



Deeping St. James

Issue No.237 November 2022

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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[Deepings Website](https://u3asites.org.uk/deepings/home)



Market Deeping

## Welcome

**New members:** Jean Higginson,  
Deeping St James, Monica Cowell  
and Rejoinder Gail Webber, Market Deeping

### NOVEMBER MEETING: 21 November

#### PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

##### 21 November: There's No Such Word As Can't

Emma Sheardown was born with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and, though medics feared she might never walk or talk, she defied expectations. She talks about overcoming the challenges she faced through representing Great Britain and becoming World and European Para Dressage Champion to how she dealt with the ending of her sporting career.

##### 19 December: Lords of Misrule and Boy Bishops - Medieval Christmas Customs

Our Christmas meeting on 19 December 2022 from 9.30 is in our usual meeting venue, The Methodist Church, Deeping St James. Coffee on arrival, followed by a talk on Medieval Christmas Customs (with taster mince pies and figgy pudding). There will be our usual Quiz for collection on arrival and our refreshments will be at the end of the talk, together with the Quiz prize.....all for £3.



As usual entry is by TICKET ONLY and will be on sale at the October and November monthly meetings or email/phone Liz Noble to reserve yours. [Liznoble102@gmail.com](mailto:Liznoble102@gmail.com) or 01778 342855. Correct money would be most helpful!

##### 16 January 2023: My Life and Other Adventures

Bill Shaw, the genial proprietor of The Boundary Fish and Chips and The Riverside Restaurant, will tell us about interesting aspects of his life before we knew him.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/2023

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Elaine Batchelor
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Membership Sec.	David Perkins
Speaker Finder	Lyall Seale
Group Co-ordination	June Wheatcroft
Team:	Phil Jones
	Jennifer Rogers
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott

### MARGARET'S MUSINGS



Dear Members

Our October meeting introduced a few changes to the Committee; Liz Noble, Anne Burton, Ann Holmes and Kath Allen stood down, though I am sure they will continue to be active members of The Deepings u3a. Their service has been greatly appreciated. We welcome on to the Committee Stuart Wilson as Treasurer and David Perkins as Membership Secretary.

The Committee, of course, is only one group within our u3a, as members carry out roles in our many activities. We would also welcome members who could volunteer to help set up the Church for our monthly meetings; helpers on the coffee rota are always welcome. If you feel you could help out in this way, please contact me.

We have been giving serious thought to reducing our carbon footprint with respect to Newsletter distribution, reviewing the number of paper copies produced. If you can comfortably read the Newsletter on a device at home but also receive a paper copy, would you please consider cancelling the paper copy. We would welcome your views, so please feed back to one of the Committee.

I look forward to meeting many of you at various events this month and then..... it's Christmas! So do get your tickets for the Christmas Party when they are on sale at our November meeting. There will be festive entertainment and refreshments. I hope that the opportunity we have to get together as members helps to lift our spirits in these challenging days.

#### Margaret Chair

#### Notice from Chair of Deepings U3A.

Theatre visit on Wednesday 25 January 2023

I have an option on tickets for a matinee performance of "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" at Milton Keynes Theatre. The show is on a national tour before hitting the West End and stars Hayley Mills, Paul Nicholas and Rula Lenska.

The coach will leave Deeping at 09:00 and return after the performance.

Total cost is £50.

Full details for booking are on the website or contact me on 07887623230

**Margaret Beardshaw**

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – January to December 2023

It's renewal time again—a membership form is attached and, as advised at the AGM, the subscription remains at £10 for full membership, £6 for Associated Members who belong to another U3A.

HOW TO PAY - Either by: BACS or Telephone Banking - please quote your membership number and surname.

Or by cheque payable to "The Deepings U3A"

A completed application form is required for ALL methods of payment:

Remote banking forms should be signed, scanned and emailed to [membership@deepingsu3a.com](mailto:membership@deepingsu3a.com) or if you are unable to scan please insert your email address on the signature line and email the form to the email address above.

Cheques should be enclosed with the completed application form and posted or delivered to the Membership Secretary, David Perkins, 23 The Parslins, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8NQ.

There is one major change this year – to be more eco-friendly and as no receipts are required because transactions are by BACS or cheque – we are issuing a PERMANENT badge that will display your membership number in place of the year. Group Leaders already check their group members are paid up but if there are any queries the Membership Secretary will be pleased to confirm the subscription has been renewed.

If you have any queries please contact me.

**David Perkins**

**Membership Secretary**

## GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Our fabulous 2023 u3a Diaries have arrived and are available immediately! Please don't neglect to get yours as soon as possible; either ring me on 344916 or collect it at the next u3a meeting.

They still retain that extra advantage of a spare page opposite each week where fuller notes can be made, and they start on 1st December of each year so you can get a good run-in to each new year. This is in addition to all the extra information we have come to expect; tube maps, rail, planners, etc. Only £3.50 each.

Ring me on 344916 to reserve your copy and collection, or pick up your copy at the next u3a meeting.

**Group Co-ordinator: June Wheatcroft**

## REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Deepings u3a AGM was held on 17 October 2022.

There were 75 members who attended in person and 16 members who voted by post.

All proposals and nominations were successfully passed.

We look forward to engaging with all members during the next year.

**Elaine Batchelor, Secretary**

## CRAFT GROUP



Heather produced a great, if time consuming card, this month using acetate and lots of diamond shapes.

We all managed to produce numerous variations. Thank you to her for the help and lots of dimensions!



Next month we really must look at Christmas items, only 60+ days to go as I write this! Look

forward to seeing you on Monday 21 November at 102 Church Street at 2pm.

**Report and Group Leader: Liz Noble**

## JAZZ/BIG BAND GROUP

### KATH'S JAZZ

Our October meeting was held at Phil Jones' home with a programme put together by Kath Allen and Kath's choices featured many old favourites together with some not so familiar ones.

Kenny Burrell began our morning with '*Chitlin con Carne*,' not a subject one would have considered in this context. It made interesting listening. Billie Holiday sang '*Easy Living*,' and then Eva Cassidy and Katie Melua duetted with '*What a Wonderful World*'.

'*Streams*' came from Kyaha Mahlangu. Kenny Ball & his Jazzmen followed with one of his big selling records - '*Hawaiian War Chant*'. '*I Got it Bad and That Ain't Good*,' was sung by Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee belted out - '*Fever*'. One of the group's favourites Stephane Grappelli played '*Makin' Whoopee*' and another regular - Ted Heath, with vocal from Jack Parnell, travelled '*Route 66*'

'*The Common Ground*' was Kenny Burrell's second offering and Jimmy Dorsey played '*Tiger Rag*'. Kenny Burrell once more, played '*Burning Spear*' and Nina Simone then sang '*Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*'.

Don Laka gave us '*Mamelodi*,' and Count Basie, with vocals from what sounded like a young Billie Holliday, offered '*They Can't Take That Away From Me*'. Billie Holliday stayed to sing '*Georgia on my Mind*' and then Louis Armstrong sang about '*Mack the Knife*'.

The delightful Lena Horne sang '*Stormy Weather*' and Nina Simone returned to sing '*Mr Bojangles*'.

A second offering came with '*Tshela*' and Don Laka and then a real favourite Humphrey Lyttleton gave us '*Echoing Blues*'.

'*I Can't Give You Anything But Love*', Stephane Grappelli's second item came next and Ted Heath returned with '*Watcher*'. Our very varied and interesting musical morning closed with Peggy Lee once more and her version of '*Smile*'.

Many thanks to Kath for putting the program together and who unfortunately could not join us.

Thanks to Phil and Kath for their hospitality once again.

Our November meeting will also be at Phil's home and there will be no meeting in December.

**Report: Anne Jones**

**Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones**

## GOOD FOOD GROUP

### OCTOBER REPORT

The October Good Food Group's lunch was hosted by Hilary and the theme was Seasonal Ingredients. Although the group was depleted in numbers this month we managed to produce a fine array of tasty dishes.

After the usual aperitif, accompanied by root vegetable crisps, our lunch started with Potage Paysanne. This was a hearty soup made from just about every root vegetable grown. A very attractive duck and chicken terrine with a range of toast and

crackers followed. The main course was pork, leek and apple casserole, which was topped with a mixture of sweet and home-grown King Edward potatoes. There was a side dish of home-grown green beans.

We were tempted by two desserts: apple crumble and a pear pudding, both with cream! Coffee ended the meal.

A cordial afternoon was enjoyed by all and our thoughts were with Ian and Kathleen Tanner who were unable to join us.

The next lunch on 7 November will be hosted by David and Anne, and the theme will be Irish dishes.

### NOVEMBER REPORT

The Good Food Group November lunch was on the 7th. Our theme was Irish food and we realised that potatoes feature quite a lot in Irish recipes!

Our starter was potato cakes topped with cream, cheese, smoked salmon and capers. Next we had Dublin Coddle in which potatoes, sausages, bacon and onions were all cooked together in a tasty broth. Then we had an Irish stew, Beef in Guinness, served with creamy parsnip mash.

We had two chocolate cakes for dessert: Chocolate Guinness cake and another with a special ingredient - you've probably guessed - it was potato!

Our next lunch will be our Christmas meal on Tuesday 6 December.

New members to the group are always welcome and for more information please contact Hilary Akam on 07720289573/ 01778347716

**Report: Sheila McGurk**

**Group Leaders: Hilary Akham/Sheila McGurk**

### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Only eight members who turned up at the Black Horse, Baston for our latest lunch on 23 October 2022.

Nevertheless, a pleasant meal was enjoyed by all.

Our next meal will be at the Wagon and Horses, Langtoft on 27 November. Bookings will be taken at the u3a meeting on 21 November, or telephone to let us know whether you are attending.

Hope to see you there.

**Group Leader: Tony Semple**

### THURSDAY GARDENING



This month we had a smashing visit to Springfields Garden Centre where plant manager Wendy gave us a warm welcome. She talked us through planting a couple of displays for winter colour, answering a barrage of questions in the process, before demonstrating how to assemble and look after a winter wreath. She made this seem so effortless that it left many of us wanting to

have a go ourselves. Wendy was friendly, informative and knowledgeable so that we had a thoroughly enjoyable visit. We were delighted to be given a hot drink on a rather bleak day and very surprised to come away with a gift of allium, miniature daffodils or tulip bulbs too.

Next month is our Christmas lunch at Thorney Golf Club and our thanks go to Kay Parker (and Bob) for organising this for us.

**Report: Linda Hill**

**Group Leaders: Linda Hill and Kay Parker**

### WEDNESDAY GARDENING

Twelve members of the group met at Dobbies Garden Centre near Peterborough. We were met by Lynda who gave us a very interesting talk about spring bulbs and evergreen shrubs. She explained to us about layering tulip bulbs of varying varieties/heights. She told us how she plants bulbs in her garden in plastic baskets so that as soon as the foliage has gone over, the whole basket can be removed. Another tip was to feed daffodils with rose fertiliser as soon as they have started to die down.

Among the shrubs that she had was a new mahonia "soft caress" which grows to five feet, is scented and evergreen and does not have the lethal leaves associated with mahonias! Other plants included skimmias, viburnum, red and white cyclamen as well as heucheras.

**Report: Jane Cooke**

**Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke**

### MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Circular walk from Marholm via Bretton. Twenty-seven walkers met at the Fitzwilliam Arms – formally known as the Green Man due to the large 100-year-old privet, shaped into a Green Man, at the front façade.



Walking westwards around to the rear of the pub we turned down Water Lane where we were confronted with an excellent chain-saw carved bench.

Turning right off Woodcroft Road we took the field path towards Bretton Crematorium, then continued straight onto Oxclose.

Entering an area called Watergall we came upon a listed tourist attraction known as The Watergall Mystery Rock. (The group was set the task of finding out the origins of the stones mystery). Turning right we walked



along the tree-lined avenues, emerging from under Bretton Gate at the hospital. Walking around the Edith Cavell centre we crossed the Soke Parkway via a footbridge.

Straight on, then turning right after crossing Bretton Way we emerged onto the beginning of the Torpel Way and followed this for a mile or so, crossing Castor Road. In the field hollow we climbed a stile and headed right to visit the pretty little 12<sup>th</sup> Century Marholm Church (St. Marys). The churchyard has a striking array of large, decorated stone chest tombs. The church tower is topped with a small pyramid and has a single bell, cast locally by Tobias Norris of the Stamford Bell Foundry in 1678. Then it was back to the pub for a welcome drink and lunch.

**Report: Richard Coulson**  
**Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

## QUILTING GROUP

This month Liz kindly led the meeting. She demonstrated a technique that was new for us in top stitching organza over a piece of fabric that had an assortment of bit and pieces secured upon it.



Thank you Liz for providing the resources. Everyone had a go. Their efforts are pictured. This technique can be used to make pouches and needle cases like those shown (above, left) made by Ann, with Liz taking it one step further to make a beautiful picture (above, right)

This was something very different for the group. Thank you Liz. The next meeting will be the sharing of ideas for next term.

**Group Leader: Margaret Griffiths**

## FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

The November meeting took place on Thursday 3rd. We welcomed one new member and one visitor from Canada, so it was a lively and interesting session.



With a theme of Fireworks, the group came well prepared with flowers, foliage and a few colourful Christmas decorations, to tackle their individual arrangements. They used their own imagination this time, to

achieve a wide variety of pleasing creations. It was a challenging project for all of us but no explosives were needed!!!

Next month's meeting on 1 December will involve creating small Christmas arrangements.

**Report: Anne Cassidy (Group member)**  
**Group Leader: Pat Ludlow**

## HISTORY GROUP

### The history of the Panama Canal: Speaker Geoff Whittle



It was a pleasure to welcome Geoff back to the group. We were amazed at the length of time that had passed since he presented Panama Canal 1 - 14 years ago!

Today was Panama Canal 2.

He told us about the history behind the building of the canal. The things that went blatantly wrong, including the tragic deaths and fascinating facts.

However, in recent times, the canal has been expanded and we were shown slides of the new updated mechanisms that were now essential given the size of the modern container ships.

(Some of these modern ships are still too big for the updated canal and lock system).

An excellent presentation! Thank you Geoff, we will be looking forward to your next talk!

Thank you also to everyone who helped on the day, and to Barbara and Ann for taking the deposits for the Christmas meal to The Wagon and Horses.

Next month, we have Dr. Martyn Thomas who will talk about Ague in the Fens.

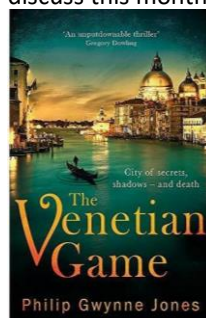
10 for 10.30am at the Green School.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## MONDAY READERS

Our meeting was in our usual venue, Deeping Community Library, and its proximity to the Riverside Restaurant gave the idea that we would have a pre-Christmas treat after our December meeting, by popping over the road for a fish and chip lunch together.

Once we had settled that important matter, we went on to discuss this month's book!



Our book was *The Venetian Game*, by Philip Gwynne Jones, which the cover described as "an unputdownable thriller". Some of us took issue with that description, while others found it a mixed bag, or enjoyed it all. The differences of opinion led to an interesting discussion as always.

The book is about the British Consul in Venice, who has a fairly mundane job, sorting out missing passports, and the odd British tourist who falls foul of the Italian Police. He has a rocky marriage (his wife lives in Scotland, whilst he is in Italy) and, although he loves and knows Venice very well, he is largely bored.

Until someone turns up at his office asking him to look after a mysterious package. His life changes from then on and he is caught up in the intriguing game of the title, involving art theft and fraud.

The main reason many of us didn't enjoy the book was the inordinate amount of time it took to get going – the first third was more like a tourist guide to Venice, as the author showed off his extensive knowledge of the city by taking his hero for long and involved walks around it, in excruciating detail. The

constant dropping in of untranslated Italian phrases also seemed more like showing off than good writing.

We mostly agreed, though, that the plot was interesting - once it got going!

**Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

## CYCLING GROUP

Having now moved our rides to the second Friday of the month, 5 of us set out from the Bridge in Market Deeping for our October Ride.



The weather was not too bad but we did have "muzzily" rain on and off for the whole time. Anyway, we set off from Deeping via Lincoln Road, down Suttons Lane, across to Peakirk Road and into Peakirk.

From Peakirk we began a zig-zagging meandering through the many small roads around Newborough. Initially along Thorney Road and turning right into Glinton Road which we followed to Werrington Bridge Road where we turned left and headed back towards Thorney Road.

We then followed Thorney Road and turned right into St Martin's Road and, after a short distance, took another left turn into Middle Road which we followed until turning right into Guntons Road. After following Guntons Road, we then turned into Bridgehill Road and followed this all the way back to Werrington Bridge Road which we followed towards Werrington and crossed under the A 15 onto Skaters Way.

Now, navigating around Werrington has always been a nightmare for me and after a few deviations we eventually ended up on David's Lane and onto the new footbridge over the Spalding railway line where we stopped for our photo.

From here it was easy going into Glinton across the A15 and finally into Etton for a welcome lunch and drink.

An overall ride of about 14 miles which we all enjoyed and had a very nice lunch at the Golden Pheasant in Etton.

Next ride Friday 11 November.

**Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

## PACERS WALKING GROUP

This month we strolled round Burghley Park. We met in the car park, soon to be replaced according to the Mercury, and checked the menu from the Golf Club. Once all decisions were made Stuart kindly phoned them through to the club for a 12.30 lunch.

After checking out the Burghley 'facilities' Margaret and Jo led 12 Pacers out into the park. The weather was dry with the occasional glimpse of the sun, but it was very windy. Decent walking weather.



The first point of interest were the Sweet Chestnut trees with their twisted barks - very unusual. Then over the

trees with their twisted barks - very unusual. Then over the

cattle grid, down the path to the right and on to the Diana memorial site. Being a little out of the way it gave the impression that it was not well visited. Of course this was November and not too many people about, so I suspect it may be very different in the summer.

Past the cricket club and the lovely views of Stamford and back to the cattle grid. Turned right and walked to the Lion Bridge, passing a number of the jumps used at the horse trials. You can go onto the bridge but the gate on the far side is locked.

We then made a short detour to see the deer and finally back to the cars.

Quite a short, but pleasant and interesting, walk at just over 3 miles. We then drove to the Burghley Golf Club, searched for parking spaces, and then had a nice, and very reasonably priced, meal at the club.

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 4 and 5 miles.

No walk next month but Christmas Lunch instead at the Waggon and Horses on Wednesday 7th

December.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

**Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle/Margaret Beardshaw**

## WANDERERS



October's wander took us to Castor Hanglands, a National Nature Reserve with a stunning variety of flora and fauna. Parking at Southey Woods we were soon out on the heathland, and straight away we disturbed a stag which bounded off into the

ancient woods. The Hanglands, Old English for 'Woods on a Hill' and mentioned in the Domesday Book, cover almost 90 hectares and were cultivated until the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It's still possible to see evidence of the ridges and furrows that the ancient farmers used.

The heathland is surrounded by oak and ash trees and on this sunny, warm October day the leaves were starting to turn and the autumn colours were spectacular. There was a sense of solitude and timelessness and as we came to the southern edge

of the heath we were drawn, as if being pulled by some ancient force, towards King Street, the Roman road which runs up the Western side of the reserve. Here we briefly visited Upton and its church, and then back up to Southey Woods. From there to the



Bluebell Inn at Helpston and, it being warm and sunny, we were able to have our excellent lunch outside.

The date and location of the November walk will be communicated in the usual way.

## POETS & POETRY GROUP



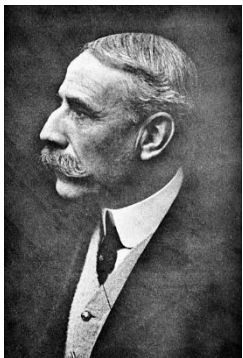
For our November meeting the theme was 'War and Remembrance' all members came along with a good selection. We had 'My Father before me' by Clive James, 'The Bloody Orkneys' by Captain

Hamish Blair, 'The Burial of Sir John Moore' by Charles Wolfe, 'This is Vietnam' by Brewster Ghiselia, 'An Arundel Tomb' by Phillip Larkin, 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrea, 'Returned Soldier', by EG Moll, 'There will be Peace' by David Roberts, 'Naming of parts' by Henry Reed, and 'Arlington' by DH Newton. Although we had chosen a sad subject, we had a very enjoyable two hours of discussion, talk, and tea. Thanks to Kath for her hospitality. Next month's subject. 'Winter and Christmas'

**Group Leader: Irene Beeken**

## LISTENING TO MUSIC

This month our meeting was held at Terry's house with music inspired by a previous programme from Hilary. It was entitled "Memories – Music Inspired by Hilary's Previous Programme, September, 2021."



The morning started and finished with two very different items by Edward Elgar (pictured) – his *Wand of Youth Suite No. 2* and the overture *In the South (Alassio)*. The *Wand of Youth Suite* was based on musical sketches Elgar made as a boy for family entertainment and *Alassio* evoking memories of a holiday taken in the south of Italy in 1903.

Between these two pieces was a selection of musical based memories - the charming *Songs my Mother Taught Me* by Dvorak and Elaine Page singing *Memory* from the Musical *Cats* by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Also on a lighter note *When I was a Lad* from HMS Pinafore charted the career of Sir James Corkoran to become Ruler of the Queen's Navy by doing nothing at all! Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* provided vivid impressions of a visit he made to the Scottish Isles, and Schumann's *Kinderzenen (Scenes from Childhood)* were 14 short musical childhood impressions.

Our next meeting is at Joy Elliman's house, 9 November at 10am.

**Report: Anne Jones**

**Group Leader: Terry Noble**

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group held a small meeting on Wednesday 19 October when only six members attended. We discussed whether it was worth keeping the group going and everyone agreed that we should.

We also talked about what we could do in the coming months, where we could have the meetings and, if possible, get new members to join us if they are interested in photography. Our next meeting will be held at 49 Broadgate Lane, Deeping St James, where we hope to get more members to join us.

**Report: Pam Ready**

**Leader: Dave Blesset**

## ART APPRECIATION

**Sir Kyffin Williams - Speaker Ann Reynolds**



Ann spoke about Sir Kyffin Williams, an artist from Anglesey in North Wales. Her talk was fascinating. She told us about his life, paintings and his legacy to the Museum of Anglesey.

We listened to an extract from Desert Island Disks where he chose *Ar Lan y Mor*, sung by Bryn Terfel, as one of his favourite songs. We all commented on how Sir Kyffin's

voice didn't match his image. In fact it was difficult to believe he was a Welshman.

A reflection, perhaps on his early life, when he was discouraged from speaking in his native tongue.

18 people attended the meeting. (New members are welcome.)

Thank you to David for being so supportive. He was very quick to realize that the WiFi code had been changed (phew!)

Next month John Shearman is our speaker with a topic of his choice.

10 for 10.30 at Deeping Sports and Social Club.

**Report: Sandra Jones**

**Group Leaders: Sandra Jones and Yvonne McCulloch**

## THURSDAY WALKING

### OCTOBER REPORT

For our October walk, thirteen walkers met at the Bluebell Inn, Helpston. The paths were nice and dry and the weather was fine, with no wind.



The walk was a 6.5 mile figure-of-eight walk from Helpston, through Ashton and skirting Bainton. Interesting landmarks en-route were the site of a Roman Villa, the ancient sheep dips and the detailed

description of the Torpel Manor and estate.

We had to navigate at least nine stiles, some nettles and brambles and a very frisky interfering, annoying young foal. Eventually we completed the walk and were presented with a very nice choice of food at the Bluebell.

Many thanks to the team for planning the walk and organising the lunch.

**Report by Richard Coulson**

### NOVEMBER REPORT

For our November walk we headed north to the small village of Pointon, just north of Bourne and Morton. Leaving The Old Ship Inn on a cloudy, mild but very breezy morning. Fifteen of us progressed through the village before reaching the countryside and heading



upward and in the direction of the Abbey Church of St Andrew at Sempringham.

On route we passed a memorial to Princess Gwenllian, the last Welsh Princess. We then continued back eastwards towards the main road before swinging in a westerly direction to arrive at the church previously mentioned.

Peter was able to share some historical facts about both the memorial and the church.

There is also an interesting article on the website about Princess Gwenllian. Good views over the Lincolnshire countryside were to be had once the church was reached. Continuing on we reached Pointon Cottage Farm before a little bit of roadwork took us



in the direction of Aslackby before turning eastward and heading back to Pointon and returning to The Old Ship Inn for a good lunch.

Many thanks to Peter for leading the walk and organising the lunch and also to the landlady for opening up and providing us with the lunch when she doesn't normally serve the public at the moment for lunch.

Our final walk of 2022 will be led by Claire and Simon Bysse and will be around the Elton and Fotheringhay area. Details of the walk will be emailed in due course.

**Group Leader: Godfrey Parkes**

## CHURCH MICE

### OCTOBER REPORT

Twenty-seven members of Church Mice enjoyed a visit to St Botolph's church at Quarrington, near Sleaford. The visit hinged on the rector, Mark Thomson, who was known by a number of the group from his time as a curate in the Deepings.

Quarrington, now a suburb of Sleaford, is in fact older, and was once bigger, than Sleaford. Mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 with two churches, probably wooden thatched buildings.

The oldest parts of the present church date back to 1218 with substantial additions made in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. The church consists of a tower and steeple adjoining a nave with a north aisle and chancel.

Inside the church the coloured windows give a pleasant feel to the church. Mark explained the pictures in the windows, including a fine representation of the Last Supper and a clear depiction of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

The visit finished with a splendid tea with members enjoying a lot of conversation.

### NOVEMBER REPORT

November's visit for Church Mice was to the Church of St Nicholas at Thistleton. Thistleton is the most northerly village in Rutland and the most northerly parish in the diocese of Peterborough.

The church dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, but the only part from that time is the bell tower. The rest of the church is Victorian, built in 1879-80. The church is small with an interesting apse, externally a half octagon and semi-circular inside. All the windows are 19<sup>th</sup> Century stained glass and below the round east window is a fine terracotta reredos, accompanied by



terracotta statues of the four evangelists. Also notable is the fine timbered ceiling.

The church's recent history is just as remarkable. Beverley, the treasurer of the Friends of Thistleton Church explained it to us. By 2016 the church was close to closing and that would have been a tragedy for a village with no village hall, no shop, no pub, nothing. It was saved by the church

becoming a Chapel of Ease, merging with Cottesmore church to make an enlarged parish. Although baptisms, weddings and funerals are held, there is no longer regular Sunday worship. The Friends of Thistleton Church raise considerable funds to enable the church to be a focal point of the village. The Friends also make delicious cakes which we were able to sample after Beverley's excellent talk.



December's visit will be to St Mary's in Peterborough.

**Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

## STROLLERS

As I missed the deadline for the October newsletter, this report details the walks undertaken in September and October.

### SEPTEMBER REPORT

Our stroll in September took place on a bright sunny autumn morning and saw us return to Crowland after an absence of a few years.

We set off from West Street and made our way out of the village towards 'The Lake', which is a man-made waterway connecting Crowland to the River Welland. In its day it would have been utilised for bringing provisions into and corn and



flour, out of the village.

Having walked its length, we returned on the opposite side of the lake, then took road leading to the centre of Crowland, which is dominated by Trinity Bridge

and what characterises the village. Passing through the centre we continued to the playing field before wending our way back, taking time to visit the abbey church and the neighbouring symbol of medieval vandalism, Crowland Abbey. The photograph needs no explanation.

Finally, we had lunch at the George and Angel.

### OCTOBER REPORT

Last month, Stuart led the monthly walk, starting from the car park of Morrison's supermarket at Stamford. Debutant strollers were David and Janet Ladds among the throng of 14.

Overnight rain had abated just in time for the walk to be dry one, albeit with very overcast conditions.

After crossing the main road, we walked across field and pasture to the River Welland, before reaching Barnack Road, which skirts Burghley Park.

We entered the park, passing through the Diana, Princess of Wales garden, before exiting adjacent to Stamford Girls School. We then walked along streets in the St. Martins area, passing the grave of one of Stamford's old characters, Daniel Lambert. This brought us out onto Water Lane and across the river again, to Wharf Road. From there we walked through footpaths and tracks back to our starting point.

The walk in November will take place on Friday 25th, with Geoff leading the way. Details of this will be sent to members of the group in due course.

**Report and Group Leader: Robert Deller**

## NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

For our October meeting, Beverly Tegala arranged for us to visit King's Dyke nature reserve, reclaimed from Whittlesey Brickworks. It was fascinating to explore the site, under the shadow of the chimneys of the still functioning works.

We started off at the viewing deck and then walked round the site, through woodland and overlooking ponds. Amongst the birds spotted were a group of rising lapwings, a marsh harrier, carrion crow, mallard, teal and moorhens and a robin; we also



heard a green woodpecker calling.

A notable feature of the reserve is the presence of fossils and we spent some time examining those previously found and left on display, while also looking for more in the rather sticky clay. A visit with plenty of variety.

**Report and Group Leader: Margaret Beardshaw**

**REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF  
ARTICLES FOR 9 DECEMBER  
SEND TO  
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**



*Marsh harrier*



*Robin*



*Green woodpecker*



