



Deeping St. James

Issue No.240 February 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Pamela Harris, Deeping Gate, Patsy Deeping and Carol Harrison from Deeping St James, Nigel Eveleigh, Bourne

FEBRUARY MEETING: 20 February

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

20 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.

20 March 2023: The Committee announces with regret that the talk "Deene Park ~ Home of the Brudenell Family since 1514", twice postponed because of Covid, has had to be cancelled. The original speaker, on returning to work after maternity leave, is no longer doing events away from Dene Park.

The replacement talk will be "John Flynn and the Royal Flying Doctor Service".

John Peasgood will recount the life Reverend John Flynn, a missionary in the Australian outback, whose work in hospitals for bush communities led him to develop the Aerial Medical Service which became the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

17 April: If At First You Don't Succeed, Try Something Different

John Hope's light-hearted look at a few people who have turned failure into fame and success, featuring well-known names in the fields of business, entertainment, sport, science and politics. He also talks about challenges he met throughout his own career.

Speaker Arranger

Our Speaker Arranger, Lyall Seale, will be retiring from the role after more than 10 years' service in October. The Committee reminds members that if they wish monthly meetings with speakers to continue after 2023 one or two people (sharing) must offer their services.

Learning the role alongside Lyall would be better than picking up the pieces later.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Hello everyone

This Newsletter contains, as ever, interesting group reports, reflecting the content of the activity and the group's response. It's good to have the lovely photos to accompany, but not replace, the written material.

I have been listening to a radio discussion, questioning the use of mobile phones to film the events attended, rather than enjoying the event as it happens. Not something we are guilty of in u3a.

The day after our February monthly general meeting is Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day. I rather regret the demise of many of the traditional Pancake Races – health and safety issues, I believe! How about a u3a Pancake Race next

year?

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Monday 20 February.



Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Newsletter Delivery

The Committee has finished reviewing how the paper copies of the newsletter are delivered and to whom. We are delighted to announce that Liz Noble has offered to be the coordinator and that Kay Bunn, Terry Noble, Stuart Wilson and David Perkins have offered to be the deliverers in the new process.

Paper copies will no longer be on the table at the monthly meeting. You will get your copy delivered by one of the people above or

by post.

We are still looking for a volunteer for the Tattershall Drive area. Please get in touch if you can help.

Updated data protection and privacy policies

The Committee has reviewed these two policies and accompanying legitimate interest statements. They can be found on The Deepings u3a website Deepings u3a: Welcome (u3asites.org.uk).

Go to the Useful Info tab and look under Governance. Please read to see how we keep your information as safe as possible in line with the requirements set out by General Data Protection Regulation.

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Greetings to all members, both old and new. Things are getting rolling again and our Deepings u3a is receiving enquiries on the website re our interest groups. Do have a look at our Deepings u3a website and consider adding an article to keep it fresh. Pleased to say that several of our groups have now received offers of support from their members to assist the leaders. Thanks to Helen Perkins assisting Tony Semple (Sunday Lunch) and Ann Pettitt (Thursday Gardening) assisting Kay Parker. If you have any concerns or brilliant ideas, please contact me, June, 01778 344916.

June Wheatcroft and Phil Jones
Group Co-ordination Team

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group saw members meet for the first of our 2023 meetings with a very interesting, if gruesome at times, talk by Alan Brooke on "Victorian Crime and Punishment".

In 1815 there were 225 capital crimes punishable with the death sentence. Public hangings were the most popular events of the time. Crowds of 20,000 or more came together to watch and even Thomas Cook organised excursions for tourists to see the events. Coins and souvenirs of the occasion were also available. Alan also told us stories of the 1832 Anatomy Act that permitted Doctors, teachers of anatomy and medical students to dissect donated bodies, the body snatchers waiting at the gallows for the corpses to

sell them to the Anatomy Theatres.

Between 1840-1877, 90 prisons were built in Britain at enormous expense. Prisons were primarily for the correction of minor offenders and to hold suspects.

Transporting criminals first to America and then later to Australia was another deterrent. 162,000 convicts were transported and very few ever saw Britain again. Alan told us of how, in the National Archives at Kew, you can see a bundle of letters to the Home Office from relatives and friends pleading to be allowed to accompany the convicts to Australia as life in Britain would be unbelievably difficult for them. These were very poignant telling us of life in those times.

Executions and other court cases were highly publicised and the Penny

Dreadful became very popular, a cheap booklet aimed at the working-class man.

To end the talk, he told us the stories of some of the sensational murderers of the time as told in the newspapers with all the gory details.

If you would like to join us to find out more about your family history, please contact me.

Report: Jean Brennand
Group Leader: Jean Brennand

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The latest meeting was held on 22 January 2023 at The Black Horse, Baston. Nine members enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours. Our next venue will be at The Wagon & Horses, Langtoft on 26 February.

Bookings will be taken at the U3A meeting on Monday 20 February.

Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

January meeting

We started off the New Year on 11 January at Terry Noble's house. To drive away any winter blues, the programme featured music inspired by birds and birdsong. The pieces ranged from early composers such as Rameau and Vivaldi, through to the 20th century to Olivier Messiaen with his realistic depiction of a blackbird by a solo flute.

Of particular note was Vaughan-Williams' *The Lark Ascending* with its lush harmonies reminding us of summer days in the country. The little-known choral item by Charles Villiers Stanford *The Blue Bird* was most beguiling and the inventive genius of Handel was demonstrated by his virtuosic organ concerto known as *The Cuckoo and the Nightingale*.

No programme featuring birds and birdsong could be complete without having extracts from Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* where we heard references to *Hens and Cockerels*, *Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods* and of course *The Swan*, effortlessly gliding across still waters. Other composers featured were Mendelssohn, Daquin and Respighi – with his suite *The Birds*.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 on 8 February at Anne Jones's house

February meeting

Our February meeting was at the home of Anne Jones with a program entitled: Bells & Brass.

The program was collated by Terry Noble, for which many thanks.

We began the morning with an old playground favourite – *Oranges and Lemons*, which revived a few memories in the group. The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble (no relation, unfortunately) took us into *The Battle Suite* by Samuel Scheidt, followed by Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*.

A familiar piece came from Aaron Copland with *Fanfare for the Common Man* and then we heard the American High School Hand bell Ensemble playing *Rolling in the Deep* – something new to some of the group.

Four Trombones once more from The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, composed by Beethoven was followed by a short version of *Annie Laurie* (the Annie Laurie Army Field Band).

Liszt's *La Campanella* was played on the piano by Frederick Rousseau and then a complete change of mood came with The Bolsover Brass and a Tuba solo of *Nellie the Elephant*.

Then we heard another *La Campanella*, but this was composed by Paganini, with an arrangement by Fritz Kriesler.

Handel, had to be here too and we heard *The Trumpet Shall Sound from The Messiah*, conducted by Jeffrey Thomas.

Carillon-Sortie was played by Gerard Brooks on the Cavaille-Coll Organ at St Rouen Cathedral, Rouen.

Hummell completed our program of Bells & Brass with his *Trumpet Concerto in Eb*. Alison Balsom joined the German Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Thomas Klug for a grand finish to our morning.

We heard some splendid music and a big Thank You to Terry for putting the program together.

Our next meeting is on 8 March at the home of Ann Holmes.

Report: Anne Jones
Group Leader: Terry Noble

QUILTING GROUP



The January meeting was a catch-up session with ideas put forward for the forthcoming term.

Advice was given by Carol on squaring triangles for a new quilt. Something I for one had forgotten. Thank you, Carol for that. (My triangles are now complete ready to have a go. All 96 of them.)

Liz has offered to demonstrate the 'Slash Technique' for those wishing to have a go at the next meeting in February. You're never done learning with quilting. We're lucky as a group that everyone is willing to share skills.

The pictures show how patterned fabric can be top stitched on to a coordinating fabric backing so the quilt is double sided. This was made and gifted for Xmas.



Group Leader: Margaret Griffiths

JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

The January meeting took the shape of a late Christmas lunch. Seven members were present but there was no music this time.

The February meeting will be at the home of Anne Jones and Phil Jones has kindly agreed to put a program together.

We look forward to seeing everyone on 22 February.

Report: Anne Jones
Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones

CRAFT GROUP 2



We started off the new year with a 3D card, courtesy of Heather who produced the instructions and excellent design papers. Thank you to her and we were all pleased with the results.

We are looking at different subjects for future months – watch this space!

Liz Noble
Group Leader

WEDNESDAY GARDENING

Thirteen members of the Group met at the Black Horse at Baston (formerly the Baskervilles) for a post-Christmas Lunch. Despite the fact that we were thirteen at the table, all went well! It was very relaxing and enjoyable and chat with the added bonus being that the meal was prepared and served for us and no washing up to follow!

The next meeting will be on 8 February when we will hear a talk on begonias by Dave Staines. We will meet at Angie's house, 130 Eastgate, PE6 8RD.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

ART APPRECIATION



Today's meeting was mainly a social get together for the New Year. There was an excellent attendance and refreshments were on offer. There was a light-hearted quiz to start with, while people enjoyed a chat and coffee/food.

This was followed by a DVD entitled, *Take One Picture* and was from a project run by The National Gallery and offered to schools across the country.

We looked at *The Fighting Temeraire* by the artist JMW Turner (pictured left).

After some information about the painting, we saw how various schools and age groups had interpreted it across the curriculum.

Next month Barbara McNicol will be giving a talk on the artist Berthe Morisot.

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month. Deeping Sports and Social Club. 10 for 10.30.

New members always welcome.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



January walk

Our first walk of 2023 was arranged and led by Brian and Nora Littler.

Seventeen walkers met and left the Sugar Mill Pub, heading into Bourne along South Road.

After the BRM Plaque we turned along Church Walk and headed along Meadowgate, parallel to North Street. At the end we crossed North Street and entered Christopher Lane. We were now onto a countryside path and plenty of mud!

On entering Bourne Woods we were challenged with gingerly crossing a small but lively stream, trying not to get



our feet wet. Wet and muddy footwear is not much fun early into a walk!

In the depths of the woods we were to behold a spectacular sighting. Two pure white deer – or were they Unicorns - it is hard to say which....

Upon leaving the woods we made our way through Elsea Park Estate and returned to the pub for an enjoyable lunch.

The weather was kind for January, quite warm and just some slight rain for the final mile.

Distance was between 5.5 to just under 6 miles in length.

February walk



This month's walk (6 miles) was organised by Godfrey Parkes and David Scott.

Fifteen walkers met at the Burghley Golf Club, Stamford on a fine mildly frosty morning. We began by heading down London Road, turning right through the impressive gateway into Burghley Park Estate.



Following the trackway through the park we eventually exited onto Barnack Road then took the path along the edge of the estate emerging at Pilsgate.

A short walk through Pilsgate, alongside Barnack Road brought us onto Mill Road. As we walked along, we saw a very well-maintained windmill.

At the end of Mill Road, we turned right, walking diagonally across a field, then onto lush meadows of sheep to enter the southern side of the estate, with splendid views of the rear of Burghley House.

Continuing NW through the estate, we emerged at our destination, the clubhouse.

Here we had a very well-presented meal in very comfortable surroundings.

Report: Richard Coulson
Group Leader: Richard Coulson

ITALIAN GROUP



Our group decided to have our Christmas Dinner in January (la nostra cena di Natale).

We decided to go to Tonino's, in Market Deeping.

The menu gave us a very good choice and we all enjoyed our food and would thoroughly recommend it.

We didn't speak much Italian, but there was much laughter!

A good time was had by all.

Group Leader: Lynne Alcorn

GOOD FOOD GROUP

January report

The first Foodie lunch of 2023 was at Hilary's house and the theme was 'Healthy Eating'.

Eight people attended and the occasion started with a glass of fizz to toast the New Year. It was felt that we should begin 2023 as we hoped to go on by eating a healthy diet, after the excesses of the festive season. A number of the dishes used lower calorie alternative ingredients while keeping their flavours.

The meal started with a light dish of melon and Parma ham on a bed of lettuce. This was followed by Cullen Skink, which was a wholesome dish of smoked haddock, potatoes and leek cooked in milk instead of cream on this occasion.

A mouth-watering recipe from the 500 Calorie Diet Book; sweet potato, squash and lentil stew was next. Then came two dishes containing chicken: Nigella's African drumsticks marinated in a tasty sauce, followed by a cream chicken casserole accompanied by cauliflower rice. Both were delicious.

Apricot Claufoutis, which is apricots cooked in a batter, made with semi skimmed milk was one dessert, and plum and almond bread pudding was the other dish. These rounded off a delicious meal.

The next meeting is on the 6 February and will be at Cynthia's. The theme is Hairy Biker recipes.

February report

The Good Food Group met at Cynthia and Chris's house this month and the theme was recipes from the Hairy Bikers.

We started with curried butternut squash and apple soup followed by fish gratin. There were three main courses, cottage pie, garlicky bean and tomato stew and pasta bolognese. To complete a very substantial meal, we enjoyed apple and almond crumble, black cherry pudding and an orange, sultana and carrot cake. We had red wine from Italy and white wine from Australia to accompany the meal and all agreed we had been very well fed.

Next month we are at Anne and David's house when we will be using mystery ingredients.

Report: Sheila McGurk
Group leaders: Hilary Akham and Sheila McGurk

CRAFTY CREW



Our first meeting for 2023 was a really jolly affair!

We tried our hand at needle felting. Karyn, one of our members had previously shown us some of the animal items she had made and had offered to show 'the crew' how it was done. With great enthusiasm, several pricked fingers and a lot of bent or snapped needles, we got the hang of it, sort of, and managed each to make a mouse!

Our first attempt was fun so we have all agreed to have another go in February and this time hedgehogs are on the agenda.....watch this space for the next animal family to be introduced!

We have already come up with lots of ideas for the year and even thought as far as Christmas!! Hopefully we will find a couple of craft fairs to visit later in the year, for added inspiration.

Report by: Jennie Jackson
Group leaders: Jennie Jackson, Mollie Wright

"PACERS" WALKING GROUP



There was a good turnout of 13 pacers for the second walk of 2023. For early February it was fairly mild but with a cold wind when we hit exposed spots, which fortunately was not too often.

We met at the Granary next to Notcutts near Ferry Meadows. The Granary was quite busy at 10.00 and then I realised it was people staying at the Premier Inn having breakfast (breakfast at 10.00!).

They did not need us to pre-order - "It will work OK"- so we used the facilities, validated our parking tickets and set off.

Stuart and Barbara led us off down Oundle Road in the direction of Peterborough and then turned right up a track through the woods. Due to the dry weather of the last week the surface was fairly solid. Then a circuit past Orton Longueville pond, the Church and Orton Hall Hotel to the road at the bus stop where Nobby lived for 20 years – there is now a plaque for him in the bus shelter.

On to Orton Mere, beside the Golf course, round to the river and then beside Overton Lake stopping to admire the Owl carving in a tree. From there a short walk past the caravan park back to the cars.

After 4 miles we were back at the Granary for lunch. Service and food were good and, at £9.95 for two courses, excellent value. We expected portions to be small but not the case at all.

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 (still a secret) will be guided by Steve and Lynn on Wednesday 1 March – details by email as usual.

Report: Geoff Whittle

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our new year starts in February. As our meetings are early in the month we always feel it is too close to new year celebrations to tax the little grey cells with one of Margaret and David Scott's excellent quizzes!

This year was no exception although we were delighted to thank them both for making it a little easier this year!! Eleven of us took part amongst the usual laughter and we all learnt a little too, although will we retain it for next year????

Thank you to Ann Pettitt for agreeing to become joint leader with Kay Parker, since the retirement of Linda Hill in December.

We also managed to formalise some of the plans for this year, so a most enjoyable and productive morning.

Margaret assured us the weather had caused some distress in their garden, but the small spring aconites were appearing well in their front garden. Thanks to Margaret and David for hosting the meeting.

Report: Liz Noble

Joint Leaders Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

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

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Eighteen walkers met at Milton Golf Club on a cold (1°C), but sunny morning.

A big welcome back to Lesley, who hasn't walked with us since 2020. Having preordered our lunch, we set off on a bridleway towards the golf course. Despite having received the route it was still difficult to navigate the footpaths across the golf course. Rather than trying to spot the footpath poles, it was easier to look for notices on trees stating which way to look for the tees. The system works well and no walkers were hit by golf balls.

Onwards across fields towards the kennels (no dogs there though).



With the sun out, fallen leaves, trees and sheep it was a magical panorama. Continuing through South Bretton we walked through a wonderful underpass with tasteful artistic Graffiti.

Next, we went through Bluebell Woods (not out yet) in Longthorpe, passed the new footbridge (not open yet) and then to the Stauch. Under Nene Parkway and along footpaths to Milton Park, then across numerous fields and stiles through Ferry Drive back to the Golf Club.

Fortunately, we didn't come across much mud, it was a bright and sunny morning, got to 7°C, what more could you ask for?

The walk was approximately 6.5 miles depending who was asked, there are always differences!! Then a good meal was had by all. Next walk Manton – details to follow.

Report: Steve Hanson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson

HISTORY GROUP

Despite the cold weather our meeting this month was very well attended. All arrived to hear Sandra's talk on Mr. Jones (not husband, Ian, but Gareth - 1905-1935).



The theme was 'The Diary of the Famine in Ukraine. A man who knew too much.' Born in Barry, South Wales, Gareth Jones was a well-travelled journalist who through his visits shone a spotlight on the dreadful plight of peasants in the Soviet Union and Ukraine. He became Foreign Affairs Advisor to Lloyd George.

Joseph Stalin was determined to industrialise the Soviet Union and to impose the Collectivisation of farming on the country. His five-year plan led to the starvation of millions, particularly in Ukraine, the 'bread basket of the world'.

Between 1921 and 1922 'The Holodomor' (Death by Starvation) in the Ukraine was denied by many around the world and is still refuted by Russia today.

Having witnessed the rise of Hitler and Fascism in Germany, Jones then visited Japan to check out their future plans. Whilst he was there, he was captured on the border with China, by Chinese bandits and before a ransom could be paid he was murdered on the eve of his 30th birthday. It is thought that the Soviets were involved in this act.

Mr. Jones' remains were interred in Barry cemetery.

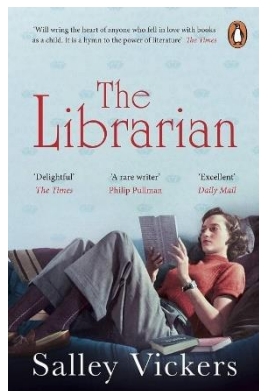
Thank you, Sandra, and your Wingman, David, for a super talk. It made us think that sadly the pain and suffering still continue in Ukraine today, a century after those awful scenes

witnessed by Gareth Jones.

Next month (15/2) the meeting will be led by Maureen James.

Report: Mary Burton
Group Leader: Sandra Jones

MONDAY READERS



Our book this month was agreed to be pleasant read, with a lovely sense of period. It was set in the late 50s, early 60s, and brought back to many of us reminders of our childhood.

The Librarian tells of a young woman who, in 1958, takes up the position of children's librarian in the small town of East Mole. She encounters many characters from small town life, the pillar of the WI, the local doctor, the obstructive and entrenched Head Librarian, as she tries to enliven the junior library, and bring in the local youngsters to engage with the new library books she has ordered in for them.

The characters are interesting, and the children particularly well drawn, whilst the plot has many twists and turns. We recognised

many of the attitudes of the period towards social class, child abuse, streaming in schools and the 11+.

But for many of us the charm of the story was the memories of our own local libraries and the role they played in our childhood. The novel includes references to many books that resonated with us and the discussion of the need for libraires in children's lives was agreed on by all!

Group Leader: Liz Waterland

STROLLERS GROUP

We kicked off our 2023 programme with a return to Werrington, as 13 Strollers met at the Crab and Winkle at Loxley. Stuart led us on our way into the 'new' township area, before reaching Fox Covert Road which took us to the village green.

Amongst the group was our newest member, Rosemary Fisher, taking her first outing with the group.

Crossing Fulbridge Road, we made our way to Cuckoo's Hollow, after passing under that road, with its display of urban art depicting wild life to be found in the area.

Walking alongside the centre, which is the focal point of the township, we met up with Fox Covert Road again and left it as we walked alongside the railway line which leads to Spalding and beyond.

The weather was kind to us all throughout the morning, but although it was overcast, we managed to keep dry. Hope that is a good omen for the year.

Returning to the Crab & Winkle we enjoyed a hearty lunch.

Our walk this month will be led by Geoff Fitzjohn and takes place on Friday 24 February.

Details of the walk will be circulated to members of the group in due course.

Report and Group Leader: Bob 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

Newsletter Editor	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
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Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott
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