



Deeping St. James

Issue No.239

January 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/deepings/home>

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Market Deeping

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS

Welcome

New members: Richard Gregg from Market Deeping and Rosemary Fisher from Frognall

JANUARY MEETING: 16 January

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

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.

March 2023: Deene Park - Home of the Brudenell Family since 1514

The House's administrator, Kelly Holland recounts the history of the house, seat of the Earls of Cardigan, and explores its main characters, most notably the 7th Earl who led the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear Members

It was good to celebrate together at our Christmas meeting. This took a slightly different format from previous years at the Coronation Hall; we have received some feedback and would welcome any comments, to consider for Christmas 2023.

I wish you all a Happy New Year, as we look forward to pursuing our u3a activities in all their variety. For the monthly meetings Lyall has engaged a variety of interesting speakers. Group meetings are under way, as are plans for summer outings. Do you have any suggestions for new groups for a new year?

A couple of groups have, sadly, had to consider ceasing activities, with nobody able to take on a leader/coordinator role. Is there anyone ready to step into the breach for Weekenders and Wanderers?

We are always delighted to welcome new members; please spread the word, especially among any recently retired friends, who may be feeling they need something new to occupy all that free time!

My best wishes to you all.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - January to December 2023

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 re-join 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 and there have been subsequent emails detailing the various ways it can be submitted. Many thanks.

Please remember that to save paper and admin, this year's badge is the last one you will receive. It does not include a date but your membership number. It will be up to Group Leaders and myself to ensure that all attendees have renewed their membership each year.

David Perkins - Membership Secretary



Coach Trip to Kelmarsh Hall & Coton Manor gardens, 18 April 2023

The re-arranged date for the trip to these gardens is confirmed as 18 April. Most people have advised that they wish to come on that day, but some cannot unfortunately. I am hopeful that the price will remain the same as last year and that I will be able to make a full refund to those who cannot make the trip. There are **two** spare places available at the moment, so if you are interested in joining us for the day, please let me know asap and I will give you full details.

All arrangements for the day will be the same as for last year, but I will be sending out reminders to everyone nearer the date. Please get in touch with me if you are uncertain about any of the arrangements. Providing the weather is decent, this should be a good time to see the tulips and bluebells at these two very attractive gardens.

Eddie Adams 01778 346363, 07975 729069

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

New Year and new start - our best wishes for good health and happy times ahead to you all as you take part in your many and varied Group activities. There have been some changes to some Groups, as follows:

Thursday Walking Group: Richard Coulson has kindly agreed to continue the activities of this active group as Group Leader, taking over from Godfrey Parkes and David Scott.

Well done to Godfrey and David for their sterling work leading this team for many years and they have indicated they will continue their participation and be in support of Richard as he continues the Group. Congratulations to Richard for stepping up! His contact details are as follows: E-mail: coulson.richard1@sky.com, Tel. 01778 341267.

Weekenders Group: After 8 years, Barbara and Ann have been asking for a new team to lead and it is disappointing that no-one has offered to continue this active group.

Therefore, this Group is closed and there will be no further activities unless a new leader or team is found. Well done to Ann Bradshaw and Barbara McNicol for your excellent work!

Wanderers Walking Group: The same applies to this Walking Group as Barry and Hilary Akam are no longer able to continue leading it. Therefore, unless a last-minute offer comes up, this group will cease to operate. However, our thanks go to Hilary and Barry for their good work in running the Wanderers.

Sunday Lunch Group: Well done to Helen Perkins who has offered to support Group Leader Tony Semple. Helen will act as Tony's Deputy and can be contacted on: tel. 01778 345674. Tony S, tel. 01778 342776. Thank you Helen!

Thursday Gardening Group: Following the quiet January month, Kay Parker will continue this 'blossoming' group after the departure of co-leader, Linda Hill. Members are encouraged to support Kay by assisting with the planned schedule for the year ahead. Special thanks to Linda for your enthusiasm in co-steering this group's activities.

"Every little helps" as the commercials say, and it's no different for our Deepings u3a, so it is never too late to assist your Group Leader whenever the opportunity arises.

2023....Welcome back, members, and we look forward to an enjoyable year ahead.

June Wheatcroft, Jennifer Rogers, and Phil Jones
Group Co-ordination Team

U3A diaries are... 'probably the best diaries in the world'.... and there are just a few left!

There is no problem with deliveries in the u3a diary world as our members do not wish to go on strike, so door-to-door deliveries are going ahead. Seriously, ring June on 01778 344916 to request a diary for delivery or pick-up, as you prefer.
£3.50 each - last all year.

June Wheatcroft, tel. 344916, e-mail: junewheaty@gmail.com

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



Family History in December was our traditional Christmas meal held at the Community Centre, courtesy of The Boundary but sadly reduced to eleven as bugs, funerals and hospital appointments took over for some members, our group leader, Jean being one of them.

However I hope we did her proud and with all her table preparations we enjoyed a good meal and then taxed the little grey cells with a quiz.....some found

more grey cells than others, but it was a good laugh!

Thank you, Jean for your hard work and support throughout the year. All the best for a healthy 2023 to all the group members.

Report: Liz Noble
Group Leader: Jean Brennan

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Our next meeting will be on 22 January 12.30 - 1.00 pm at the Black Horse, Baston.

Bookings will be taken on 16 January at the next U3A meeting. Pam Ready (344587) or Tony Semple (342776) will take bookings for anyone unable to attend the meeting.

Group Leader: Tony Semple

DISCUSSION GROUP

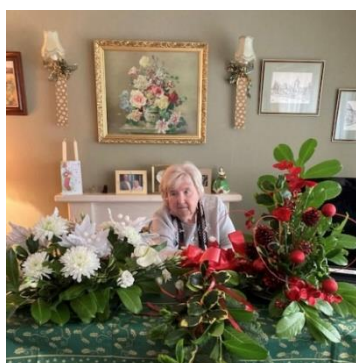
We started 2023 by discussing "What can we learn from the Ukraine war?"

Future topics include "Roads, cyclists and etiquette" (should be fun!), "Human rights" and "Can the NHS survive?"

If you would like to join us, we have room for another member or two. We meet on the second and fourth Monday each month at 10.30am, ending around noon. Members take it in turns to host meetings at home, but that's not obligatory. It is friendly and sometimes instructive. If you are interested, please let me know - jim@thewinstones.com or 07850 555076.

Group leader: Jim Winstone.

WEDNESDAY GARDENING



Demo by Pauline

Members of the Wednesday Garden Group met on 14 December at Pauline's house which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Pauline proceeded to show us some lovely arrangements with a Christmas theme. Speaking as someone with little or no artistic flair, she certainly made it look deceptively simple!

Many thanks to Pauline for entertaining us so well and also to Jan who was "Santa's little helper". I think we all left the meeting in a Christmas mood!

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

GOOD FOOD GROUP

Our meeting on 6 December became our early Christmas celebration. The addition of two spouses made our number up to 10.

We had canapés and nibbles with our pre-dinner fizz.

Our starter was prawn cocktail and the main course was roasted root vegetables topped with chicken breasts wrapped in prosciutto, accompanied by spicy red cabbage and Boulangère potatoes. Then we had two desserts: Mincemeat tart and Bavarois.

We even managed to eat chocolates with our coffee and brandy.

Next meeting will be on 9 January and our theme, for obvious reasons will be low-calorie!

Anyone wishing to join us please contact me or Hilary Akham.



Report: Sheila McGurk

Group leaders: Hilary Akham and Sheila McGurk

CRAFTY CREW



Our October and November meetings had a definite Christmas theme... in October we all made 3D Christmas tree cards, very popular, and easy to do at home, then used some of last year's cards, pretty paper, ribbon and "bling" to create more designs for this year.

Our first November date was taken up with creating very realistic poinsettias from crepe paper and then we had time to make pine cone tree decorations from a polystyrene base with pieces of folded paper or card and straight pins to make the seeds.



Pinning all the seeds in place was a bit hard on the fingers but the finished result well worth the pain! Next time we will use a thimble!!

We met again in November, not for crafting, but for afternoon tea at Waterside Garden Centre as our Christmas treat.

Group leaders: Jennie Jackson, Mollie Wright

“PACERS” WALKING GROUP

Some sun, some wind but, for the time of year, very mild weather greeted eleven Pacers for the first walk of 2023.

Originally, we had intended to meet at the Blue Bell in Glinton but that decided to close for the first two weeks of January so instead we collected together at the Crab and Winkle in Werrington, where we pre-ordered our lunches, used the facilities and we were off shortly after 10.00.



We started by going over the newly refurbished bridge over the railway and then along the old Lincoln Road (hard to believe that not that long ago it was the main road to Peterborough) and then onto the pedestrian footbridge over the roundabout. Right at the playing fields, round to the Blue Bell, up North Fen Road and onto the footpath and then through the woods. This was the only wet and slightly muddy part of the walk but considering the rain over the previous few days it was alright.

Then down Foxcovert Road, over the bridge for a short stop at the restored Sobrite soda water spring (which appears to have had a lot of clearing done recently) where we took the statutory photo.

Back along Serjeant Way and after 4.2 miles we were back at the Crab and Winkle where we had a good and extremely reasonably priced lunch.

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.

Next month the walk will be guided by Stuart and Barbara in Ferry Meadows on Wednesday 1 February - details by email as usual.

Report; Geoff Whittle

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

LISTENING TO MUSIC

Our December meeting was at the home of Terry and Liz Noble and every member was asked to bring a favourite piece of seasonal music to make up our programme.

This made for a very enjoyable and different selection.

The morning began with a *Fantasia of Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams where many favourite and familiar carols were included.

Following on we heard Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* and the lovely *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* from John Rutter.

The choices also included some unfamiliar pieces.

Choirs are always popular at this time and we heard from several.

It was a varied and seasonal mix and so interesting to hear the memories the various items brought with them.

Ann gave us the last item, a real favourite from the past - David Whitfield's *Santa Natalie*. A big hit for him at the time.

The delightful refreshments were provided by Liz and enjoyed by all. It was a very happy and festive occasion.

Terry put together our itinerary for 2023 and our next meeting is at Terry's home on 11 January.

Our group would like to wish all u3a members a very happy, peaceful New Year.

Report: Anne Jones

Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones

GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE



We met at the home of Angie and John Dorward for our Christmas Lunch. We all provided the food, but this certainly did not match the fantastic hospitality of our hosts. They both put a lot of effort into making sure that this lunch was one to be remembered. Our sincere thanks go to them both for making this such an enjoyable event. Our next meeting is on 17 January at 10.00, at 74 Eastgate, when Pam Pendry will host a simple Gardening Quiz. Her words! Please advise the host if you are unable to attend.

**Eddie Adams, Joint Group Leader
Glenys Nice, Joint Group Leader**

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Twenty of us met at The Bull, Market Deeping ready for our walk and to pre-order lunch. Due to chef problems there was a limited choice of food.

The walk took us to Millfield Road where we crossed the old showground and the A1175. Slightly hairy crossing the dual carriageway, but we survived. The next field at the rear of the farm is usually very muddy, you gain inches in height due to the mud!! We struck lucky this time as it was really not too bad, but alas worse was to come in other sections. Onward, crossing the A1175 Stamford Road to West Deeping on footpaths, some muddy. From here we followed the footpaths to Maxey Mill, where we proceeded along footpaths by the River



Welland back to Market Deeping. More mud encountered!

It was a bright sunny day with quite a cold wind chill factor (WCF) in places.

The distance walked was between 5.6-5.9 miles, depending which app was used and who you asked. The day we all get all the same mileage recorded, it will be a miracle!!

A big thanks to the walk leaders - "The Littlers". Hope Patsy and Ann Marie enjoyed the walk and will be joining the group in the future.

The next walk will be on 6 February and will be from Milton Golf Club, led by me but yet to be recce'd.

Report: Steve Hanson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson

CHURCH MICE

Eleven members of Church Mice braved one of the coldest days of the year in December to visit St Mary's Church in Boongate in Peterborough. This is one of the newest churches that we have visited. Finished in 1991, roughly on the site of the previous church, St Mary's does not conform to the traditional shape of a church with a chancel, nave and aisles. The new building houses a church, a chapel, four vestries, three kitchens and meeting rooms on two floors with a lift and a tower. Again breaking with tradition the altar is at the north end of a fan shaped church, far wider than it is long. It is dominated by a large light wood carving of the resurrection. Incorporated into the church are numerous objects from the previous church including three fine Victorian stained-glass windows. Hilary Dawson gave us an illustrated talk about the previous Victorian church and its development and final replacement. We were made very welcome by many members of the church and were furnished with a magnificent spread, some of which we needed to take home.

Our next meeting is a post-Christmas lunch at the Oasis restaurant at Waterside on Tuesday 10 January.

HISTORY GROUP



Christmas Meal

About 30 of the group went for lunch to The Wagon and Horses in Langtoft.

The atmosphere was really pleasant and as you can see from the photo, the Christmas spirit prevailed.

Thank you to Barbara for arranging it all.

The talk in January is entitled *Mr. Jones*.

We wish you all a Happy 2023

We hope that the current dismal news will become more positive.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

WEEKENDERS

The Weekendrs celebrated the last meeting of the year with a party on 3 December. 20 members enjoyed plenty of Christmas fare, a quiz, games, a craft stall and a raffle.

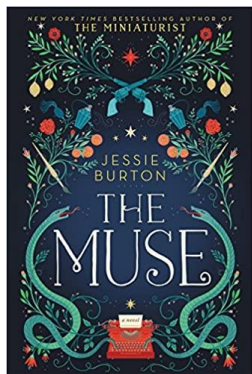
Christmas celebrations continued on the following Saturday when we all enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Waggon and Horses.

Many thanks to Marge and Anita for organising that.

Our next meeting will be on 7 January which unfortunately will be the last meeting of the Weekenders unless someone or a group step forward to take over the running of the group. If anyone feels they can do so, even if only for a year, then please contact Ann.

Report: Barbara McNicol
Group leaders: Ann Bradshaw Barbara McNicol

MONDAY READERS



It was very nice to meet again in the Library for the new year of books and chat together. Unfortunately, three of the group were poorly this time, but we hope to see them back in February. Our book this month was *The Muse* by Jessie Burton, author of the very well received novel, *The Miniaturist*. This is her second book and, particularly as it had been chosen for us by the Library service, we were looking forward to reading it over Christmas. The novel is really two stories in one; one is set in London in the 1960s, and follows the story of Odelle, a West Indian immigrant working in an art gallery. The other story is set in Spain in the 1930s, and concerns Olive, the daughter of an art dealer, living in a tiny village. The two stories become intricately linked by a painting, which turns up in London in the present, but has its origins in Spain, and the past. How the stories merge, and the outcome of its history are cleverly plotted and the characters very interesting and well-drawn. The quality of the descriptive writing was admired by many of us, with the language being very evocative, whether describing art or landscape. The period details were convincing too. There is a very clever twist at the end of the book, which caught all of us by surprise! All-in-all, the group enjoyed this book and would recommend it as an absorbing read.

Group Leader: Liz Waterland

WANDERERS (LAST WANDER?)



On a misty and frosty day the Wanderers sallied forth from the Stage for their December walk. Traditionally our Christmas route is a local one, and this was no exception. From the Stage we walked up the Lincoln Road towards Maxey House. There we turned right and, having safely crossed the A15, continued towards the Mill in Maxey. Opposite the Mill we took the footpath around Maxey lakes. Somewhere near the Lake Lodge we paused for a glass of port and a mince pie. Soon we emerged near the playing fields at Castle End and retraced our steps for an excellent lunch at the Stage. Sadly, this was the Wanderers last walk as we have decided to step down after eight years as group leaders, and we must say how much we have enjoyed the whole experience. We have been so lucky with the weather over the years and even luckier with our fellow Wanderers who are all delightful people and whose

company we have really enjoyed and valued.

To all the Wanderers, thank you all for your kind words and lovely presents.

Group Leaders: Barry and Hilary Akam.

POETS & POETRY GROUP

Eight members met at Kath's house for the first meeting of 2023.

This month our topic was to find a poet with our own initials, which proved to be a challenge for some of us!

However we all managed to find a poem, which included poems by Matthew Prior, Christian Johann Heinrich Heine, Carol Ann Duffy, Katherine Tynan, Seamus Heaney, Carl Sandburg, Lewis Warsh, and John Milton.

The next meeting will be on 7 February and our topic will be a poem about our favourite landscape.

Report: Angie Dorward
Group Leader: Irene Beeker

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
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Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott
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**REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF
ARTICLES FOR 10 FEBRUARY
SEND TO
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**

Some photos taken at the December meeting where members enjoyed a talk on Medieval Christmas Customs and tasted the mince pies and figgy pudding

