



Deeping St. James

Issue No.242

April 2023

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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



Market Deeping

Welcome

**New members:** Carole Randall from Northborough and Anna Jolly from Deeping St James

**APRIL MEETING: 17 April.** Unless otherwise stated, all monthly meetings are at the Methodist Church, Deeping St James. Doors open at 9.30am. Coffee is served until 10.20 and the meetings begin at 10.30.

#### PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

##### 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.

##### 15 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.

##### 19 June: Milton Keynes to Mississippi

Saffron Somerfield's lively and entertaining talk features a brief history of guitar, in which she plays Classical, Spanish and Mississippi Blues music along with her own songs and tunes with anecdotes and stories from a career in music from starting in a North Bucks village to performing worldwide.

## MARGARET'S MUSINGS

### Greetings to you all

I hope you have been enjoying the Easter weekend, perhaps getting out and about on a beautiful sunny Sunday before the inevitable April showers on Easter Monday. Maybe the weather is compensating for February not living up to its traditional title of "February Fill Dyke."

Just before Easter I was lucky enough to spend some time in Madrid. Besides the planned art galleries and churches (and Spanish cuisine!), we witnessed some quite spectacular Palm Sunday processions. We travelled from Barcelona to Madrid by train, through really varied countryside; I'm not sure if this could offset my carbon footprint, incurred on the flight to Barcelona. This is a quandary for many of us as we want to take advantage of travel in retirement and can't always avoid flights. Living in our smaller communities enables us to walk (or cycle) more often and I know that many of you walk to meetings, or car share. We need somehow to press for improved public transport.

The various trips planned for the coming months are a good opportunity to promote interest in our u3a. Guests can participate in two activities as tasters before hopefully becoming members, and this includes trips, groups and monthly meetings.

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

With best wishes

**Margaret**

**Chair, The Deepings u3a**



Please Join US!

The Committee is looking for two members in October: Webmaster and Secretary

You can join the committee **NOW** and find out more about each role.

We meet regularly to offer support and communicate via email/phone.

Please talk to the Chair for more details – Margaret Beardshaw Tel. 01733 210267

## SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Here is the report for our lunch in March.

Our latest venue was at The Horseshoe, Thurlby on 26 March 2023. Eight members were present and all appear to have enjoyed the meal.

Our next lunch has been booked for 23 April at The Bull Hotel, Market Square, Market Deeping 12.30 for 1.00pm. We shall be taking bookings at the U3A meeting on 17 April.

**Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple**

## WATERCOLOURS GROUP



Watercolours (Beginners) is not an altogether correct name for our group! We meet once a month in the Atrium at the Community Centre and enjoy sharing our painting experiences. Some members are beginners, enjoying having a go, others who are more experienced are able to pass on their knowledge and advice. Not everyone is working in watercolours but some choosing a

different medium. The sessions are very relaxed with members working on individual or small group projects, together with plenty of chat about our painting and lots of other things! The variety of subjects chosen to paint is great for us to share.

In the next few months Karen and Joyce have agreed to demonstrate for us some very interesting techniques.

If you would like to have a go or think you could bring something to our group, please come along or give us a ring.



**Report Julie Fitzjohn  
Group Leaders Jan Fisk/Julie Fitzjohn**

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Fourteen of our members met at the Community Centre for our March Meeting to hear this month's talk by Sue Paul. Sue is a long-time avid Family Historian and member of the Family History Federation. Her subject was "Breaking down those Brick walls".

No, we are not talking of the ones in the back garden but those in our Genealogical Research where we have come to a stalemate. Nothing we do seems to get us any further with finding the person we are looking for, so we must think laterally and find ways we can go around the problem. She spoke of four cases she had in her family tree where only the smallest amounts of information were available, not even a name in one case. She told us of how she set down plans of actions for each, and slowly and methodically went through the list of candidates "killing" them off as she went.

She pointed out that she was also very lucky in that she did not live far from London so visits to the various London archives were more easily achieved without the cost of a long journey. We are now talking pre-internet where you couldn't just enter a name and Google gave you a full list of options. She also had the problem of deciphering handwriting that looked as though a spider had walked over the page but break down the brick walls she did and found further stories to tell behind them.

If you are interested in finding out more about your Family History please come along and join us on the second Monday of the month at the Community Centre.

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

## ACCORDIAN GROUP



After being released from the Covid restrictions, we were delighted to be able to hold our weekly practices, mostly at Valerie's.

At this point I would like to thank Valerie for her hospitality and any family members who happen to be there at the time for their patience when we are 'playing the right notes in the wrong order'.

Also, thanks to Geoff for supplying us with new music and harmonies.

On 20 March, we visited Werrington Lodge Care Home to play for the residents. Our first 'outing' for over two years.

We all thoroughly enjoyed it and it was so good to have an audience who sang along with such enthusiasm.

**Report and Group Leader: Janice Cosham**

## JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

The March meeting was held at the home of Terry Noble. Terry also put together the programme which featured British bands playing American Big Band hits, with **Three Big Bands and Peggy Lee** as our theme this month.

We began with the Squadronaires, a collection of famous British musicians who got together as an RAF Dance Band in the 1940s. We heard *Chattanooga Choo-Choo*, *Beat Me Daddy Eight to the Bar*, *Blues in the Night*, *Pennsylvania Polka*, *Drummin' Man*, *String of Pearls* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*.

Joe Loss and his Orchestra entertained with *South of the Border*, *In A Chapel in the Moonlight*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Palais Glide*, *All by Myself in the Mornin*, *Horsey Keep Your Tail Up*, *Poor Little Angeline*, and *Bounce My Brother With a Solid Four*. Joe Loss was Sir Joshua Alexander 'Joe' Loss, LVO OBE. He founded his own orchestra, debuting at the Astoria and becoming a regular performer at the Kit-Kat Club. Vera Lynn appeared with him and his orchestra in her first radio broadcast.

Vocals came from American singer, Peggy Lee (her real name - Norma Doloris Egstrom, doesn't have quite the same appeal). She became one of the most popular singers in the 1940s and 50s. We heard seven of her hit songs including *Don't Smoke in Bed* and *Fever*.

Our last collection came from the Boston Pops Orchestra founded by Civil War Veteran Henry Lee Higginson in 1885.

Four years earlier he had founded the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His music was light classics and popular music of the day. They became *The Promenade Concerts*, known as *Popular Concerts* which was shortened to *Pops* in 1900.

We heard, *St Louis Blues March*, *Stompin' at the Savoy* and then five tunes which included, a *Tribute to Duke Ellington*, *Sophisticated Lady* and *Mood Indigo*.

Our morning ended with a rousing Billy May arrangement of *When the Saints Go Marching In*.

Although we were a rather depleted gathering on this occasion, the music made for a very enjoyable morning and thanks go to Terry for putting an unusual collection together.

Our next meeting is at the home of Phil Jones on 26 April with a programme devised by Geoff Whittle.

**Report: Anne Jones**

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

## CRAFT GROUP 2

We spent a delightful afternoon with one of our u3a members, Lesley Adolphson, who is a very artistic and accomplished jeweller in her retirement.



She showed us the different methods she uses with silver clay which looked a little like very expensive playdough, at least to start with!

The results she showed us were very attractive and varied and how she achieved the designs was inspiring. It is a really delicate operation, time-consuming but obviously, if you have the talent, very rewarding.

Thank you to Lesley for such a treat, and of course to Brad for serving the refreshments!

See you on 17 April at 2pm at 102 Church St, DSJ.

**Report: Liz Noble**

**Group Leader: Liz Noble**

## QUILTING GROUP

Liz kindly organised our meeting today. It was a demonstration of the 'Stack and Slash technique'. Based on any size squares of fabric cut into three pieces using a template.

This was good practice in accurate cutting out, sewing, and squaring up. Thank you, Liz.

The next session will be revisiting appliqué, doing it the easy way for those who are interested.

We had a new lady start this month and I would like to wish Carol a very warm welcome to the group.



**Report and Group Leader: Maggie Griffiths**



## ART APPRECIATION

### Paintings from 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries



There were 15 of us at the March meeting and we watched the remaining two chapters from the DVD about the Sainsbury's Galleries in The National in London.

We then saw how famous paintings were cleaned and treated to prolong their lives. Much painstaking work was done and we wondered about the skills required to take on such tasks. The DVD was an excellent purchase as it has shown the different styles of painting from medieval times.

Thank you, David. Without your skills we wouldn't function!

Next month we are visiting Molesey Mill, where we will have the opportunity to see some lovely paintings on display. Arrival around 10.15 for a guided tour of the house and, weather permitting, the gardens.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## LISTENING TO MUSIC

Our March meeting was held at the home of Anne Holmes with a programme put together by Terry Noble, (unable to be with us) assisted by Phil Jones.

The programme - *ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA*, was a very pleasant collection of music covering films and performances by some of our favourite musicians and began with *The Flying Theme* from *ET*, composed by John Williams, who also gave us *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. *Adagio for Organ & Strings*, by Albioni followed, and then we heard *Strike up the Band* by George Gershwin. *There's No Business Like Show Business*, from the film *Annie Get Your Gun*, was composed by Irving Berlin (never one to waste a good song, he also included it in *Bandwagon*, starring Fred Astaire (not played today.)

*Overture to William Tell* by Rossini, *Tijuana Taxi* by Ervan Coleman and then Glenn Miller's *Moonlight Serenade* continued our musical journey, as did Cole Porter who composed *Begin the Beguine*, arranged by Billy May - purported to be Frank Sinatra's favourite arranger. Then an old favourite - J S Bach's *Air from Orchestral Suite No.3* and Joseph Garland's *In The Mood* (used to great effect in the film - *The Glenn Miller Story*). Benny Goodman's *Stompin at the Savoy*, then *Opus One* (Oliver & Sid Garris) was followed by Tchaikovsky's *March from the Nutcracker*.

A Tribute to Duke Ellington and *When the Saints Go Marching In* (arranged by Billy May) closed a delightful musical morning.

John Williams and Arthur Fiedler shared the conductors' baton.

Our thanks to Terry and Phil and to Ann for hosting today and also supplying refreshments.

Our next meeting is at the home of Phil Jones on 12 April.

**Report: Anne Jones  
Group Leader: Terry Noble.**

## GOOD FOOD GROUP

April's Good Food lunch was hosted by Ian and Kathleen Tanner and unsurprisingly the theme was Easter Dishes.

Eight people enjoyed a pre-lunch drink accompanied by crostini with ricotta, peas and mint as well as bacon, halloumi and pesto rolls. This tasty start set us up for a delicious lunch which started with salmon paté and fingers of toast. The first main dish was chicken, spinach and sundried tomatoes, and was accompanied by a leek and butterbean gratin. All in all, a lovely combination. The second main dish was a very tasty Easter Pie. This was a cheese, ham and egg flan on a flaky pastry base and a mixed leaf salad and parmesan dressing.

This substantial meal was rounded off with two desserts. Easter lemon pavlova and simnel cake, both illustrating the theme beautifully.

The next meeting will be on 8 May and the theme will be wholesome, whole-food dishes which we believe our new King would approve of!

**Report: Hilary Akham**

## "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

Nine members walked this month, with Jane and Anne leading the walk. We met at the Crown Inn, Surfleet to pre-order and use the facilities. The weather was overcast but it was not cold. The sun made an appearance from time to time which was lovely.

We started by heading towards the many, and large, ploughed fields, passing, just before the fields, a large estate being built which surely will change Surfleet somewhat. We spoke to a man who had a wagon full of trays of Brassicas (forget the number but it was multiple thousands) who was happy to discuss planting with us. As we could see the machine, and the men doing the hard work, heading into the distance across a massive field, applying for work did not seem like a good idea.



Later in the walk we saw the procedure for turning round at the end of the field at close quarters and the work looked hard in the extreme. We then went under the bypass and along to the river. It was interesting to see the same houses that we saw last August with major work being done, none of which seemed to have advanced very much. When (if) they are ever finished they will be most impressive. After the river we walked beside the golf course and then back into Surfleet – one of my favourite walks.

After about four and a half miles we were back for lunch. As usual at the Crown there were more vegetables than it was possible to eat but a very nice 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 at Stilton and guided by Geoff Whittle on Wednesday 3 May – details by email as usual.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

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

## **CHURCH MICE**

### **February Report**

Twenty-nine members and two visitors took part in the February visit to Thorney Abbey, or more properly the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Botolph.

Dorothy, the warden of the nearby museum, gave us a concise and interesting talk about Thorney and the Abbey. Thorney had been an island in the Fens with inhabitants in at least the last 3,500 years. It was one of five abbeys/monasteries in the area:

Peterborough, Crowland, Ely, Ramsey and Thorney.

After a Saxon church was destroyed by the Vikings, an abbey/monastery was started in the late 10<sup>th</sup> Century. Parts of the present building date back to 1090. The Benedictine monastery lasted until 1539 when Henry VIII's dissolution of the monastery occurred. Many of the buildings were destroyed. 100 years later a parish church cum chapel was being used. In the Victorian era the abbey was restored to what we see today.

Of note inside the abbey is the large stained-glass window at the east end and the high ceiling in the nave and chancel. Chris Pearce, who arranged the visit, made sure we came at the time a magnificent display of snowdrops was in the churchyard.

March's visit is to St Firmin's church in Thurlby.

### **March Report**

Thirty members went on March's visit to St Firmin's church at Thurlby. St Firmin was a Spanish bishop who was martyred in 303 in France.

This church, one of only two in this country named after St Firmin, is of Saxon origin, with the tower built in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. The church feels very spacious inside with a wide nave. The Victorian east window with its bright colours immediately catches the eye. It must be a nightmare to clean as there are separate spaces throughout the church. Altogether there are five altars in various parts of the church. The church was enlarged in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries to reach the size it is now.

To note, in the church is a medieval ladder to the belfry, an 11<sup>th</sup> Century font from Barnack and a blocked staircase leading to the former rood screen.

The talk by Mary Trumble was interesting and full of facts. Mary then helped to provide a more than satisfactory tea and cakes.

April's visit is to Northborough church.

**Reports and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

## **THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP**

April showers greeted our visit to Ann and Roy Pettitt's new home in Bourne, but penthouse views made up for it. Thank you to them both for welcoming us to their delightful apartment. We all had a pleasant morning catching up on our gardening woes of the continuing cold weather. We were glad to hear Roy has plans in hand to plant some of his spectacular fruit trees which he had at the last home with such success. Next month we are off to Ayscoughfee gardens in Spalding.



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

## **CYCLING GROUP February Report**



Well at long last we managed to get a cycle ride in after the previous two in December and January had to be cancelled for safety reasons, icy conditions and high wind respectively.

Friday, 10 February saw four of us start off at the bridge in Market Deeping on a slightly windy but relatively warm morning.

We travelled along Lincoln Road to Northborough and via Church Street to Peakirk Road. From here we returned to Deeping St James and meandered through the village along Eastgate (sometimes we forget how long Deeping St James is) and via Casey's Corner to the Deeping St James railway crossing where we had the obligatory photo.

We continued along Station Road then along Cranmore Drive where we turned left and headed towards the Spalding Road, crossing it onto Towngate East. We continued along Towngate East to Market Deeping and then took Halfleet and Church Street to bring us back to the Stage for our lunch.

Overall, a gentle (although windy) 13-mile trip to get us back into the swing, so thank you Terry for organising the route. Our next outing will be 10 March so hopefully we will have some Spring-like weather by then.

## **March Report**



*Daffodils out at Ufford (flowers not cyclists)*

Friday 17 March was the date for our March Ride having been postponed from the 10th due to wintery conditions.

Five of us left the Bridge in Market Deeping and cycled via Lincoln Road and Mill Road into Maxey.

We then cycled through Maxey onto High Street and King Street to the railway crossing. On reaching the B1443 we turned right toward Bainton and then onto Bainton Green Road to Ashton. Here we continued on Bainton Green Road to Ufford Road and on into Ufford.

We stopped here to take the group photo and then continued along Stamford Road towards Marholm, then turning left onto Heath Road towards Helpston. Before reaching Helpston we turned left onto an off-road track which took us to Woodcroft Road and then to the level crossing at Woodcroft Stud where we had a rest for some time (six trains, I believe). Once across the tracks we continued through Etton and via the underpass to Lincoln Road. We continued from here through Northborough

back to Market Deeping and to our final stop, The Bull, for our well-earned lunch.

An enjoyable ride with reasonable weather and good company. Many thanks to Kevin for preparing the route which totalled around 15 miles. Looking forward to seeing everyone at next month's ride.

**Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

## **POETS & POETRY GROUP**

For our April Poetry meeting members had the choice of a poem beginning with the letter 'B' or choosing a poet with that initial. We had *A Butterfly* by William Wordsworth, *Hot Cross Buns*, *Boring* by Wendy Cope. *Solitude* by Lord Byron. *How would Billy Think* by Brian Ratcliffe, and one member did his take on a verse from *Jerusalem* herewith, "We dreamed a countenance divine, Shone forth



upon our clouded scenes, We dreamed we'd build Jerusalem".

So how did we get Milton Keynes? (Thank you Mike)

*The Chief Defect of Henry King* by Hilaire Belloc, *The end of March* by Elizabeth Bishop *The Best thing in the World* by Elizabeth Barret Browning. We had all found a good selection and had a very enjoyable afternoon, we were several members short, due to various things, thanks once again to Kathleen for making us so welcome

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

## MONDAY WALKING GROUP



The weather forecast for our Monday walk was good and proved to be accurate as we enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning with a gentle breeze.

We started from the King's Head in Wadenhoe led by Geoff Fitzjohn, and climbed up to St Andrews church where we paused at the Millennium sundial and took in the view. From here you can see the villages of Achurch and Aldwinckle, the former being the birthplace of the cartoonist Alfred Leet who did the "Your Country needs You" poster and the latter was the birthplace of Dryde our first Poet Laureate.

Passing through meadows and undulating terrain we arrived at the edge of Lilford wood where we could see Lyveden New Bield, a National Trust property. The final approach was very muddy so we made this our turn around point and made our way back to the village.

Wadenhoe is a lovely village and our walk took us passed thatched and Collyweston-slate roofed cottages. The Chancellor and First Sea Lord, George Ward Hunt, resided there in the 1860s and in order to keep him in touch with London, the first village postal telegraph office was sited there. We paused at the ancient Dovecote which you are allowed to enter and indeed many of the group did. With a little time left before we needed to be back at the pub we went down the slope to the Mill, a spot where artists are often found. Nineteen of our group of twenty-two enjoyed a good lunch at the pub which finished our visit to this Northamptonshire gem very nicely.

The next walk is from The Black Horse at Elton on **Tuesday 9 May** (not 8 May which is a Bank Holiday).

Details to follow when I have more information from David Perkins.



**Report: Geoff Fitzjohn**  
**Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

## HISTORY GROUP

**The history of the landscape at Burghley Park by The Rev. David Bond**

This month, we were treated to a fantastic history lesson, made even better because we all knew the area in question. David's talk was illustrated with slides taken at various times of the year and also with paintings, sketches, maps and drawings from centuries gone by. The story is far too long to repeat in this report suffice to say, it wasn't all Capability Brown's work! He talked about William Cecil and his legacy of Burghley House. It was a fascinating talk which was enjoyed by the 46 attendees.



*Remnants of the open field system*



*William Cecil*



*Bottle Lodges at Burghley House*

Next month our speaker is Brian Keegan and his talk is entitled: Travel down the Nene over the centuries.

**Report: Sandra Jones**  
**Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## STROLLERS GROUP



Our stroll in March was a local affair, but all the same 17 Strollers enjoyed a pleasant spring morning, or what passes for a spring this year. Starting from the car park of the former Rainbow store in Market Deeping, we called in at The Bull and ordered our lunches, before continuing along Stamford Road. Turning right up Millfield Road, we approached the site of the Deeping Showground and then turned into the estate on the opposite side of the road. We worked our way towards the main road, Halfleet, then found our way to Towngate East. Passing the health centre, we continued along Towngate East and then entered the recent development off Godsey Lane, returning via the car park of Tesco's supermarket.

A brief photo stop at John Eve playing field gave us a brief rest amidst the climbing frames and roundabouts, although no one had the courage to use them, before

working our way back to the start point and lunch at The Bull, where we were joined by some current and former Strollers for lunch. Details of April's walk, which will take place on 28 April, will be circulated to members of the group in due course.

**Report: Bob Deeller**  
**Group Leader: Bob Deller**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022/2023

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

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