



Deeping St. James

Issue No.243

May 2023

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Welcome

**New members:** Sue West, Market Deeping, Colin Lucy, Deeping St James, Mark and Janice Plyte, Langtoft

**MAY MEETING: 15 May.** 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:

##### 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.

##### 17 July: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Gill Walsh will tell us about the history of Kew Gardens and all the buildings within it. She gives us a tour of the gardens showcasing all the wonderful flowers and wildlife to be seen there throughout the seasons.

#### MARGARET'S MUSINGS

##### Dear members

I hope that you have all been enjoying the first two of this May's month of Bank Holidays. Surely, though, the "Bank" title is now out of date as we can carry out banking 24/7 online or by phone, or access cash from machines or as cashback at the supermarket till. Of course, not all of us can, or want, to conduct our transactions in this way, so Post Offices (though admittedly closed on Bank Holidays!) are a vital service. Use them or lose them, campaign to keep them open, especially in the smaller communities to which most of us belong.

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

With best wishes,

**Margaret**

**Chair, The Deepings u3a**



#### VISIT TO BURY ST EDMUNDS ON 18 JULY

There are places on the coach for this visit. The cost of £35 includes a guided tour of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival and the coach.

There will be free time after the tour for lunch and to explore the town or visit the museum.

To book please contact Margaret on 01733210267 or 07887623230 or at [margaret.beardshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.beardshaw@btinternet.com).

#### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Our latest meeting on 23 April was held at the Bull Hotel, Market Deeping. There were 11 members present and they all appeared to enjoy the meal and the gossip.

Our next Sunday Lunch has been booked for 28 May at the Wagon & Horses, Langtoft (12.30 for 1.00 pm).

Bookings will be taken at the U3A meeting on 15 May 2023.

For those unable to attend the meeting, please contact either Tony (01778 342776) or Pam (01778 344587) to confirm your lunch booking.

**Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple**

## NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Stitchwort

Our April outing was the annual visit to Dole Wood to feast our eyes on the carpet of bluebells. They were not the only flowers – the path up from the road was lined with delicate white stitchwort and we also saw celandine, dog mercury, wild garlic, archangel and a few primroses.

With a variety of trees, this wood has the status of ancient woodland, meaning it was established prior to 1600. One of the more unusual trees we saw was a Service tree, which allegedly takes its name from the Latin *cerevisia*, meaning beer, as the Romans used its berries to flavour beer! It is also known as the Chequers tree, hence the popular name for pubs.

Our May visit is to Burghley for a guided tour of the gardens.

**Report by: Margaret Beardshaw**

**Group Leaders: Jo Astle, Margaret Beardshaw**

## CRAFTY CREW



Our group was a bit depleted this month due to holidays and commitments but we did manage to make a group of funky chickens, purely decorative but easy and fun to make. We also tried our hand at Kusadasi flowers, basically paper folding with glue but we ran out of time so this may well be a project for another month.

In May the plan is to visit a flower festival with an 'arts and craft' section at Whaplode St Mary, but final details are not out yet. It will be a pleasant change to our normal meet and maybe a good source of inspiration!



**Report and Group Leader: Jennie Jackson**

## JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

The Jazz and Big Band group met at the home of Group Leader: Phil Jones on 26 April. The programme was collated by Geoff Whittle and was: The Best of British Jazz of the 40s, 50s and 60s.

Beginning with three arrangements from the Joe Daniel's Jazz Group, *Crazy Rhythm*, *Little Brown Jug*, and *Marie*. A favourite with the group - Humphrey Lyttelton, played his own composition - *Bad Penny Blues* and then *March Hare*. *Alexander's Rag Time Band* and *Pasadena* came from the Sid Phillips Band then joined by vocalist, Betty Miller, who sang *Forty Cups of Coffee*. She was in for a sleepless night!

The Saints Jazz Band, then Mike Daniels and his Band (not sure if he was related to Joe) followed and then we had two pieces from Doug Richard's London Jazzmen, one featuring Nat Gonella.

Freddy Randall and his Band gave us *Black & Blue*. Teddy Layton's Jazz Band played *Down by the Riverside* and *Wooden Joe's Bleary Blues*. Oh dear....

From the very talented Kenny Baker, who was brass band trained and became lead trumpeter with the Ted Heath post war Orchestra, we heard *That's My Desire*.

In the film *Genevieve*, Baker played the long, hot trumpet solo mimed by Kay Kendal!

*For No Reason at All* was played by the previously mentioned Nat Gonella, this time with his own group the Georgians. Crane River Jazz Band gave us *Lily of the Valley* and then The John Dankworth Seven with vocal by Cleo Laine, (no surprise there) played *Honeysuckle Rose* and *Easy Living*. Sir John Phillip William Dankworth CBE was a jazz composer, saxophonist and clarinettist.

Terry Lightfoot's Jazzmen who played regular dates at the Wood Green Jazz Club were followed by Alex Welsh and his Band, and Lenny Hastings with their version of *My Heart and I*, which would have Richard Tauber crying in despair!

The enjoyable morning closed with three offerings from Chris Barber's Jazz Band - *Double Check Stomp*, *Going to Town*, and *Shout 'em Aunt Tilly*. Donald Christopher Barber, OBE, died in March, 2021.

Thank you to Geoff for a real feast of British jazz. Thanks also to Phil for hosting and Kath for the refreshments.

We would be delighted to welcome new members to our group so please give the Group Leaders a call if you think this is for you.

Our next meeting on 24 May is at the home of Barbara and Peter Baylis.

**Report: Anne Jones**

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

## CRAFT GROUP 2



This month we tried making paper flowers using all sorts of paper - tissue, crepe, plain coloured paper and even colourful post-it notes!

Thanks to Jennie from Crafty Crew group for help and advice. We made some delicate smaller roses which would be useful on gift boxes and also some crepe small open peonies. The tissue paper produced bold colours and could be used as a fun table decoration. It was very different craft for us but enjoyable.

Next month Anita has promised to provide another challenge and look forward to seeing you on Monday, 15 May at 2pm.

**Report: Liz Noble**  
**Group Leader: Liz Noble**

## QUILTING GROUP



At our meeting this morning we talked briefly about appliqué techniques. This picture is an example of how much easier it is to build up pictures using an 'Appliqué Pressing Sheet' (a non-stick fabric sheet) before securing it to the backing fabric.

The example included is a clock face. Starting from the middle and working your way round the clock face outwards. So much easier as each layer of fabric is secure before moving on to the next layer.

As a follow up from last month's demonstration, Liz kindly brought in the completed blocks sewn together to make a bag for her cutting mat. Well done, Liz.



Our next meeting in May will be attempting to sew directly onto pre-printed fabric which can be bought by the metre. A new technique to most of us. The pattern is 'Courtyard Steps'. For those who want to have a go, all fabric will be supplied.

**Report and Group Leader: Maggie Griffiths**

## ART APPRECIATION



We had an interesting morning at The Mill and Granary. Graham gave us a demonstration of the water wheel and a guided tour of the various downstairs rooms. People could have a look at upstairs for themselves if they wished. There were many artifacts on display and a number of paintings. We were treated to coffee and cakes.

The walk around the gardens was very relaxing. A lovely morning out for us all.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will be no meeting in May.



**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## LISTENING TO MUSIC

Our April meeting took place at Phil Jones' house and Phil centred the programme around his recent visit to New York. An obvious choice was three movements taken from Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 - *From the New World*. An interesting choral arrangement of the well-known slow second movement of this symphony was a rendition by the Fron Male Voice Choir sung to the words *Going Home*. Also on the American theme we heard two movements from Ken Hadfield's *New York Suite* played on the guitar by the composer. Deviating from the New York theme, Phil included Rossini's *Thieving Magpie Overture* and Chabrier's *España*.

A more serene mood was provided by Saint-Saens' *Mon coeur a ta voix* (softly awakes my heart) from the opera *Samson and Delilah*. Phil also provided well researched programme notes to make the morning's listening more informative.

Thank you, Phil for a most interesting and eclectic mix of a programme, it was a truly lovely morning.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00am on 10 May at Chris Hartley's house.

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

## “PACERS” WALKING GROUP



Due to a combination of holidays, illness and injuries only six members of the group were able to walk this month with one additional member joining for lunch. John, the manager at the Talbot in Stilton, opened up just before 10.00 and we pre-ordered and set off on a sunny morning but a little chillier than normal for early May – but overall good walking weather.

Walking up Church Street we passed the Church (clue was in the name) and at the end of the road and then a short track we joined the footpath (wide and well-marked) over three fields that seemed to go on for ever but at least the mud was dry.

At the end of the footpath, we went through the farm in Denton and the farmer was able to tell us why the seeds we saw on the surface of the first field out of Stilton were bright red – answer: to stop them being fed to chickens – who said the u3a is not educational?

We continued over grassy fields and then to Caldecote where there was more grassland with sheep and little lambs who ignored us.

Then to Folksworth and back to Stilton after a pleasant 4.5-mile walk.

Very nice food and good value lunch at the Talbot.

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.

The June walk (7<sup>th</sup>) will be led by David - details as usual by email.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

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

## CHURCH MICE

Thirty members of Church Mice visited St Andrew's Church, Northborough in early April. The church is famous for the tombs of Elizabeth Cromwell (widow of Oliver Cromwell) and Martha Clare, widow of the poet John Clare. The church was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and extended in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Our visit was well organised by Clare who split us into three groups, each with a leader who took us round the church, inside and out, explaining all that was to be seen. Although small the church consists of the nave, the chancel, two aisles and a large chantry chapel.

At the end of our visit, we all had tea and cakes and did a lot of talking.

**Reports and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

## THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Lovely May sunshine enhanced our visit to Ayscoughfee Gardens, Spalding. Good coffee, cake and chat was followed by a leisurely stroll around these well-maintained gardens. We paused for thought in the Peace Gardens where the last of this year's tulips, [ bright red], gave a splash of colour; admired the Ornamental Lake and the War Memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, but it was the magnificence and variety of the trees that got us talking most; especially a beautifully clipped Yew Tree Walk dating back to the 1720s.

Next month's meeting will be at Margaret and David's home where we hope to see our members who were unable to come to Spalding. No doubt we shall have the delights and disappointments in our own gardens to discuss. We will also finalise the details for our Annual Summer Lunch.



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

## THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

For our April walk, 12 members of the group ventured a little further afield to the village of Duddington to do a 6.5-7 miles circular walk. Commencing from the Royal Oak in a blustery wind but albeit fine and sunny weather, the group proceeded through this delightful stone village with its grand houses which originally was the main road before the by-passes came.



Turning left part way through the village we passed the church before reaching the mill with the wheel in motion and a slightly higher level of water in the Welland due to the recent rains. Over the bridge which marks the boundary between Northamptonshire and Rutland, a right turn put us onto the Jurassic Way, under the A47 and on towards Tixover Grange Care Home but there were no takers for a room there!!

Continuing on a section of road walking a disused quarry was passed, followed by a new wine tasting area which would have proved a much better stopping location than the previous home if it had been possible, but alas not today. At this point fine views were to be had over the Welland and Chater valleys on either side, not to mention the blot on the landscape in the form of Ketton Cement Works!!

Continuing onwards we reached another fine village in Ketton where we walked through the older part of the village and onwards towards Geeston before re-joining the Jurassic Way and retracing our steps back to the Royal Oak for a very good lunch and service.

**Report: Godfrey Parkes**  
**Group Leader: Richard Coulson**

## POETS & POETRY GROUP

For their May meeting the Group met at their usual venue, the theme was 'The Coronation' the letter 'C' or their own choice of Poem. We had a wide variation with *Cats sleep anywhere* by Eleanor Farjohn, *The Cuckoo*, by John Clare, *Innocents Song*, by Charles Causley, *Clock a Clay* by John Clare, *More Joy there is...?* by Felix Dennis, *May and the Poet* by Leigh Hunt, *Tea at the Palaz of Hoon*, There was a lot of interest shown and discussion taking place, we had a most interesting afternoon.

Next month our letter will be 'D' or members choice, we discussed just printing off 1-6 copies, or whatever you choose to do, more discussion at the next meeting which will be 6 June. Our Thanks go to Kath for her hospitality.

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

## HISTORY GROUP



### **The History of the River Nene by Brian Keegan**

Brian gave a potted history of the uses of the Nene and changes that resulted from these changes, over the centuries. It was very interesting.

We were reminded of the fact that this area was once very marshy and then due to the change of the water courses, it became a very important area for transporting goods to Europe via the ports that had been built. (Ports such as Boston and Wisbech.)

He talked about the drainage of the Fens, the formation of settlements and then unfortunately the silting of the waterways which led to navigation becoming almost impossible in some areas.

Next month we will learn about the hidden museum of Spalding.  
Thank you to everyone who helped out at the meeting.

Deposits were collected for the August visit to The National Arboretum and Lichfield. Thank you, Barbara for sorting this out for us as it hasn't been easy!!

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

## STROLLERS GROUP



The April stroll started from the car park of The Horseshoe at Thurlby, with 12 present, taking in the village and Dole Wood. The stroll was a nod to Colin Ward, a former member of the group who sadly passed away in March. One of his later walks started from this point and took us round the village. It was overcast but dry, which was fortunate as rain during the previous day and evening, had threatened to spoil the morning. Turning left in the village we went up to the wood to view the bluebells, which were then in bloom and the tracks although slightly muddy in places were all passable.

Leaving the wood, we continued on a circular route back to the Horseshoe for lunch.

Details of the stroll in May which will take place on 26 May 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	Lyll Seale
Group Co-ordination	June Wheatcroft
Team:	Phil Jones
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott

**REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF  
ARTICLES FOR JUNE MEETING: 9 JUNE  
SEND TO  
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