they would be sent back to the UK for training before going to France, so reconnect with families again. Suicide was also another way of escaping the torture and horror of their lives. It was not a pleasant video to watch but told a really powerful story.

The scheme not only sent children to Canada but also to Australia, New Zealand and Rhodesia not ending until the 1970's. Prime Minister Gordon Brown in 2010 apologised to the British Home children on behalf of the government for its role in the scheme, the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd had apologised in 2009, but there has been no formal federal apology from the Canadians.

At our November meeting we will hear from Anne Cassidy and the subject will be 'The Military and our Ancestors'.

JEAN BRENNAND  
Group Leader



### U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

In October we finally managed a proper meeting at Terry's. We started by expressing our heartfelt thanks to Terry for producing and delivering a disc with a member's programme of music every month since lockdown began. Today's programme was from Anne Jones, with the theme of numbers.

We began with Opus **One**, composed by Gene Krupa and sung by Anita O'Day. From American jazz to very a English folk song: Early One Morning, sung by a tenor and two harp-playing sopranos. Purcell's Fantasia on one note played by London Baroque preceded a lovely rendition of Inchworm by Danny Kaye and the Muppets.

Poulenc's **Four** motets for Christmas were followed by Hammerstein's 'I am **16** going on **17**'. A numerical leap of **50** took us to Route **66** sung by Nat King Cole before travelling to Iowa for **76** Trombones and a live performance from the Proms. The Bible gave us three figure numbers in the form of Psalms, **100**, **122** (two versions) and **150**. The Parry setting of 'I was glad' for the 1953 Coronation included the shouted "Vivats" by the choirs. The penultimate piece was Honnigar's Pacific **231** which ably captured, in music, the journey of that train from slowly starting to gently coming to a halt after speeding across the USA.

Finally we heard the full choral version of Tchaikovsky's **1812** Overture, a fitting ending to our numerical journey. Thank you Anne and Terry for the programme and Liz for the drinks and biscuits, so important when listening to music!  
Report: CHRIS HARTLEY

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

### U3A QUIZ GROUP

Join us for a friendly, non-competitive, trawl through your general knowledge. We meet on the second Friday in the afternoon, at members houses, if suitable, and the questions are set by the host. If you don't know the answers you may learn something!



DAVID MACVITE  
Group Leader

**U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP**



Our October meeting was a visit to Julie's garden at Glington. Thirteen members were present and after looking round the garden we had a light hearted quiz with a

garden theme. Members had been asked to bring a flower (or flowers) which had been very successful during the Summer. Over tea/coffee and cakes there was much discussion with names and information exchanged.

Our next meeting will be on the 10th. November at Sue's home at Maxey. Photo: JULIE FITZJOHN Report: JEAN FOSTER

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

**U3A QUILTING GROUP**

Unfortunately there was only a small group of members at this months meeting due to other commitments.



Members who had completed their blocks bought them in ready for Ann to sash together to form the front of the quilt that is being made for charity. Outstanding blocks to be handed in at the next meeting please. The theme for the quilt is animals and suitable for a child. Thanks to all who contributed.

The squares were made of scrap materials from member's stashes. At the next meeting it is hope to extend our knowledge of different quilting techniques.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS  
Group Leader:

**“This is my wish for you” by Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Comfort on difficult days,  
Smiles when sadness intrudes,  
Rainbows to follow the clouds,  
Laughter to kiss your lips,  
Sunsets to warm your heart,  
Hugs when spirits sag,  
Beauty for your eyes to see,  
Friendships to brighten your being,  
Faith so that you can believe,  
Confidence for when you doubt,  
Courage to know yourself,  
Patience to accept the truth  
Love to complete your life.

This poem was passed to me - I think by Irene Beeken - when I was desperate for items at the beginning of lockdown. I discovered it again this morning whilst looking for something to fill an awkward space. Apart from bringing tears to my eyes, it seemed appropriate for the time we are living through . A

**U3A HISTORY GROUP**

**REFLECTIONS ON LIFE—Speaker TOBY WOOD**

At long last we have met face to face and wasn't it good?

There was a tonic for us all today as Toby read through and recited a selection of thoughts from the past. His sense of humour travelled through the group so there was lot of laughter and smiling, something I think we all have missed as it has been in short supply recently.



Country dancing

We went away with a free book of poems and Toby has promised to visit again next year. Something to look forward to. An extract from his book is printed below.

Nine months old  
I'm sitting here watching  
Him over there  
Doing what they call walking.  
I fancy that.  
Here goes!  
69 years old  
I'm sitting here thinking  
This garden's getting too much for me.  
The grass is growing high and the weeds keep on coming.  
I think I'll just sit down and take my shoes off.  
Here goes

The above are verses for Here Goes on page 6 of his book. It takes in decades, from 9 months to 89 years. Doesn't time go by quickly! The



School Play and the word SNOGGING came into mind.

Thank you to everyone who helped out today. It was bit of trial and error but it seemed to work OK. It was great to see our volunteers back, just as if we had never been away!

Next month we will be facing the front again as we will need to see the screen.

SANDRA JONES  
Group

**U3A CRAFT GROUP 2**



We have been tackling iris folding for the last two months and made two successful cards. We thought it was about time to look at Christmas items in November .....the year seems to have run away with us even though we haven't been out much!



No idea what will turn up but still fun I hope! 15<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm.

LIZ NOBLE  
Group Leader

**U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

**TOULOUSE LAUTREC**  
 24/11/1864 -9/09/1901 (aged 36)

Comte Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa was a French painter, printmaker, draughtsman, caricaturist and illustrator whose immersion in the colourful and theatrical life of Paris in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century allowed him to produce a collection of enticing, elegant and provocative images of the modern, sometimes decadent affairs of those times.



He has become associated with the world of Moulin Rouge. He was the first of the poster designers. He suffered from a rare genetic bone disorder (PYCD) that resulted from a fracture of both thighs at the same time. The fractures took a long time to heal and the bones didn't grow again. This resulted in his having a body of a man whilst having the legs of a child. He was 5feet 1 inches tall.

The disease's long name is pycnodysostosis if you want to look it up!!



His art works are known worldwide. Unfortunately he was an alcoholic for much of his life and died of syphilis. He is buried in Verdelaix, Gironde, a few kilometres from his birth place.



SANDRA JONES  
 Group Leader

**U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP**

You've never heard of them



After such a long break due to covid, four of us were finally able to meet up again on 27th October at Phil Jones's. For the occasion, Phil devised a most unusual programme called "Never Heard of Them"! This referred to the artists and musicians concerned and was based on a collection of CDs which had been bequeathed to Anne Jones for disposal.

"Stompin'" at the Savoy and "Oh, Lady be Good" by Mel Powell and the amazing "Drum Face Lift" with Trevor Richards were examples included in this programme. Also included were Amy Roberts "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", Dan Barrett with "Quasimodo" and Jay McShann with "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter". All of these plus much more.

As a bonus, Phil provided informative programme notes to enhance the listening experience. Thank you Phil for providing such a memorable and interesting programme.

Our next meeting will be held at Terry Noble's house on 24th November. Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leaders PHIL JONES / ANE JONES

Hope the illustration doesn't offend anyone—was searching for something suitable and this one made me laugh so I thought I would risk sharing it! ANN

**U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP**

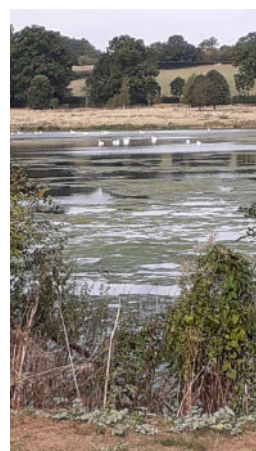


Our October walk took us back to Northamptonshire where on a fine morning Steve Hanson led 18 walkers. Leaving the Cross Keys Inn at King's Cliffe we passed the church and water mill before reaching the undulating countryside and whilst doing some extra miles, we were soon back on the original track and passing the Holy Trinity Church in the grounds of the former Blatherwycke Hall before reaching the delightful village of Blatherwycke with its white peacock and providing fine views across the lake where we were able to see a heron and black swan on the lake.

Leaving the village we then headed north-easterly, joining the Jurassic Way until reaching Fineshade where we turned eastwards through Westhay Wood, climbing numerous stiles before exiting onto Wood Lane and dropping back down into King's Cliffe, where a welcome meal and drink was served at the Cross Keys Inn.

Many thanks to Steve for organising both the walk and the meal.

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES /DAVID SCOTT



**U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP**



On a lovely autumn day in October, 13 members Of the Natural History group went to Bourne Woods on a Fungus Foray. The fungi proved hard to spot at first but soon we were spotting them everywhere.

The best places were off the track, near old tree trunks and branches and hidden amongst the grass and plants.

With the help of a book, we



identified types such as sulphur tuft, clitocybe, candlesnuff, brackets, puffball and a destroying angel, a beautiful white mushroom which we were told was deadly poisonous. The fungi themselves are varied in shape, colour and size, fascinating and beautiful, well worth the search. Report: JO ASTLE

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

## U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Nineteen walkers started from the Crab & Winkle public house, Werrington. The walk consisted of a six mile "figure of eight" route to Glington and back. Luckily we had fine, but blustery weather and thankfully no rain.

We headed towards Glington through Werrington's tree-lined avenues towards and over the metal railway footbridge. Walking up to the end of Foxcovert Lane we crossed St. Pega's Road and entered the woodland path down to the Welland. Turning left on N. Fen Road we then headed into Glington



On route we stopped to discuss the meaning of the dwelling named "Cordwainers House" and then viewed the home known as Balcony House and its unusual garden features. At Glington Church (St. Benedict) we viewed and discussed the Mooning Gargoyle and the unusual Double Headstone anomaly. From the church we walked past the Bluebell public house, onto Rectory Lane, beside Glington playpark, after turning right to take us to Lincoln Road. A left turn took us over the concrete overpass back onto Lincoln Road.

After a 100yards we swung sharp left onto a track across open fields, back to the metal railway crossing footbridge. Next a right turn (Sergeant Lane) led us back to a fine lunch, kindly presented by the Crab & Winkle.

Report: RICHARD COULSON

Group Leader: STEVE HANSON

## U3A POETRY GROUP

Once again we held our November meeting at Kathleen's, who made us most welcome. Thank you Kathleen.

We were without three members due to other commitments, but they sent in their choices for us to read out so we had a very good variation of poems beginning with the letter 'S', some very funny.

'Sam the Paraffin Man' and 'Silver', both by Pam Ayres'; 'The Scarecrow' by W D C Mere; 'St. Luke's Summer' by N C Nicholson; 'She walks in beauty' by Lord Byron; 'Solitaire' by Rose T Cooke; 'Seaside Golf', and 'Slough', by John Betjeman; 'Sighing for Retirement', by John Clare.

Halfway through our afternoon, 'Suprise' 'Suprise' a lovely chocolate cake was brought into the room and 'Happy Birthday' was sung for my 'Special' Birthday' what a lovely afternoon, and many thanks to all members of the Group for your kindness.

IRENE BEEKEN  
Group Leader

*I had requested a photo of Irene, cake and group members but in all the excitement no one remembered to record the occasion. Fortunately I had a photograph 'taken earlier' - in fact on her actual birthday! Congratulations from us all Irene—"here's to the next ten!" Ann*



## Help! - Singing Group needs new leader

The Singing Group has been successfully meeting since the formation of the Deeping U3A under the leadership of Peter Lofts, who acted as both Musical Director and Accompanist. As well as meeting twice a month the group performed at some of the Christmas U3A Meetings and joined the Accordion Group at various local Care Homes to entertain the residents. The Singing Group also joined some other local U3A Singing groups from Peterborough, Spalding and Stamford for a joint Sing Along organised by the Stamford Group.

The group sings a wide variety of music so there is something for everyone to enjoy. The group has about 15 members and used to meet twice a month on Tuesdays at the Catholic Church which is no longer available, but we have found an alternative venue in Deeping. The group has not been able to sing for over 18 months due to Covid but being a sociable group has organised non-singing get togethers including a recent coffee morning in July of this year.

Unfortunately Peter Lofts has, after very careful consideration, decided to retire so the group is currently without a Musical Director and Accompanist. If anyone in the U3A may be interested in leading the Singing Group, or knows of someone locally who could be interested, could they contact the groups administrator David Perkins. If the group cannot find a new leader then unfortunately it will have to close.

DAVID PERKINS  
Group Contact

## U3A "STROLLER'S" WALKING GROUP

Another bright autumn morning set the scene for October's stroll, which saw a return to Spalding and a walk along both banks of the River Welland.



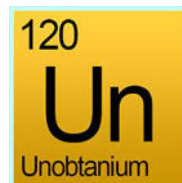
Setting off from the car park at Springfields and not tempted by taking advantage of the water taxi, 11 Strollers walked along the east bank of the river, passing the church and Ayscough Hall and the adjacent park. After crossing the river, we strolled along it's west bank, before making our way back to our starting point and lunch at Springfield's garden centre.

This month's stroll will be led by Geoff Fitzjohn and will take place on Monday 22 November. Details of the walk and the meeting up arrangements will be forwarded to members of the group in due course.

BOB DELLER  
Group Leader

## U3A SCIENCE GROUP

As hoped, "something turned up" in time for our October meeting! Garth shared a short video, which he had been sent by a friend, which concerned the wonder material "Unobtanium", which was going to solve the world's energy problems. The video, even though it seemed a biased view by an American Professor, who possibly was associated with the oil industry, asked the question, which I am sure many of us ask, about whether the green lobby are really aware of, or telling us, the true cost of reducing emissions. It certainly had the desired effect of stimulating a good discussion.



Most of our Members felt comfortable with size of the meeting room, and we made a start on mapping out our forward programme. In lieu of our November meeting, we joined the Bourne Railway Society for a presentation about the building a replica of a B17 mainline railway engine from scratch. None of these impressive engines had been preserved when they went out of service. They were common in East Anglia, and many had names of famous houses in our area.

It was decided that our December date was too close to Christmas for a normal meeting, and that we wouldn't have room for any more turkey by then, so our programme will restart in January 2022.

GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT  
Group Leaders

You may have thought David Scott hasn't been 'out and about' this month but you **might** be wrong. This wonderful berry bush (I'm no gardener) could be in his own garden or elsewhere but either way it saved the day! A



If you are interested in joining any of the groups please contact the Group Leader in the first instance. Some of the Groups may be full but many are able to take more members. Where there is a waiting list the Leader will add you to it. In some cases it may be possible to start another group. Also a member of our Group Co-ordination team - see Committee list on page 1 - will also be pleased to offer you any help they can to find the right group for you.

Any queries re Coffee Rota please contact Marje Cornish or Glenys Nice.

All telephone numbers given in the Activities list are the Deepings code 01778 unless otherwise shown.

My thanks once again to Lin Witherington for her help with proof reading. A

**CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER**

**Deepings U3A Groups Activity List**