



Deeping St. James

Issue No.238 December 2022

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/deepings/home>
Click here to visit our
[Deepings Website](#)



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Monica Cowell from Market Deeping and Jean Higginson from Deeping St James
Rejoiners: Jenny Moir from Thurlby, Gail Webber from Market Deeping and Eleri Busby from Great Casterton



DECEMBER MEETING: 19 December

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

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. Just a few remaining so please email/phone Liz Noble to reserve yours. 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.

February 2023: Alfred Caleb Taylor: Peterborough's X-ray pioneer and victim of science

Dr Taylor's tells the story of Alfred's life, his role in establishing the first X-ray service in Peterborough, the injuries he sustained from radiation exposure and the recognition that he received.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear Members

As we approach the end of 2022, we can reflect on a resumption of "normal service" for The Deepings u3a, with regular meetings and our programmes of outside visits picking up. June, our Groups Coordinator, is tireless in her support for groups finding it difficult to get going again, as well as for members with ideas for new groups. So please keep the ideas coming.

With a wintry garden to look out on this afternoon, I look forward to seeing many of you at our December, or Christmas, meeting, for a seasonally themed talk and festive refreshments.

May I repeat our plea for your cooperation towards a reduction in the number of paper copies of the Newsletter we produce; if you are able to comfortably read the Newsletter on a device, but also receive a paper copy, would you please consider doing without the paper version? Again, we would welcome feedback.

We are all facing challenges of different kinds in the coming months. I send you my good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and for a peaceful New Year, 2023.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



U3A DIARIES

(Probably the best diaries in the world!!)

We still have some left - so please get in contact with me as soon as you can. If collecting the diary is a problem, we can arrange to deliver your's to you, so ring June W on 01778 344916.

I shall be at Deepings' Christmas meeting on 19 December, and you can buy your diary then.

See you then.

June Wheatcroft

REMINDER FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership renewals

Many thanks to all those who have renewed for 2023.

Please note that we will be accepting forms at the meeting on 19 December.

David Perkins

Membership Secretary



GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

U3A diaries: Still available, ring 01778 344916. See report above.

Wanderers Walking Group: New leaders are still being sought for this active group; the last 'Wander' for the year will be on Tuesday, 13 December: please ring Hilary Akam on 01778 347716 for further details.

Weekenders: This popular group is looking for a new leader(s) to start in January; call Ann Bradshaw 01778 702383 or Barbara McNicol on 01778 344052.

Sunday Lunch Group: After a pleasant lunch in November, SLG will meet again in January. By tradition, we do not meet in December, so look out for details of the lunch in January in the Newsletter. Happy Christmas to all members and thank you for your support.

Tony Semple, 01778 342776.

A big thanks goes out to all members who support and enjoy their group and especially their Group Leaders for their hard work in organising all the varied activities throughout the year.

Finally the GC team of June, Phil and Jennifer wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Group Co-Ordinator: June Wheatcroft

JAZZ/BIG BAND GROUP

Our November meeting was at the home of Phil Jones.

Phil always gives us a surprise or two and this month was no exception. We heard from Jan Savitt together with Ziggy Elman playing the Opening Theme (Quaker City Jazz.)

Jan was once a violinist with the Leopold Stokowski Orchestra and was known as the 'Stokowski of Swing'. Also an American Band Leader (although born in the Ukraine) he was a violinist and musical arranger. His second offering was *Back to Back*, and then he sang *I Poured My Heart Into A Song*, all from the *Two of a Kind* collection.

Another little known musician was Colin Busby, who gave us three familiar tunes - *1 O'Clock Jump*, *Begin The Beguine*, and *String Of Pearls*.

John Cameron and his Quartet, was a British composer also of which little information was available. They entertained with three items - *Go Away Come Back Another Day*, *Dafina Querida*, and *Splat*.

Big Band Express followed with three tunes from their *Jive & Swing* album after which we heard the familiar sounds of Count 'William' Basie with *Double -O* and *After Supper*.

A Hard Days Night was played by The London Jazz Four, *The Fool On The Hill* from Sergio Mendez and Brasil 66, then the Count once more with *Help* and *Can't Buy Me Love* - a tribute to The Beatles and the morning ended with two pieces from Kurt Weill's *American Song Suite* - *Mack The Knife*, and *Fascinating Rhythm*, from the 'America ' collection by Daniel Hope, Marcus Roberts, Trio, Zurcher Kammerorchester.

Definitely something different which gave us lots to discuss.

Thanks to Phil for putting it all together and to Kath for providing our refreshments.

We have no meeting in December.

It is hoped that a late celebration will be arranged for January and then our first meeting in the New Year will be in February at the home of Anne Jones.

May we wish everyone in our u3a a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and we would love to welcome some new members to our very sociable group - come and listen to great music!

Report: Anne Jones

Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group meeting for November at the Community Centre had speaker Shelagh Coates give a talk of her Uncle Harry a Spitfire Pilot.

Warrant Officer John Henry Coates aged 24 years, a Spitfire Pilot with 111 Squadron, known in the family as Harry, was in Italy in the final months of WWII. On a leave day in March 1945 he decided instead to join his squadron on a daring raid on a mission targeting barges transporting munitions to German Troops.

Six Spitfires took off from Ravenna but only five came back. His Spitfire was downed by anti-aircraft fire outside the village of Cavarzere, on the outskirts of Venice and his remains were lost in the bog. His parents and six siblings lived the rest of their lives not knowing what had become of him.

In 2016 an elderly villager of Cavarzere spoke to a local of the story his father had told him of seeing a Spitfire fall from the sky. This man was a member of the Romagne Air Finders, a group of volunteers who recover WWII planes all over Europe.

In 2017 a team of archaeologists found the Spitfire and the remains of Warrant Officer Coates which were identified by DNA testing with a family member.

In March 2019 the villagers of Cavarzere took the hero to their hearts, and with locals and local dignitaries organised a church service in the San Mauro church. The streets were lined with people and a procession with band followed the hearse to the church. The RAF then took him to the Padua War Cemetery where he was finally laid to rest with full military honours.

Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennand

THURSDAY GARDENING



With enormous thanks to group member Kay Parker for organising it along with her husband Bob, we had a lovely Christmas meal at Thorney Golf Club this month. We missed those members who were unable to attend.

I'd also like to say a personal and very heartfelt thank-you to the whole group too. I'm stepping down from the group after several years as leader to head off for adventures in the motorhome and hadn't anticipated being given such a lovely bag of gifts, presented by Kay, to mark the occasion. It's been a real privilege to lead the group who are so friendly and supportive. It truly has been a pleasure to get to know them all and I shall miss them on the first Thursday in the month. I wish them all the very best for continued friendship and gardening fun.

As is usual for the Thursday Gardening Group, there is no meeting in January.

We wish all our members and all of our Deepings u3a members a very Merry Christmas and healthy and happy New Year.

Report: Linda Hill

Group Leaders: Linda Hill and Kay Parker

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

The walk started and finished at The Granary, Orton Meadows. Nineteen of us met up in the car park on a damp and cloudy day. The walk was led by Brian "Ribs" Thornthwaite ("Ribs" as he is renowned for his liking of Rack of Ribs).



The walk took us up to the Information Centre, then onward towards the Watersports Centre, continuing in a loop around the Gunwade Lake to Milton Ferry Bridge.

From there we went on the quite new Boardwalk alongside the river, which is a great improvement on the previous paths.

As we had to delay our return, after reaching Bluebell Bridge we followed the muddy path by the side of the River Nene to The Staunch.

On our return leg to the pub, it started to rain.

The walk was about 5.9 miles (ish), depending who I asked!!!

A good meal was eventually had, due to staff shortages there was a bit of a delay.

A big thanks to Brian for leading the walk.

All the program dates have volunteers now, but not necessarily locations, so thanks to all.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023 and keep walking!

Report: Steve Hanson

Group Leader: Steve Hanson





Flying geese quilt

QUILTING GROUP

Everyone has been mostly busy with individual work this month. The work completed was varied and interesting. Liz kindly showed the group the flying geese technique that she was using to make a baby quilt. See her progress from last month in the photo. Others bought in individual items for the show and tell they had been working on. An example of free motion quilting by Marlene. This is by no means an easy task. Well done ladies.



Free motion quilting

Group Leader: Margaret Griffiths

HISTORY GROUP

Speaker Dr. Martin Thomas: Ague in the Fens



Today's talk was fascinating. Over the centuries, people who lived in The Fens had suffered from a seasonal illness that became known as Ague. Symptoms included fever, aching limbs and swollen spleen. The illness recurred every so often but not everyone suffered from it. Ague was probably a form of malaria. Martin told us about its history, the beliefs over the centuries and the cures.

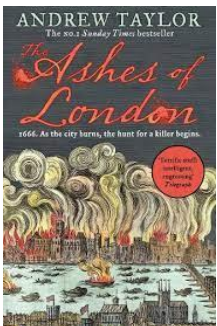


Also, the culprit. See above!

The flowers are white poppies, the seed of which contain opium. Opium tea gave relief from the symptoms. When the Fens were drained the mosquito larvae were killed off and the disease disappeared, only to return very infrequently. Malaria is now found in certain parts of the world and sometime brought in to his country from abroad. Next month is the Christmas meal. January's talk is entitled *Mr. Jones* and the speaker is Mrs. Jones! And it isn't about Ian. @ TheGreen School 10 for 10.30. on 18 January.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

MONDAY READERS



This month was our Christmas celebration meeting.

We began the morning in the Library as usual. Sadly, we were missing two members of the group who were unable to make this morning's get together.

We began with our discussion about our December book, which was *The Ashes of London* by Andrew Taylor.

This was agreed by us all to have been a five star book! Set in the immediate aftermath of the Great Fire of London (test question for you all, what was the year?), the story tells of the finding of a body in the ruins of Old St. Paul's Cathedral, intrigue and spies at Whitehall, and the search for the murderer. The characters include Cat, a talented woman trapped in her time, James, the son of a convicted Cromwellian, and a wide variety of Londoners, all interwoven with a clever and satisfying plot. The setting is absolutely authentic, you can almost smell and hear the London of the time, and the characters are richly drawn and completely convincing.

This is the first in a series, and we all agreed that we would like to read the rest of the set. Thoroughly recommended by all fans of historical fiction and crime.

After our usual discussion, some of us read Christmassy poems and extracts to get us all in the mood for a trip over the road to The Riverside Restaurant for a very nice fish and chip dinner to finish off our Book Group year together. We toasted our two 'Absent friends' and wished each other a very happy and book laden Christmas, as we do for all of you!



Group Leader: Liz Waterland

WANDERERS



November's Wander saw a select group of Wanderers circumnavigate Rutland's Hambleton Peninsula

Unsurprisingly, it's a popular walk affording excellent views of Rutland Water and the surrounding countryside.

On our day the weather was bright and quite breezy on the outward leg along the southern shore, but as we reached the tip of the peninsula we were sheltered from the wind.

This year the autumn colours have been spectacular and the woods surrounding Rutland Water were beautiful with their vivid orange and yellow tints.



Opposite Barnsdale we paused for a group photograph, and here we experienced a technical issue which was resolved by Gary Armstrong's improvisational genius. Snap taken and, undeterred by a sharp rain shower, we were soon back at our starting place, The Finch's Arms for a welcome lunch.

December's walk will be a local one and Wanderers will be notified in the usual way.

Group Leaders: Barry and Hilary Akam.

POETS & POETRY GROUP

Our theme for the December meeting was Christmas or Winter. We had a lovely selection from different poets, which we enjoyed, looking how Christmas used to be.

Our host this month was Angie, who kept us supplied with lovely refreshments. Thank you Angie, Our next meeting is 3 January when our task is to find a poet with your own initials, and choose a poem from there.



Group Leader: Irene Beeken

ART APPRECIATION

Speaker John Shearman: Edgar Degas



John concentrated on the ballet element of Degas' work. He pointed out the various characters in the painting and also the darker side of being a ballet student. For example, the role of the sponsor!

The sponsor would often wait in the wings during a stage performance, perhaps expecting a reward for his financial support!

Degas considered himself a realist and not an impressionist painter. It was a very interesting morning and a pleasant relief from the heavy rain outside.

No meeting in December but in January we are having a post-Christmas social get-together and a DVD called *Take One Picture*.

New members are welcome.

Venue: Deeping Sports and Social Club

10am for 10.30 Third Tuesday of the month

Report: Sandra Jones

Group Leaders: Sandra Jones and Yvonne McCulloch

THURSDAY WALKING

For our final walk of 2022 Simon and Claire Bysse led us from The Crown Inn at Elton on a cold, frosty but sunny December morning. Leaving the pub we proceeded westerly over the weir at Elton and the disused railway line after which the frost hardened paths made walking comfortable as opposed to the muddy fields normally found at this time of year. A short stretch of roadway then took us into the lovely village of Fotheringhay where we were able to catch up on some of the historical facts from Simon and also the information board at the castle site and where Richard III was born and Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned and executed.

From here the walk continued over good paths, over Warmington Weir and past a quarry at Eaglethorpe which has now been filled in and landscaped since the last time we visited this area.

It will in due course become a nature reserve. Continuing left through the large expanse of Elton Park where fine views of Elton Hall could be had in the strong sunshine, we then returned to The Crown Inn for another very good lunch.



Many thanks to Simon and Claire for leading the walk and organising the lunch.

Today's walk brings to a conclusion another successful year of walking across many varied locations. So, once again we both thank you all for your kind support throughout the year and wish you all the best for the festive season and we look forward to seeing you again on our next walk as shown below.

For our first walk of 2023 on 12 January, Brian Littler will lead us on a walk around the Bourne area commencing from The Sugar Mill, Milestone Road, Bourne PE10 0ET. If you would like to attend this walk, please email Brian on <mailto:brianmlittler@gmail.com>

or telephone on 01778 344259 by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch.

**Report by Godfrey Parkes
Group Leader: Godfrey Parkes/David Scott**

STROLLERS

Our latest stroll was a quick return to Castor, where we met at the Prince of Wales Feathers. Geoff led the way, tracking a different route to the one we did in May.



It was a glorious sunny morning, ideal conditions for a morning outing at this time of year. Very soon after the start we stopped at the parish church of St. Kyneburgha. Is it the only one in the country dedicated to this saint?

At this location we could look down on the site of a Roman fort, which is now occupied by the local primary school. An information board detailed some historic facts about Castor.

We then crossed the main village street, which belies its former status as a trunk road (A47) running from Peterborough to Leicester. On a personal note I recalled taking part in a 5k fun run on the newly formed by-pass, prior to opening to traffic, sometime in the 1990's.

Continuing towards the river Nene, we crossed a field which was the setting for a Roman settlement, Durobrivae. There is little evidence left of its existence.

We reached King Street, close to the site of the former Castor railway station, now part of the Nene Valley Railway. Heading north towards Ailsworth, we crossed the main village street and worked our way along footpaths back to base for our lunch.

This concludes what I consider to be a very successful year for the group and the Planning meeting held on 28 November at Waterside Garden Centre, which was well attended with plenty of engagement by members, suggests 2023 will be equally successful.

One outcome of that meeting was that Fridays will be the primary day on which we meet next year.

Report and Group Leader: Robert Deller

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/2023

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



**REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF
ARTICLES FOR 6 JANUARY
SEND TO
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**

Interest Group	Date & Time (please confirm with Leader)	Venue	Leader
Accordion	Thursday 10 -12noon	As arranged	Janice Cosham
Art Appreciation	3rd Tuesday 10-12noon	Sports & Social Club/Outgang Road	Sandra Jones Yvonne McCulloch
Church Mice	2nd Tuesday Usually 1.45pm	As arranged	Henry Roberts
Crafts 2	3rd Monday 2-4pm	Members' Homes	Liz Noble
Crafty Crew	Monday 2-4pm (fortnightly)	Members' Homes	Jennie Jackson Molly Wright
Cycling	2nd Friday 10.30am	As arranged	Jim Torrance
Discussion Group	2nd & 4th Monday 10.30 - 12noon	Members' Homes	Jim Winstone
Family History	2nd Monday 2-4pm	Community Centre	Jean Brennand
Flower Arranging	1st Thursday 2-4pm	Northborough Village Hall	Pat Ludlow
French Conversation	Wednesday 10.30 -12noon (fortnightly)	Members' Homes	Rhae Elliot Mary Lawrence
Gardening 4 Petals & Produce	3rd Tuesday 2-4pm	As arranged	Eddie Adams Glenys Nice
Gardening Thursday	1st Thursday 10-12noon	As arranged	Linda Hill Kay Parker
Gardening Wednesday	2nd Wednesday 10-12noon	As arranged	Jean Foster Jane Cooke
Good Food Group	1st Monday 12.30 - 2.30pm	Members' Homes	Hilary Akam Sheila McGurk
Guitar for Pleasure	Tuesday 2-4pm (fortnightly)	As arranged	Liz Lonsdale
History	3rd Wednesday 10.30 - 12noon	Green School Mkt Dpg	Sandra Jones
Italian Conversation	2nd & 4th Monday 3-4.30pm	As arranged	Lynne Alcorn
Jazz, Swing & Big B&	4th Wednesday 10-12noon	Members' Homes	Phil Jones Anne Jones
Listening to Music	2nd Wednesday 10-12noon	Members' Homes	Terry Noble
Mah Jong	Friday 9.45-11.45am weekly	Community Centre	Peg Torrance
Natural History	4th Thursday 10am	As arranged	Jo Astle Margaret Beardshaw
Photography	3rd Wednesday 2-4pm	Sports & Social Club/Outgang Road	David Blessett
Poets & Poetry	1st Tuesday 2-4pm	Members' Homes	Irene Beeken
Quilting	2nd Tuesday 10 - 1pm	Community Centre	Maggie Griffiths
Quiz Group	2nd Friday 2-4pm	Members' Homes	David MacVitie
Reading Group	2nd Monday 10.15 - 11.45am	Community Library	Liz Waterland
Science	3rd Tuesday 2-4pm	As arranged	Garth Perry David Scott
Spanish Conversation	1st & 3rd Tuesday 10.30 - 12noon	Members' Homes	Pat Leggett
Sunday Lunch Group	4th Sunday 12.30 for 1pm	As arranged	Tony Semple
Walking Monday	1st Monday 10am	As arranged	Steve Hanson
Walking Pacers	1st Wednesday 10am	As arranged	Geoff Whittle Margaret Beardshaw
Walking Strollers	4th Friday 10.30am	As arranged	Bob Deller
Walking Thursday	2nd Thursday 10am	As arranged	Godfrey Parkes David Scott
Walking Wanderers	2nd Tuesday 10am	As arranged	Hilary Akam Barry Akam
Watercolours (Beginners)	2nd Monday 10.30 - 12.30pm	Atrium, Community Centre	Jan Fisk
Weekenders	1st Saturday 10.15 - 11.30am	Oddfellows Hall, Mkt Dpg	Ann Bradshaw Barbara McNicol