



Issue No.219



The Deepings u3a

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2021

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



'MARGARET'S MUSINGS'



I write this looking forward to our Christmas Party Meeting. It has been good for groups to be able to arrange seasonal gatherings again this year, albeit reduced in scale and numbers and with a degree of caution. (No kissing under the mistletoe!)

This month's musings cannot escape a reference to that British preoccupation – the weather. The stormy weather is hardly Christmassy, is it? Still, the prospect of seasonal snow, unusual for our part of the country nowadays, is rarely welcome for travellers. I experienced my first snow of the winter as I returned from family in Manchester; it was a beautiful landscape viewed from the train window, the train which was nearly two hours behind schedule! However this is nothing compared with the hardships being endured in some parts of the country and let's hope that they may soon have warm, bright homes.

We look forward to getting together for all our **u3a** activities in 2022.

Margaret
Chair.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

January to December 2022

Lots of forms already received – thank you, but this is a little reminder to those who haven't yet renewed and here are a few problems that have been encountered:

I apologise if the wording after the members' details box appears to be misleading – PLEASE complete the members' details box in full **and if** the details are the same as last year **then** tick or highlight the little box underneath. I have this year received forms with the box ticked but without name or address etc. which is a challenge to know who the forms are from!

Apparently completing the form on line has proved difficult to insert the cross in the BACs or Cheque box. Please just highlight the appropriate name BACs or CHEQUE.

PLEASE don't forget to look at page 2 and either SIGN or enter your email if completing on line and please date it.

Badges for 2022 will be distributed asap – SAEs are appreciated for those outside Deeping.

The renewal form was sent out with the November newsletter.

Many thanks
LIZ NOBLE
Membership Secretary

Committee Members 2021/2022

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

Programme of Speakers

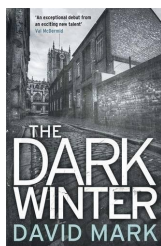
- 20 December **HOLLY & IVY, BOARS HEAD AND GRETE PIES**
A History of Carols, by Kate Witney, who will perform and talk about some lesser known and ancient carols and the stories behind them. This meeting is at the Coronation Hall, Market Deeping. Doors open 9.30 am with coffee served until 10.20 am. Due to Covid restrictions entrance is by pre-purchased ticket only.
- 2021
- 17 January **FARMING AND WILDLIFE** by Nicholas Watts.
- 21 February **DEEPING ON SEA** by Greg Guthrie.
- 21 March **LIFE AT NORMAN CROSS**, the world's first POW Camp by Stuart Orme.

GROUP NEWS

It has been difficult this year for some groups to get their reports published in the 'current month' due to the way the calendar has been. I am hoping 2022 will be easier but I have been presented with a problem this month. I have November AND December reports for some Groups. It seemed only fair to print them all so if the January issue proves to be a little sparse, please bear with me!

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

Our group had its November meeting at Helen's house again this month and enjoyed being in the sun in her lovely garden room. We were discussing this month's book, which was *The Dark Winter* by David Mark. It threw us four surprises!



First, we had all been surprised that we hadn't come across this author before, since he has written nine other books and some plays as well but this, his first book was new to all of us.

Hector McAvoy, the detective hero was the next surprise – unlike so many fictional detectives, he is a gently giant of a man with such a strong sense of justice and morality that he has blown the whistle on corrupt colleagues, forcing the creation of a new crime unit but leaving him an outsider in the group. He also has a happy home life with his wife and young son and a new baby on the way, he doesn't have a drink problem and he isn't bitter and twisted!

The third surprise was the plot, which links three apparently unrelated murders of innocent victims in a very clever way and which unfolds gradually and convincingly throughout the book. The killer is suffering from PTSD and has created his own quasi-religious morality to justify his actions; his identity kept us guessing.

And the final surprise was that the book is set in Hull, and the city is so well written about, it becomes almost another character. David Mark interweaves some evocative and skilful descriptions, as a result of his long journalistic career with the Yorkshire Post and which make the story even more convincing.

The majority verdict was that this was a very clever and enjoyable debut novel, and that we would certainly read more by this author. Our next meeting will be our Christmas meal and will be held at Mary's house.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP (NOVEMBER)

Our programme for 10th November was devised by Jim Pringle. Jim's programme took the form as tribute to the renowned, late Dutch conductor Bernard Haitink (1929 – 2021) who died in October. In total we heard a selection of four pieces. Jim related some of his own memories of attending concerts given by this great man.



Glyndboune's overture and Act 1 from Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte* provided the opening piece – a wonderful example of Mozart's musical inventiveness. This was followed by the third movement (Adagio) of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony. This piece, although troubled, achieved a lyrical serenity. On to Mahler and one of his early folk song arrangements *Wenn mein Schatz Hochzeit macht* sung by Jessye Norman. Staying with Mahler, the Finale of his Symphony no. 2 provided a fitting final to the morning's listening.

Thank you Jim for putting this programme together – a fitting tribute to the legacy left by this great musician.

During the morning we took a few moments to remember one of our group members, Jessie Turner.

Our next meeting will be on 8th December at Phil Jones' house.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

U3A 'WANDERERS' WALKING GROUP



You don't have to travel too far north and west of the Deepings to encounter some beautiful rolling Lincolnshire countryside, and that's exactly the direction taken by the Wanderers for their November walk.

Having first rendezvoused at The Six Bells in Witham on the Hill to order lunch we made our way to Swinstead where we parked near the St Mary Church [c1200] before striding out over the undulating fields towards Crow Wood. Unusually, for this time of the year, the weather was sunny with a blue sky and a soft wind. The rolling countryside was at its autumnal best with its fields freshly ploughed and beautifully tinted warm leaf colours in its woods.

Before we got to Crow Wood we had to pause for a while on the track to allow a shoot to finish. As we stood on the path partridge and pheasant whirred overhead, driven over the guns which were further down the field. For a few moments the air was full of noise and birds, and then suddenly it was over and the gundogs ran in to pick up those which had been shot and cheerful beaters walked past with their red flags and sticks.

Once through Crow Wood we had sight over the rolling parkland of the lake and Grimsthorpe Castle. Then it was down to the ford at the end of the lake and up Maize Hill to the plantation at the top. Pausing only to look at several crows mobbing a buzzard we went through the wood, disturbing some deer en route and then wandered back to Swinstead and our cars.

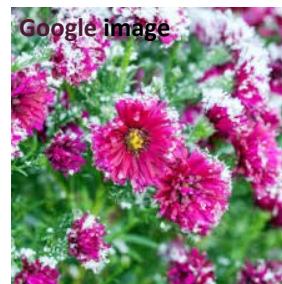
All too soon we were back at The Six Bells and enjoying an outstanding lunch. Many thanks to Peter Lomas for organising such a lovely walk.

December's walk will probably be a local one and afterwards we will be looking at the programme for 2022.

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP (NOVEMBER)

In November we returned to a popular venue for the group - Sue's garden at Maxey. There had been rain overnight but the morning was warm and free. The many trees were showing different colours and quite a lot of plants were still in flower. Members had been asked to bring a posy from their own garden and it was surprising how many plants were still blooming.



We later discussed arrangements for our Christmas lunch (to be held in January) and all present wish to attend. Our December Meeting will be at Jane's house in Deeping St. Nicholas, when we will be making Christmas arrangements.
Report: JEAN FOSTER

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING ON PAGE 5

U3A WATERCOLOUR GROUP



The watercolour painting is a new group that started in October with 12 members of mixed ability. A very friendly group sharing techniques and past experiences to those who are beginners.

We have now met twice, some members continuing with paintings ongoing and others bringing in flowers and still life objects to paint. At our November meeting we also looked at ideas for painting our own Christmas cards.

JAN FISK
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



On a mild but cloudy November morning 18 members undertook a very pleasant 5.5 mile walk led by Brian and Norah Littler.

Commencing from the Sugar Mill at Bourne we, headed north in the direction of Bourne Town Centre before winding our way along the side of the church and the market area to arrive at the northern end of the town. From here we progressed down the footpath at the side of the Esso garage (Christopher Lane) alongside the narrow stream before entering into Bourne Woods, where we arrived just before the planned 11am.

As this was Remembrance Day we were able to observe a two minute silence within the woods in line with the boom that resonated from the town in Bourne.

Continuing on through the woods and back into Bourne we then entered the outskirts of the Elsea Park Estate noting the expanding nature of that estate since we last did a walk in this area. It was then back through this estate to the Sugar Mill for a very pleasant meal. Many thanks to Brian and Norah for organising the walk and arranging the lunch.

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT

DECEMBER WALKING GROUP REPORT ON PAGE 6

U3A QUILTING GROUP



Group members at the November meeting decided that they would continue to produce quilts for charity with using samples of work previously quilted. Everyone bought in a rich assortment of squares that Liz very kindly cut to a standard size. There were enough squares to complete three more quilts.

What looks like chaos in the picture of the group ended up with a firm plan of action. So work starts in earnest - Ann taking on the task of completing the animal theme quilt with each member contributing a block and using a new technique in joining blocks together; Marlene completing a quilt from Batik squares she had started and myself and Liz using the other random fabrics for two scrappy quilts. Carol was working on a cushion and small quilt using foundation paper piecing. This is a technique we are going to try out in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope it's a

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader.

U3A CHURCH MICE GROUP

Twenty four members of 'Church Mice' had their November visit to the Church of All Saints at Dunsby. This church, built about 1200AD, serves a village of 40 houses and approximately 100 people.



Pamela gave us an interesting talk about the church and its development through the centuries. As always the Victorians decided to add to other changes in the 14th and 15th centuries. In 1954 the vicar was shorter than normal and decided to cut the legs off the altar table so that he could be seen! Later vicars restored it to a normal height.

After the talk Pamela gave us a rendition on the organ and then supplied us with tea and plenty of cakes. A truly multi-talented lady.

HENRY ROBERTS
Group Leader

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

It was "quality rather than quantity" for our November meeting as only three of our group were able to attend. However, we enjoyed a wide and varied selection of contributions ranging from wartime bands such as The Squadronaires (*Beat me Daddy, eight to a bar*) and Joe Loss (*South of the Border*) through to the Modern Jazz Quartet (*Morning Sunrise*) and the Jacque Lousier Trio with a most beguiling and sensitive version of J.S.Bach's *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* from his Cantata 147.



We decided that during December we would not meet as the scheduled date is too close to Christmas so our next meeting will take place on 26th January – venue to be decided.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leaders PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

U3A HISTORY GROUP

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN BY JIM WINSTONE

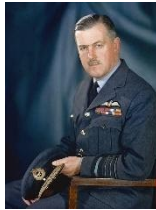
We were treated to a very interesting talk this morning. Jim is obviously a very knowledgeable expert on the history and logistics of The Battle of Britain. A few of our members were alive in 1940 and at the end of the talk one of our members told us that a relative of her, was, indeed, **One of the Few**.

It is almost impossible to relate the facts given to us at the meeting but the photographs included in this report give a flavour of the vast amount of research Jim had undertaken to provide us with an hour of education

These three men were major influences on the outcome of the war



Hugh Dowding
(Air Chief Marshal).
Nickname: Stuffy.
Buried at Westminster
Abbey.



Air Chief Marshal
Trafford Leigh
Mallory (died in a
plane crash in 1944 at
Chamonix).



Keith Park, Air Chief
Marshal. New
Zealander. Nickname:
The Defender of
London.



Airmen waiting for their orders to scramble. Runways were of grass. No need to line up to get airborne.

Hurricane v Spitfire

Radar and its contribution to the war effort.



The women who worked such long hours tracking aircraft and who were often the forgotten heroes. (As were many other female workers of the time).

For further information about this incredible war effort, Jim suggests a book entitled: **The Secret Spitfires by Howman and Cetinas with Gavin Clarke.** (There is also a film with the same title).

A very big THANK YOU Jim and to everyone who helped with the organization of the event.

Next Month we will have Stuart Orme's Medieval Christmas.

Best Wishes for Christmas 2021 and New Year 2022.

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

"WE WILL REMEMBER



U3A CYCLING GROUP (NOVEMBER)



November's bike ride saw five of us, on a warm and bright autumn morning, start from Market Deeping to Langtoft.

From Langtoft we proceeded to Greatford and then onto Essendine through some lovely autumn views across the fields and via a slight unplanned detour (navigational error). From Essendine the route then went via Barholm, again via an unplanned detour (2nd navigational error).

From Barholm we continued down King's Street to West Deeping crossroads and from there back into Market Deeping. Here we enjoyed a really well earned lunch at the Stage after our planned 16.5 mile ride had turned into a 20.5 mile one (due to the two detours).

Even taking into account the extra four miles, the ride was enjoyable and every one is looking forward to our next ride which will be brought forward by a week to Friday 10th December due to Xmas activities.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE

DECEMBER REPORT PAGE 6

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

For our November meeting we chose "Our Military Ancestors" and Anne Cassidy gave an interesting talk on her Military Ancestors that she had researched back through the generations like a "Who Do You Think You Are".



She spoke of her Father who served in WW2, back to her Grandfather and Great Grandfather a Colour Sergeant, who were regular Royal Marines, and Great Great Grandfather a Sergeant who also served in the Royal Marines. Her Uncle she explained received the Legion D'Honneur from the French government in May 2020 for helping to free France in WW2.

She showed display boards of photos, letters, medals, certificates, postcards, newspaper articles and her Grandfather's Royal Marine uniform, that she had inherited from the family, and a photo of her Grandfather and four of his brothers taken in the early 1900's. After much research she was able to identify each individual member of the family. The meeting continued with questions and other members speaking of their research into their ancestors and the Military.

December's meeting is to be our Christmas Meal and traditional end of year quiz by Peg.

JEAN BRENNAND
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our grateful thanks to group member Kay Parker for organising our Christmas meal at Waterside this month. We had a tasty, and very filling, lunch in excellent company. Sadly we missed several group members who were unable to attend. The meal made a super start to the festive season.

We don't meet in January so until our meeting in February 2022 (where have the last two years vanished to?) here's wishing all group members a happy Christmas and a healthy 2022.

Report LINDA HILL

Photo: DAVID SCOTT

Group Leaders LINDA HILL / KAY PARKER

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Nine members of the Wednesday Gardening Group met at Jane's house in Deeping St. Nicholas to make Christmas arrangements and/or wreaths. Everyone brought their own materials in the form of greenery, flowers, tinsel and Christmas baubles etc. We all enjoyed meeting up and having a good chat and, furthermore, the finished items were very varied and professional-looking (although we said so ourselves!)



Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch at the Oasis on Wednesday, 12th January at 11.30 am ready to sit down to eat at 12 noon.

Report: JANE COOKE

Group leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group is now functioning normally and has enjoyed examining topics such as "Crime and Punishment", "The Refugee Problem", and "Is Technology Making Us Less Human?".



New members are most welcome to our friendly gatherings which are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 10am-noon. Please contact me for further details -

JIM WINSTONE
Group Leader

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Thanks to Heather Bumfrey we tackled an interesting trifold Christmas card which was quite taxing to get it to stand properly! We also welcomed Anita Setchfield to our group and are looking forward to some new ideas from her in due course.



Google pic.

We usually have a planning type get-together at the Christmas meeting and enjoy a mince pie or cake and decide on projects for the new year. See you all on 20th December at 2pm at 102 Church Street Deeping St. James.

LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP (DECEMBER)

KANDINSKY

Wassily Kandinsky was born on December 16th 1866, in Moscow. He grew up in a bourgeois, cultured family and learned to play the piano and the cello. In 1886 he began to study law and economics at the Moscow University. After passing his exams he started a teaching career at the Moscow Faculty of Law. He had many interests and apparently a great gift to teach himself different skills.



In 1895 Kandinsky saw an exhibition of French impressionists in Moscow with paintings by Monet and others. He was, at first confused and later described how upset he was about Monet's painting *The Haystack*. He thought the painter had no right to paint things in a way that made it difficult to recognize the subject.

In 1896, at the age of 30, he decided to start a new career as an artist and enrolled in the Munich Academy of Fine Arts for four years. He became the theorist of abstract painting. In 1910 he created his first abstract work—a watercolour. In 1912 he published a book on the theory of abstraction. In 1922 he went back to Germany to teach and work at the Bauhaus in Dessau until 1933.

When the German Nazis came to power in 1933 all modern art was considered as degenerated art and the Bauhaus was closed.



Kandinsky's works there were removed from German museums and confiscated.

The artist's next destination was Neuilly near Paris where he remained until his death in 1944.

Art Appreciation is due to start on the 3rd Tuesday in January. It will be a social event as I am sure everyone will be pleased to see each other. £2 subs. 10am until 12noon. Coffee and biscuits available. We have a preliminary programme arranged and will share it with you in January, when it is finalized.

Have a good Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

As we anticipated, by our scheduled meeting date of 21st December, most of our members will be doing a "Vicar of Dibley" and staggering from one Christmas dinner to another, and not have the time for a meeting, or the ability to sit bent over their stomachs for a couple of hours! There will be no meeting in December.



We wish all our Members a joyous and peaceful Christmas, and a happy New Year.

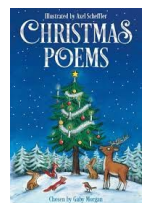
We will kick off the New Year on Tuesday January 18th at 2pm, in the Community Centre, when David Blessett will give us a talk on "The Measurement of Time" – perhaps he will explain where this year has gone!

Report: GARTH PERRY

Group Leaders GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

Our December meeting was held at Kathleen's home and we had decided to have a Christmas Theme. Everyone came up with a very wide choice of poems, some sad, some very funny.



We had a most enjoyable afternoon— Angie brought along some refreshments, and thanks to Kath for hosting the meeting.

A Happy Christmas to all U3A members, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



It was an overcast morning when 14 walkers, led by Richard Coulson, left the Plough Inn, at Greetham, on a circular walk to Fort Henry and back.

Initially we headed down Main Street towards the Wheatsheaf Inn, pausing on route to view the unusual dwelling known as Halliday's Folly, built in 1816. At the Weatsheaf we left the road and walked beside the river Gwash, crossing this and walking uphill to the golf course. Skirting the golf course, passing the golf house, we then headed downhill back to the river. Here we were treated to see five alpacas, of varying colours and also a Bug Hotel.

After climbing up and then down two large flights of steps we continued on to reach Fort Henry. The threat of rain then became a reality and for the rest of the walk we were dampened by continuous rain.

On reaching the Plough Inn our spirits were re-vitalised by being presented with an exceptional variety of excellent food. Distance walked just over six miles (three in the dry and three in the wet).

A big thanks to all who have supported the group and led walks this year. Have a great Christmas and Happy New Year in 2022. The next walk will be on 10th January 2022, details to follow.

I still need more volunteers for leading walks from August onwards 2022

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



For our final walk of 2021 we came more local after making the most of the summer to go further afield. On a surprisingly fine day after the recent rains, 18 of us departed from the Waggon and Horses at Langtoft on a six mile circular walk led by David Scott and myself.

Heading northwards we progressed up to Baston before turning westwards through the newish estate before crossing King Street and continuing around the field edges, observing an archaeology dig on route before arriving onto the Baston to Greatford road. From here it was a bit of road work until the village of Greatford was reached before once more we were able to get back walking via the fields as opposed to the road.

The next section of the walk is commonly known as the Long Walk stretching from Greatford all the way back to Langtoft, but at least it led us to the Waggon and Horses where an excellent meal was served. For a December walk and after the rains it was certainly not as muddy as we might have expected.

We both thank you all for the support given to us since we managed to re-start group walking again back in May and wish you all the best for 2022.

Group Leaders GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT

U3A CYCLING GROUP (DECEMBER)

"Ideal kite flying weather" was the remark made by one of the participants in our December ride (one week earlier than normal).

A strong and bitter north-westerly wind was blowing making cycling against it quite an effort. However, undaunted, four of us set off from the Market Deeping Bridge and proceeded up Godsey Lane, Lady Margaret's Avenue, Linchfield Road and on to Baston via the back roads.

It was on these back roads that the amount of mostly garden rubbish tipped "by person or persons unknown" that was very prominent and which caused an unwelcome blemish to the countryside. Crossing the A15 at Baston led on to King Street, down to Langtoft and finally to The Bull in Market Deeping.

This ride and lunch at The Bull was organised by Jim Torrance – many thanks Jim.

Our next ride is scheduled for 21st January (weather permitting), starting at 10:30 from the bridge in Market Deeping.

A very happy Christmas to all U3A members from the Cycling Group.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE





Yes—David has been out and about again and as most of us never get to see the Deepings at these times of day I thought it would be nice to reproduce them here for you. Thank you David.

Happy Christmas everyone. ANN

