



Deeping St. James

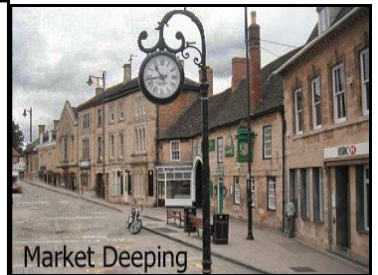
Issue No.229

# The Deepings u3a

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

## NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

JANUARY 2022

### CHRISTMAS MEETING 2021



Although Covid restrictions severely affected the attendance, we somehow managed a celebration this year. Thanks to Terry Noble who remembered to 'record' the event for us.

### 'MARGARET'S MUSINGS'



The Christmas meeting was a very enjoyable occasion with seasonal mince pies and drinks following our guest, Kate Witney's talk and recital of traditional folk carols. Thank you to all who helped to make it so and to members who attended for entering into the Christmas spirit.

I know that the Christmas spirit was a difficult concept for some of you who were affected by the pandemic and other problems and you have always been in our thoughts.

Here we are in 2022 and the traditional "Happy New Year" greeting must be full of hope for a healthier, freer and hopefully more varied way of life for everyone.

Your Committee and Group Leaders are forging ahead with plans for this year, with January seeing the first in-person meetings again for some groups.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our first "monthly masked meeting" of the year, (not quite a masked ball!) on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

*Margaret*

Chair.

### 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
Kath Allen	Vote of Thanks Org.,
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution /
	Webmaster

### JUST FOR YOU

This New Year Poem is just for you  
Be happy and live life through  
Look forward to the coming days  
May happiness be your way

No matter what challenges you face  
Find the good and you will find your place  
Being optimistic is the way  
To be successful every day!

Poet: KATE SUMMERS

Many thanks to Irene Beeken for finding this for me at short notice. A

### Programme of Speakers

#### 2022

#### 17 January FARMING AND WILDLIFE

Nicholas Watts of Vine Farm will tell us how he set about reversing the large decline of species on his farm. Since 1992 he has carried out extensive habitat creation and won more awards for conservation than any other UK farmer, creating a bird foods business along the way.

#### 21 February DEEPING ON SEA by Greg Guthrie.

#### 21 March LIFE AT NORMAN CROSS, the world's first POW camp.

Unless otherwise stated all monthly meetings are at **THE METHODIST CHURCH**, Deeping St James. 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

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ~ January to December 2022

A gentle reminder that this will be the last newsletter you receive unless I receive your membership renewal by the end of January. Do hope you will rejoin us and I look forward to receiving your completed signed form and subscription as soon as possible.



The form was sent with the November newsletter but if you prefer to collect a form I have some printed off.

Many thanks

LIZ NOBLE  
Membership Secretary



### U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



Eleven members met at Angie's home for our last meeting of the year, where we had our Christmas lunch. All contributed to a lovely meal, salads, ham, pasta salad, puds and cheese and biscuits etc, plus Prosecco, wine, and a non alcoholic punch.

Lots of chat, not necessarily about gardening! Hope to see you all next year.

Report: ANGIE DORWARD  
Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

### U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our December meeting was at the home of Group Leader, Phil Jones and he gave us - *'A CHRISTMAS ASSORTMENT'*



We began with The Black Dyke Band and 'Christmas Finale' starting at the end, so to speak. J.S.Bach followed with what Phil told us came from a 'Well Tempered Clavier Book 1' Prelude. Not something one hears every day. Then Handel's 'For Unto Us A Child is Born', with the Kings' Singers then singing 'God Rest You Merry Gentlemen'.

'The Golliwogs' Cakewalk' by Debussy followed this, with Leopold Stokowski conducting the Philharmonic Orchestra. Not sure which one. 'Grande Polonaise' came from Chopin, played by the Poland Philharmonic Orchestra.

The splendid Treorchy Male Voice Choir sang the 'Hallelujah Chorus' by Handel. A real Christmas favourite was 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas' once again from the King's Singers, closely followed by their version of 'I Saw Three Ships'. 'Silent Night' could not be left out. This version came from the Fron Male Voice Choir and 'The Engulfed Cathedral' by Debussy, Leopold Stokowski conducting his Philharmonic Orchestra. This was a 'sit up and take notice' piece of music. Quite something!

Never to be left out was Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker March' with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. This was followed by 'Worthy is the Lamb' - 'Amen' by Handel - this version from the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, conducted by Sir Neville Mariner and then we heard Phil's happy mistake, although we enjoyed it - Antonio Caldara, 'A Christmas Cantata' (Vaticini De Pace) The Arcadia Baroque Ensemble.

The morning selection ended with the King's Singers once more and the jolly, festive - 'Jingle Bells.' What else! A really unusual selection of music that had something for everyone in it. Thank you Phil and many thanks too for the enjoyable goodies supplied by Kath. Our next meeting is at the home of Terry Noble on Jan. 12th.

***A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.***

Report: ANNE JONES  
Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

### U3A "WEEKENDERS" GROUP



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 22 'Weekenders' met up for a Christmas buffet at Oasis in the Eventus Centre. The food was delicious and the chat and laughter made for a lovely get together.

As the Oddfellows Hall is not available yet we have hired the Green School for our meetings for the next few months. We have had to change the day we meet to the first Saturday of the month so our first coffee morning of 2022 will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30. Covid regulations will be adhered to so masks must be worn except when eating or drinking unless you are medically exempt and we would advise you to take a lateral flow test before attending.

We hope as many members as are able to will attend to support the re-opening of our group and we would welcome new members who would like to come along for coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Report: BARBARA MCNICOL  
Group Leaders: / ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL

### U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



On a somewhat grey day in mid December twelve Wanderers set out from The Stage in the centre of Market Deeping on our last excursion of 2021.

Passing along the old Lincoln Road we soon reached the outskirts of Northborough where we turned left towards Deeping Gate. We then took a footpath which led us along the edge of the fields behind Rippons Drove. Crossing the course of the Car Dyke, that ancient waterway, we followed the trail to the Peakirk Road. From that point Low Locks and Scout Island were visible over the fields. Using the path at the edge of a drainage ditch we were soon at Low Locks and Eastgate where we paused for some festive port and mince pies in our garden!

The original plan was to walk back to The Stage by the river side, but this path being excessively muddy we returned via the main road.

A programme for 2022 is under construction and details will be published in the normal way. Report: HILARY AKAM

Group Leaders: BARRY & HILARY AKAM

### U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We met for our "planning meeting" in December but actually ended up exploring a box of craft goodies kindly donated to the group which was great fun.



We found all sorts of things we can tackle and we have decided to make a start with a set of cards to be donated to charity as there were several types included. We hope to start these in January so see you at 2pm on 17.

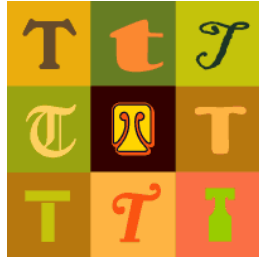
LIZ NOBLE  
Group Leader

### U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

We met at Kathleen's for our first meeting of the new year and our initial for the month was the letter 'T'.

All members of the group found some very interesting poems. We had, 'Tyger' by William Blake; 'Twas just this time last year I died' - Emily Dickinson; 'Through the Lens' by Pam Ayres; 'Thoughts in Respectability' by Felix Denni; 'Thimble Islands' by E E Wilcox; 'I Imagine' by Ted Hughes; 'Tobacco' by William Cowper; 'The Way through the Woods' by Rudyard Kipling; 'Today we have the naming of parts' by Henry Reed; 'Tonight at Noon' by Adrian Henrie. 'To-whit to-who' by W. Shakespeare, and 'Two songs of a fool' by W B Yates.

IRENE BEEKEN  
Group Leader 01778 342300



### U3A HISTORY GROUP

*MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS WITH  
STUART ORME*



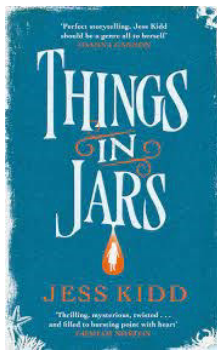
It has been a long time since we had the pleasure of listening to Stuart Orme. His knowledge and presentation have not diminished during the pandemic. Thank Goodness!! The attendance was down for today's presentation which wasn't surprising, given the doom and gloom of recent news regarding the pandemic.

Stuart told us facts and fictional information about present day Christmas customs and where they originated. He told us that although the Victorians received the accolades for our present festivities, many of them dated back hundreds of years. He dismissed many of the myths about medieval times, one being the colour of the clothes! (Won't mention the colour brown in this report). The painting above is of the Roman festival of Saturnalia. A bit over the top for the U3A members!!

A few of the many mentioned were:

### U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

For the first time for a long time, our group was able to meet back in our favourite place, Deepings Library. We gave grateful thanks to Helen, who had provided us with hospitality in her garden room for the last few meetings but felt it was good to be back in the library lounge, especially with some of Dorothy's coffee cake!



Our book for discussion this month was *Things in Jars*, by Jess Kidd, and it proved to be a divisive one. Some of the group had given it up very early on, some had read it all but without much enthusiasm, and one or two had really enjoyed it. It was agreed, however, that it is a very strange book. Set mainly in a splendidly invoked Victorian London, the plot is complex and involves strange characters and varied settings. Bridie, who was rescued and educated by Sir Edmond, is called in by him to solve the mysterious abduction of his apparent daughter. As the plot develops, however, we discover that the 'daughter' is in fact a mythological mermaid or sea creature girl he is keeping caged as a scientific freak.

We are plunged into a gothic mystery involving a sympathetic ghost, freak shows, criminals, and grave robbers, all told with a wonderful eye is a book that requires a willing suspension of disbelief and a liking for the strange and supernatural, given which, it is very satisfying.

Our next meeting will be on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 in the library.

LIZ WATERLAND  
Group Leader

### U3A WRITING FOR PEASURE GROUP

The Writing for Pleasure group has recently lost several writers and would welcome new members.



We are a group that meet in members' homes, and read our work.

We are encouraging and appreciative of writing of all types and styles.

Members of the group are free to write on subjects of their own choosing, or can follow themes suggested by the group.

Works of fiction, poetry, non fiction, autobiography or anything else are welcomed.

We are not critical or patronising.

If you are someone who enjoys writing, or would like to try writing for the first time, and are interested in joining our group, please contact either:

MIKE PEACE  
ANNE JONES



The Boar's Head



Feasting in colour. Rich pickings at the head of the table.



Mince pies weren't like today's sweet pies.



The burning of the Yule log

The amount of information can't be written here but it is enough to say, how much we learn from our History meetings and long may they continue. A big thank you to everyone who helps out each month. We wish you all a very and healthy 2022.

January's speaker is Brian Thornthwaite who will be talking about Liverpool's blitz. (Part 2). Third Wednesday of the month at The Green School. Coffee served from 10am.

SANDRA JONES  
Group Leader

### U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP January Report

Eleven members of the Wednesday Gardening Group enjoyed a lovely post-Christmas lunch in the Oasis Restaurant at the Eventus Centre in Market Deeping. It was lovely to get together again particularly over an excellent meal. Many thanks to Pam for organising the lunch for us.



Report: JANE COOKE

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JAME COOKE

*Margaret and the committee*

*Wish all our members*

*A peaceful and healthy 2022*

### U3A “PACERS” WALKING GROUP

Small in number but big in heart (who writes this stuff?) the Pacers started 2022 from Burghley. Numbers were reduced by illness, hospital appointments and ‘pinging’ - if that is a real word. Stuart kindly led the group of seven starting at the car park in Burghley Park. A little cold but sunshine all morning with not a cloud to be seen.

From the car park we walked to the main gate, turned left, crossed the road and went through the lovely village of Wothorpe. A lot of new properties being built with, it appeared, only one rule – it must be massive! Down a footpath and we were in Stamford. A slight detour to see the grave of Daniel Lambert, at 52 stone a fine figure of a man, then through a small gate, past the cricket club and back to the car park. A pleasant four mile walk and a nice start to the year.

As the Burghley restaurant was closed, and also in light of the current COVID situation, we decided not to have lunch but hope to start again in February.

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. Next walk on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be led by Geoff Whittle - details as usual by email.

Report: GEOFF WHITTLE

Group Leaders: GEOFF WHITTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

### U3A CHURCH MICE GROUP *December report*

Nine members of the ‘Church Mice’ Group went on their December visit to St Botolph’s Church in Helpston.



Chris Topper gave a detailed history of St Botolph and of the church and then took us on a tour of the church and the graveyard. There seemed to be very few graves but Chris explained that more than 6,000 people had been buried there, most of them in shrouds, not coffins. The misspelling of Memory on gravestones with three m’s reminded us that it’s not just today’s youth that struggles with spelling.

We saw the grave of Helpston’s most famous son, John Clare and then re-entered the church to eat some marvellous cakes with our tea or coffee.

#### *January report*



The Church Mice members started 2022 with a lunch at the Oasis Restaurant at Waterside. Nineteen were present enjoying a pleasant meal together with lots of conversation.

Forthcoming visits:

Tuesday 8th February Abbey Church at Bourne  
Tuesday 8th March St Denys Church at Sleaford.

HENRY ROBERTS  
Group Leader

### U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP *December report*



Eleven of the Family History Group met in the Community Centre for a “Chippie Lunch” from the Boundary and end of year Quiz with Peg. With laughs galore over our answers and the Pointless Prize, and plenty of Christmas cheer, alcohol-free of course, a really enjoyable time was had by all.

We welcomed two new members, Elaine Batchelor and Maureen Hudson to the Group, said goodbye to 2021 and discussed plans for the first few meetings of 2022.

Thanks must go to Liz, Peg and Sue for organising everything. Our January Meeting will be a Group discussion on the “1921 Census”.

#### *January report:*

For the January Meeting members came together at the Community Centre and the “1921 Census” was the subject for discussion. Find My Past released details of this highly anticipated census on the 6th January 2022, it will be the last census release for 30 years.



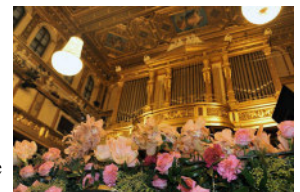
Members discussed some of the details they had found, how to get the best out of searches and see from looking at the Indexes what they could find. Even with a subscription to FMP there is a payment for images and transcriptions. You can also see the actual handwriting of a member of the household if you purchase the image and lots of other details for your Family Tree. Parents or Grandparents are seen for the first time in the census, people we actually know.

Our February meeting will be Brian Thornthwaite telling us of his life.

JEAN BRENNAND  
Group Leader

### U3A MUSIC GROUP *January report*

The first music group meeting of 2022 was at Terry Noble’s house and the programme celebrated with music for the new year at a Vienna Philharmonic orchestral concert in 2009, conducted by Daniel Barenboim.



This annual tradition of the new year concert in the Great Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna, beautifully decorated with flowers from the Vienna parks, is so popular that tickets are only available by ballot and requires equally valuable formal day dress to attend! Of course Strauss music is paramount and Terry’s programme included the “Fairy Tales from the Orient”, gallops and polkas, including the popular “Thunder and Lightning”.

The Strauss works were interspersed with a Spanish waltz by Josef Hellmesburger and a Josef Haydn finale of the “Farewell Symphony”. The concert finished, as always, with the Strauss “Radetzky March” where the conductor conducts the audience to clap and more importantly, when NOT to clap. A true tradition and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Terry for hosting the meeting and we look forward to the next one on Wednesday 9 February at Anne Jones’ home.

Report: ANN HOLMES  
Group Leader: TERRY NOBLE

## U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

*'MUD, MUD GLORIOUS MUD'*



Seventeen of us met at The Bull, placed our food orders ready for a 5.5 mile walk. It was a crisp, sunny/cloudy day.

We walked towards Maxey Mill on footpaths, having to cross the busy A15. We had been warned about mud at the Mill and there was, so boots needed cleaning thereafter. We then walked on to West Deeping and then back towards Market Deeping.

As we were too early for lunch we took an extension diagonally to Millfield Road. This proved interesting as the second field was very Muddy. Looked like we had deep sea divers boots on !!!

Lots of scraping MUD off at Millfield Road but a very good meal was enjoyed by all..

Next walk from Manton details to follow. Photo: DAVID SCOTT

STEVE HANSON  
Group Leader

## U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



For our first walk of 2022 on what turned out to be a bright but cold and dry morning, David Scott led 15 members on one of the many walks around Nene Park / Ferry Meadows. Starting this time from The Granary the walk took in the paths around the outskirts of the Park before venturing inland a little to view the three lakes of Gunwade, Lynch and Overton and the relevant wild life on the lakes. The walk was relatively mud free which for January is a bit of a bonus. The walk measured about 5.5 miles before we were able to return to The Granary for a pleasant lunch.

Many thanks to David for sorting out and leading this walk.

The next walk on 10 February will be led by Richard and June Coulson and will commence from The Bertie Arms at Uffington and full details will follow in due course.

GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT  
Group Leader / Deputy Group Leader

## GUESS WHO'S BEEN TO SHERRINGHAM ?

