



Deeping St. James

Issue No.241

March 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Chris Gould and Lewis Clayton, Stamford, Belinda Mills, Maxey, Hilary Mason and Claudette Herman, Deeping St James

MARCH MEETING: 20 March

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

20 March 2023: "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.

16 May: Lincolnshire's Birds and Reserves

Steve Lovell's talk visits the coast, heathlands, Wolds, fens and a variety of other habitats in between to take a closer look at which birds and why they come to the variety of habitats in this wonderful county.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Hello everyone

Greetings from a snowy Crowland, though I don't expect it will stay for long enough to create an alpine landscape! However, snow at the same time as spring blossoming must be one of the reasons why "the weather" can crop up so often in our conversations.

The Membership Secretary has completed a survey of members and the groups in which you participate. We were interested to discover that about 80 members do not participate in any of the groups; maybe you simply enjoy the monthly meetings? Or have you not found a group you fancy? Is there one you would like to suggest and set up with our support? We look forward to your feedback.

We are thinking of including a miscellany of your Coronation activities in the June Newsletter. So please think about letting us have any photos or a brief description of your celebrations.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the March meeting.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The latest meeting of the U3A Sunday Lunch Group was held at the Wagon and Horses, Langtoft on Sunday 26 February. Eight members attended and they all enjoyed the meal.

The next meeting will be on 26 March at The Horseshoe, Thurlby, at 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Bookings will be taken at the U3A meeting on Monday 20 March. If you are not able to attend, please phone Tony 342776, or Helen 345674 to enable us to give a final figure by 24 March 2023.

Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple

FLOWER ARRANGING



It was great to have full attendance again this month. We had the challenge of trying to produce an arrangement without using florists' foam if possible, as it is not biodegradable. We all want to try and reduce plastic use, so turned back the clock and used scrunched chicken wire, pin holders or other mechanics to hold the flowers and foliage.

It proved to take longer and was more difficult to place the stems in position. It also made transporting the finished arrangements home awkward, with the water in danger of spilling in the car. It was an interesting experience, and we were pleased with our spring arrangements.

In April we will be trying a more 'continental' style, and, if possible, an Easter arrangement of choice.

Report and Group Leader: Pat Ludlow

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The subject for the Family History Group Meeting for February was "Marriage". What could we learn from certificates and other documents, now found on the internet, instead of travelling and searching through endless records at the many county archives? We discussed the new Marriages, Civil Partnerships, Burials and Death Registration Act 2019 that came into force on 4 May 2021 and how it will affect the future genealogists. Also, the Marriage, Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 which is planned to come into law on the 27 February 2023 which raises the age of marriage to 18. No longer will marriages of 16 and 17 with parents' consent be allowed.

Historical divorce, bigamy, co-habiting and desertion records from our archives and newspapers were compared. Treasured family wedding photos of brides and grooms on their special day and the fashions of the time discussed.

Flowers and the special bouquets were spoken of and how even our late Queen had problems on her big day with a tiara that broke in the morning and the bouquet getting misplaced prior to the photos being taken and some of them having to be retaken after the honeymoon with a second bouquet.

We welcomed Belinda Mills as a new group member to the meeting and if anyone else is interested please contact me for details.

**Report: Jean Brennand
Group Leader: Jean Brennand**

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



On a nippy February morning a curious red kite came to inspect as our group of 11 gathered at Ferry Meadows. The area around the bird hide has sometimes proved disappointing but this time the surrounding bushes were teeming with small birds.

We were able to spot blue tits, great tits, coal tits and long-tailed tits all within a few yards, which is quite special. We also noted the large brown rat which wandered by!

On a branch overlooking the river a kestrel sat disdainfully with his back to us and resolutely refused to turn for us to get a better view but a few minutes later, as we stood on the footbridge over the cut, we were rewarded with the sight of multiple electric

blue flashes as two kingfishers darted backwards and forwards just below us. One came and sat on a nearby bush proudly displaying its blazing red breast while the other did an impressive dive into the water, successfully catching a fish. What a treat! Our next meeting is on Thursday 23 March at Kings Dyke Nature Reserve.



**Report by: Philip Astle.
Group Leader: Jo Astle**

JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our February meeting was at the home of Anne Jones and was collated by Terry Noble and Phil Jones. The theme was "The Instruments that made them famous...."

Beginning with Charlie Parker (saxophone) and *Celebrity*, we moved on to Dizzy Gillespie (trumpet) and *Sweet Georgia Brown*. Andre Previn (piano), Louis Armstrong (trumpet of course.) rendered *When You're Smiling*, *On the Sunny Side of the Street* and *When the Saints Go Marching In*. Buddy Rich (drums) gave us *Birdland*, live, and then *Backwoods Sideman* (where do these titles come from?) and *Chicago* (re-mix). Then we heard from Gene Krupa (drums) with *Drummin' Man* and *Tuxedo Junction*.

The Oscar Peterson trio (Oscar - the definitive pianist) played two pieces from his *Night Train* CD. Following this was a delightful vocal from the *Solitary Moon* CD - *I Won't Believe My Eyes*. Phil Norman Tentet gave us *Lullaby of Birdland* and *Poinciana* from the CD *Then and Now*.

All these musicians/singers had a special talent and it made them famous and kept them in our memory, though sadly most of them are no longer with us.

Many thanks for the assistance in putting my programme together and giving us such a musical treat, go to Terry and Phil.

I did provide the refreshments!

Our next meeting will be at Terry Noble's home on 22 March.

Report: Anne Jones

Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones

CRAFT GROUP 2

We tackled some teabag folding this month which we haven't visited for a long time. Kath and I were able to supply some samples to give members some ideas and as usual lots of varieties appeared.



In March we are having a change and looking forward to a demonstration talk by a local jewellery maker.



Report: Liz Noble

Group Leader: Liz Noble

WEDNESDAY GARDENING

Our February meeting was held at Angie's home at Deeping St. James. Dave Staines gave us a talk with slides on growing begonias. We saw many different varieties and colours and were given tips on which type of compost to use, how and when to plant etc. We were each given a corm of begonia "Flamboyant" so will see who has the best plant later on.

Report: Jean Foster

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

ART APPRECIATION



It was really good to have one of our own members take on the task of presenter this month. Barbara had researched Berthe Morisot and gave an interesting introduction, followed by two YouTube videos about the artist's life and paintings.

Berthe was a member of the Impressionist painters and was a well-known female artist. (Females were not encouraged or recognized in this male dominated profession!)

She exhibited for the first time in 1864 in the highly esteemed Salon de Paris. She was married to Eugene Manet, the brother of her friend and colleague, Edouard Manet.

She was one of "les trois grandes dames" of Impressionism. The other two being Marie Bracquemond and Mary Cassatt.

She led an interesting life but died aged 54.

Thanks to Barbara for an interesting talk.

Next month we will be looking at 17th, 18th and 19th Century art styles.

Meeting on the third Tuesday of March at Deeping Sports and Social Club at 10am for 10.30.

New members welcome. (You do not need to be an expert but just interested in Art and enjoy a chat.)

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



This month's walk began at the village of Donington, famous for the birthplace of Matthew Flinders in 1774.

As a naval officer he was involved in the early circumnavigation of Australia and is responsible for the naming of the continent.

Oh what a day! 14 of us were subjected to miserable cold wet conditions with snow and rain driving horizontal at us. However we survived the ordeal cold and wet, but unscathed.

We initially had to walk besides the A52 for a spell before turning onto fen farming land.

Here we walked along muddy paths and narrow farm lanes besides freshly ploughed fields and fields with the remnants of last season's growing.

Beyond the village as we approached the Eaudykes we came across a small memorial to six aircrew who perished here when their Avro Lancaster crashed in April 1944.

This gently undulating area known as the Eaudykes represents the remains of the medieval coastline.

On returning back to Donington we passed through the charming, peaceful parkland area known as Matthew Flinders Park.

After removing our waterproof clothing, which was tested to the limit, and mostly failing the test, we were treated to excellent food and service at the Black Bull public house.

Report: Richard Coulson
Group Leader: Richard Coulson

GOOD FOOD GROUP

Monday 6 March saw the Food Group meet for another gastronomic delight. The theme this month was a mystery or hidden ingredient. What creative dishes there were!

We began with soup, nobody guessed the main ingredient was aubergine, followed by a loaf with chorizo and sun-dried tomatoes hidden inside. Next came the fish course with mirin marinated salmon with the main courses Red Dragon Pie (nobody Welsh or any Dragons were harmed during the making of this dish) and stuffed butternut squash with sumac.

The desserts were a fruit flan that included semolina, chocolate pots with hidden tahini, plus who would have thought you could make a delicious chocolate cake with mayonnaise? Naturally, the meal was accompanied with white and red wines and finished off with coffee.

Good company, good food and wine what more could one want?

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

CRAFTY CREW



Another fun (creative) couple of hours developing our needle felting skills, less stabbed fingers and no plasters needed this time but we still need lots of practice!

This is the hedgehog family we created, some of them definitely look as though they 'need to go to Specsavers' or a plastic surgeon to get a nose job but we all enjoyed our afternoon!

Thank you to Christine for hosting this time, the biscuits were scrummy. Some of us will meet again this month to make "snap bags" and we are all looking forward to meeting in March when we will have an Easter theme for our creations.

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

"PACERS" WALKING GROUP

Fifteen walkers this month met at the Bertie Arms in Uffington. Given the weather forecast and looking at the sky, we rather thought we would get wet so waterproofs were the order of the day. As it turned out there was a little rain near the end of the walk but the sun came out to dry us off.



Having ordered lunch, we set off towards Copthill School and turned right onto the footpath just before the single-track bridge.

We walked alongside the old canal and the river for about a mile and three quarters. There had been some rain overnight so, although there was not much mud, care was needed as it was slippery in places, especially on the little 'downs and ups' on the path. Turning left and going past the backs of the new houses at the entrance to Stamford we stopped at the 'crocodile'. Quite visible these days

compared to the overgrown state of a few years ago, and looking pretty good for its age – to be honest not sure how old it is. We then returned on the opposite side of the river to the road, up the hill and then back to the Bertie Arms.

We had the room upstairs to ourselves and the food was excellent. The staff did a great job carrying it all up the stairs!

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 at Surfleet and guided by Jane and Anne on Wednesday 5 April –details by email as usual.

Report: Geoff Whittle
Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our early March meeting managed a sunny but cold morning, but at least before the promised freezing weather from the north due later in the month! We visited Vine House Farm at Deeping St Nicholas where after some slight misunderstandings we were able to take a guided tour by Lucy round their wild garden. Of course, early March was not ideal for seeing



plants in their true colours, but we had good imagination and Lucy described the different areas, how it had been constructed and their aims for encouraging birds and insects – lots of bug hotels and excellent signs to show what's what.

We did find one attractive shrub in flower and with the internet's help named it as Fallopia – a good idea for our own gardens to give some interest in the winter.



We ended our tour with hot drinks and their welcome scones etc. A good opportunity to catch up with the group members together with interesting trip out. Thank you to Kay for organising it.

**Report by Liz Noble
Joint Leaders Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt**

POETS & POETRY GROUP

We met at Kath's home for our March meeting, our task for this month was to use the letter 'A' to either find a poet whose surname begins with 'A' or a poem starting with the letter 'A'. We all did rather well, three members were unable to come, but the rest of us made up for that.

We had Alan Jenkins' Biographer. Two poems, The Silver Sun, and the coming of Grendel, by Anon. 'Australia Felix' by Clive James, (the translation means Happy Australia), another 'Anon' Anglo Saxon Riddle. The Arrival of the Bee Box, by Sylvia Platt, John Betjeman, 'A minds journey to Diss'. AE Houseman 'A Shropshire Lad' 'An August Midnight' Thomas Hardy, and 'Alone' Maya Angelou.

Our thanks go to Kath for her hospitality, we had a most enjoyable afternoon discussing our poems, and putting the world to right, I would also like to thank all the members for all their input, and making our meetings so enjoyable

**Report: Irene Beeken
Group Leader: Irene Beeken**

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

This month's walk was arranged by Ann and Ian Sutherland. Twenty-three walkers left the Horse and Jockey pub, Manton. We headed north down the slope following the Rutland Water circular route, with views where the Gwash enters the reservoir.

Turning left we crossed the main road and railway line, climbing a hill by the edge of Gunthorpe hamlet. Drifts of snowdrops were to be seen.

A good walking track overlooking the Gwash Valley led us to the historic village of Brooke. Heading south up a hill we turned left onto the Macmillan Way.

This ridge walk gave us good views on both sides. We walked through the site of the medieval village of Martinshorpe, giving views down the length of Rutland Water. After a distance of just under six miles we enjoyed a tasty lunch back at the pub. The weather was kind, cool and dry.



**Report: Ann Sutherland
Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

HISTORY GROUP

10 Stories of the Carrs by Maureen James



We were pleased to welcome Maureen back to entertain us with the stories she had researched for her PhD. Many stories were written down by Mary Balfour who was the cousin of Robert Louis Stephenson. She collected these tales from patients who visited her husband's surgery (he was a GP) in Lincolnshire.

Maureen had no slides as she said there were no photographs to identify the characters. Characters were not necessarily human.

These were some of the names from her stories: Tiddy Mun, Yallery Brown, Fred the Fool and Sam's Ghost.

Other stories were entitled: *Dead Hand*, *Pottle of Brains* and *Dead Moon*.

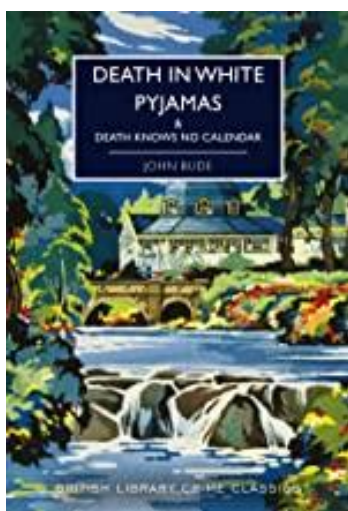
Maureen is publishing a book of these stories soon.

In our March meeting, the talk is entitled 'The History of the Landscape of Burghley Park'. Our speaker is The Reverend David Bond



Report: Sandra Jones
Group Leader: Sandra Jones

MONDAY READERS



For our March meeting, we had read two stories in one volume, both by the same author, John Bude.

Bude is a writer of detective fiction in the thirties and forties, and his books are republished now as part of The British Library Crime Classics series from what is often called "the golden age" of British crime writing.

Our two-books-in-one were, *Death in White Pyjamas*, and *Death Knows No Calendar*. Both date from the mid-40s, and both, it must be said, of their time.

The stories divided our group's opinions to a quite unusual extent! Two of the group really enjoyed them, some were so-so, and some disliked them very much, to the point of giving up on reading them.

The first story concerns a theatre company, gathered in a country house mansion to hear a new play, and start rehearsals for their next one. One of the cast is murdered but, unusually, we don't find out who it is until more of halfway through the book. Up until then, the characters are set out and interact in such a way that the reader is kept guessing who the unfortunate one will be.

The rest of the book is taken up with the how, where, why and who, of the murder itself and the detection of the murderer.

The second story is a classic "locked room" mystery. The lady is certainly dead, but surely it must be suicide, since she is inside a sealed room?

Both stories hinge on ingenious devices set up by the murderers, and the painstaking work of the detectives, one a police officer, the other an amateur, rather in the style of Miss Marple (only this one is a retired Army major).

Those who enjoyed the books, found them cleverly plotted, witty, and cosy to read. Those who were indifferent felt they were lacking in excitement or great interest, whilst those who disliked them thought they were dated, creaky, and with unpleasant social attitudes.

So, to sum up, if you like Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers, or Josephine Tey, these would be well worth trying out. If you like your crime full of fast action, blood, and modern social settings, don't!

Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

STROLLERS GROUP



A group of eight Strollers led by Geoff Fitzjohn set off from The Millstone Inn in Ryhall for their February walk. We welcomed Carol who was walking with us for the first time. The weather forecast was not looking too good but we were pleasantly surprised when the sun came out, making the countryside look very attractive and Springlike.

After walking up through the village of Ryhall, we crossed the Stamford Road and picked up the track heading towards Tolethorpe Hall, with the river Gwash on our right. As the walk progressed towards Tolethorpe Mill we paused on the bridge to admire our surroundings and the beautifully clear water of the Gwash, which is in fact a tributary of the Welland. As we passed by, the Mill building and its gardens looked so attractive in the sunshine. Then

taking the footpath beside the Mill we headed off across the meadow towards Little Casterton.

On our return journey we were able to glimpse the Tolethorpe theatre from the back which we all found interesting. We retraced our steps to the edge of Ryhall coming back through the village by a different route.

The Millstone staff made us very welcome and we had an enjoyable and very reasonably priced lunch. The walk this month will be a local affair with a stroll around Market Deeping, taking place on Friday 24 March. Details will be sent to members shortly.

Report: Geoff Fitzjohn
Group Leader: Bob Deller

Hopeful signs that Spring is here (Courtesy Steve Hanson)



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
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott

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