



Deeping St. James

Issue No.244

June 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Barbara Moore, Market Deeping

JUNE MEETING: 19 June. 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:

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.

21 August: NO MEETING

18 September: An Introduction to Gemstones

Jeweller, Jason Middleton takes us into the fascinating world of gemstones, their families, basic properties, where and how they are mined, cut and fashioned. He talks about famous gemstones and birth stones and what to look for in jewellery and much more. He will bring stones we can view, touch and even purchase.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Hello everyone

I shall not be musing for very long this month. This is the time of year when exams take over; not only for the candidates but for those of us who examine as well. It is also, of course, a signal for lovely summer weather, such as we have enjoyed this weekend. Let's hope that the sun continues to shine (but the temperatures don't soar too high) so that we can enjoy our group outings and whatever else we have planned for the summer.



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

The u3a cannot function without volunteers for these roles

STOP PRESS!

The Deepings u3a History Group are running a trip to Lichfield and the National Arboretum on 16 August. There are a few seats left. The cost is £52 which includes a Blue Badge guided tour of Lichfield and a 50-minute land-train tour of the Arboretum. If you are interested, contact Barbara McNicol on 01778 344052 for further details.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

On 28 May we met up at the "Wagon & Horses", Langtoft. Eleven members enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours. Our next meal is scheduled for 25 June at the "Deeping Stage", 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Bookings will be taken at the next u3a meeting on Monday 19 June.

Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple

CRAFTY CREW



Our May group met today and tried our hand at making very realistic hydrangea flower heads, from dyed coffee filters...all very impressive for a first attempt for most.

Diluted food colouring and/or acrylic paint was used to create the various colours. Oven baking to dry them got a bit tedious but drying in the sun was equally challenging when the breeze picked up and blew the papers all over the garden!!

A couple of us are meeting up on Saturday at a craft fair to be held at Crowland Abbey where hopefully we will find inspiration and advice on something new for us to take on board.

Report and Group Leader: Jennie Jackson

JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our May meeting was at the home of Barbara and Peter Baylis and we enjoyed 'Peter's Selection,' of music.

Beginning with Don Lusher's *Peanut Vendor* and *Tin Roof Blues*, with vocal from Amy Roberts, the program continued with one of Peter's favourites - *A Taste of Honey* from Alan Haven. Led Zeppelin gave us *Stairway to Heaven*, André Previn played *Like Young* and the music from the film *Picnic - Moonglow and Theme*, was played by composer, Maurice Stoloff.

We also heard from Shakatak with *Nightbirds*, played in memory of Maurice Anison and then *One Day in Your Life*, from Michael Jackson.

A lovely arrangement of *Latin Snowfall*, came from Henry Mancini. Then, Brook Benton, (a voice not often heard these days) who gave us *A Rainy Night in Georgia*.

The morning closed with Tom Rotella, a musician not known to some of us and *La Mare*.

Peter gave us a lovely program of favourites and Barbara provided the excellent refreshments, as usual.

Our next meeting is at Phil Jones' home on 28 June.

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

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Our May meeting coincided with the Coronation Bank Holiday so a change of date was needed. Eight of the members met a week later in the Community Centre for "Coffee, Cake and Chat all things Family History". Belinda asked the first question that started the conversation of "How do you find the mother of an adopted child born in the late 1800s?". Websites were suggested by the Group and records explained, Bastardy Bonds, find her on the Census records might give birth place listed then addresses found through trade directories or register of electors to find the family. There was no legal adoption before 1926 and quite often family informally adopted a child. Possible locations of records in Archives in the area which are not always available on line or Family History Societies. The advantages of joining one of these groups, and experiences of group members were discussed. Websites were also discussed and the fact that one size does not fit all.

David asked about "Finding records of the family from the 18th Century and the story of them owning land". Records had been found of the family later in local newspapers and internet but more about their activities than of land ownership. *Find My Past* has added a new set of records they are calling the modern Domesday survey "Return of owners of land England and Wales 1873" maybe there could be something in this set.

After all the talk about ChatGPT in the media, when I saw *Find My Past* had a webinar on its YouTube channel, titled "10 ChatGPT prompts every genealogist needs to know", I had to watch. This was my topic for the next conversation. Blaine Bettinger explained the best prompts to use to get the best results from the app. As genealogists we are used to looking at old records and seeing writing barely able to read or, in some cases, Latin for Catholic records. To be able to scan these into the app and at the push of a button translate, transcribe, extract or draft and so free up time, but we did feel sure you would lose the sense of excitement and achievement of reaching your goal.

Are you interested in your Family History? Our meeting on 12 June has Geoff Taylor from Chainbridge Forge Spalding talking about the South Holland area and what the museum at the forge has to offer.

Report: Jean Brennand
Group Leader

CRAFT GROUP 2



Thanks to Anita we went back to using stamps again, something that several of us shy away from as they are so easy to mess up! However, we had fun tackling some men's cards for which it is not always easy to find suitable material. Next month is another surprise at the moment but look forward to seeing you on Monday, 19 June at 2pm.

Report: Liz Noble
Group Leader: Liz Noble

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Eight members of the Wednesday Gardening Group visited Seagate Nurseries near Long Sutton. The nursery is located right against the A17 just past the junction with the B1390 and not easy to see but well worth a visit. Seagate used to focus almost entirely on irises but since 2018 the current owner, Chris, and his family have built up an extensive range of perennials of all sorts as well as continuing with the irises. Chris walked round with the group and answered all the questions thrown at him by the members! As usual, most people bought one or more plants for their gardens. The next meeting will be on 14 June at Russell's (please note that this is a change to the programme).

Report: Jane Cooke
Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

QUILTING GROUP

The focus of the meeting in May was 'Courtyard Steps' - 'Foundation by the Yard', using pre-printed numbered fabric. By turning this fabric over to the unprinted side, place a square of fabric on the centre square. Proceed to join fabric in numerical order still on the wrong side to build up the block. This technique was by no means easy and the un-picker proved very handy. The plan being to complete 9 blocks to form the main part of the quilt. My thanks go to Liz for organising this for us and to Ann for being brave enough to demonstrate the machining of the block to an audience.



The completed block

Report and Group Leader: Maggie Griffiths

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

May report



Because of the two Bank Holidays on consecutive Mondays, this month we walked on Tuesday 9 May. Fourteen members gathered at The Black Horse in Elton and set off under rather grey and threatening skies, although mild. The weather soon improved and towards the end of the walk the sun was shining. We walked past the church, through the old village, an old ridge and furrow field full of sheep, and on to Nassington. We passed a huge area of large polytunnels with thousands of shrubs being raised. The guess was that they looked like blueberries and, on locating someone working in one of the tunnels, this was confirmed. After walking round the cricket field in Nassington, we set off on a steady climb through Park Spinney and then down to

Park Lodge, crossing the disused Northampton to Peterborough railway and then continuing down to cross the river Nene at Elton Locks. We then climbed a steep field up to the school, through the churchyard and back to the pub. A total of just under 6½ miles. We had a good lunch and Garth even got a rendition of *Happy Birthday* sung with his desert.

Report by David Perkins

June report

The walk was led by me - a reverse of March 2022.



Twenty of us met at The Bull, Market Deeping on a breezy overcast morning. We walked on footpath towards Northborough and via Deeping St James Road. The footpath then led us to the Recreation Ground, where several people tried out the exercise machines. It was a bit like big kids in a playground!!! Through Northborough we went to Church Street, then crossed the Peakirk Road and followed the track to the River Welland.



Heading onwards to Market Deeping alongside the river, admiring back gardens and property developments as we passed. Nearing the B1524 we came across the remnants of an old decayed tree that blew over in 2021. In March 2022, we did the walk clockwise and had to climb over the massive trunk using blocks. It was much easier now as it had been cut up.

Lunch was had at The Bull after the six-mile walk.

The next walk is at Surfleet, details to follow.

Report by Steve Hanson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson

ART APPRECIATION



Trains, boats & cranes
John McGowan

03 JUN - 05 AUG 2023
Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery
An exhibition by local artist John McGowan, showcasing his paintings and prints from 1967-2023, many of which focus on Peterborough landmarks and scenes. The exhibition will explore and explore a variety of techniques and styles, from his early abstract and realist paintings through to his recent print experiments based on the navigable tracks.



There was no meeting in May.

On 20 June, our speaker will be John Shearman who will be talking about Symbols in Paintings.

New members are welcome.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

10am for 10.30. Coffee is from 10am.

In July we will be going to Bury St Edmunds.

There isn't a meeting in August but we will be back in September when the speaker is Graham from Molecey's Mill.

Best wishes and thank you to you all for supporting the group.

Reminder that John McGowan's exhibition is on at Peterborough Museum's Art Gallery until 5 August See poster, left).

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

CYCLING GROUP

May report

Once again weather led to the cancellation of our April ride because of the heavy rain, so we were glad to get on our bikes for the May ride albeit with a depleted number.



On 12 May, three of us set off from the Bridge in Market Deeping on a very windy and drizzly morning.

Initially we cycled through Market Deeping and onto Eastgate in Deeping St James and via Back Lane to Stowgate Road. From here we turned onto Station Road and across the level crossing (no trains) past the Exotic Pet Refuge and onto Welland Bank.

Here we encountered the full force of the wind with a full-on headwind of 17mph for the whole of the time on the Bank. After stopping for a rest half way, we eventually reached the Water Tower and crossed the river onto Gravel Causeway and into Crowland.

We now travelled along W Bank and then followed Corporation Bank to the "Crowland Charm Tree" for the obligatory photo. The Charm Tree is a project by Arts NK, with the tree offering fruit 'charms' designed by local school children to show what makes Crowland special.

From Corporation Bank we took Dove Willow to Newborough and then onto Thorney Road to Peakirk. In Peakirk, we then headed for Glington via St Pega's Road, Peakirk Road and High Street to the Blue Bell for our extremely welcome lunch.

Overall, a tough but very good ride and our thanks to Brad for planning it. Next ride is scheduled for the Thursday 9 June which hopefully will not have any weather problems.

June report

A nice day for our ride this month especially welcoming two new possible members, Colin and Cowan who we hope will become permanent members of the group.

As usual we departed from the Bridge in Market Deeping and rode along Lincoln to Suttons Lane.

From here we crossed Deeping St James Road onto Peakirk Road and on into Peakirk. Turning onto Thorney Road we continued along here and turned into Meadow Road.

We continued down Meadow Road to Werrington Bridge Road where we turned right and headed towards Werrington. Just before the A15 roundabout we took the track that leads under the A15 to Fulbridge Road which we crossed into Cuckoo's Hollow area where we took the obligatory photo.

From Cuckoo's Hollow we followed Skaters Way to Goodwin Walk, following the cycle lane and across the traffic lights onto Hodgson Avenue and took a cycle track from there parallel to the railway line to David's Close.

From here we took a left turn across the bridge onto the old Lincoln Road and then onto Hurn Road and over the Hurn Road Footbridge. We followed Hurn Road to Woodcroft Road to the manually operated level crossing next to Woodcroft Stud.

Once over the crossing we proceeded to Etton and the Golden Pheasant for our welcome lunch. The ride was around the 12 mile mark and was enjoyed by all as was the lovely lunch.

Next ride is on 14 July and we look forward to seeing our members then.



Cuckoo's Hollow

Reports and Group Leader: Jim Torrance

LISTENING TO MUSIC

Our May meeting took place at Chris Hartley's house. As a follow up to his previous programme, Chris centred this theme on "Seconds". The *Allegro Vivace* of Rachmaninov's Second Symphony as well as the *Adagio* from his Second Piano Concerto plus the slow movement of Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto provided a Russian element. English music was represented by appropriate "seconds" from the composers Gerald Finzi, Gustav Holst and Frederik Delius.

L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2 by the French composer Georges Bizet was a light interlude. *Vltava* – the second piece of Smetana's six symphonic poems known as *Ma Vlast (My Fatherland)* was a descriptive of the journey of a fledgling stream through to its estuary into the sea.

The morning concluded with the stirring *Finale of the Second Symphony* by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius – a truly nationalistic piece.

Thank you, Chris for providing a most interesting and varied mixed programme, it was a truly lovely morning.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 on 14 June at Simon Leyton's house.

Report: Terry Noble
Group Leader: Terry Noble.

“PACERS” WALKING GROUP



A small group of walkers set out from the village of Dyke in perfect walking conditions, striding out along farm tracks bordering wheat and broad bean fields before crossing over the A15 heading in the direction of Cawthorpe. Passing through the hamlet which houses a number of Grade 11 listed buildings, these being Cawthorpe Hall, Cawthorpe House, Ivy Nook Cottage and a 18th Century farmhouse. On passing the Hall, we turned into Wood Lane leading us past Fox Wood and then into Bourne Wood, heading to the northern perimeter before exiting and heading along a well-maintained track which took us back to Cawthorpe. Scaling the bank on the left heading across fields towards the A15, we crossed into main street Dyke arriving back to the car park of The Wishing Well a distance 4.95 miles and enjoyed an excellent meal.

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 July walk (5th) will be led by Steve and Lynn- details as usual by email.

Report: David Mann

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

MONDAY READERS GROUP

Our book this month was *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

We all loved this beautifully written book. It is an amazing account of the lives of itinerant ranch workers trying to “Go West” in America to seek a living in California.

It is a very moving story and describes their loneliness and isolation from homes and families as well as the impermanence and harshness of their working lives

The book explores relationships and dreams and Steinbeck’s descriptions make you feel as though you are right there. The relationship between George and Lennie and those around them on the ranches is beautifully described and developed.

A small book but a masterpiece, do read it!

Report by: Mary Martin

Group Leader: Liz Waterland

CHURCH MICE



Twenty members of the group enjoyed a visit to St Mary’s Church, Wansford and heard from the Reverend Jane Tailby of how the parishes of Thornhaugh and Wansford have swapped places in population size –the joint benefice is still called Thornhaugh-cum-Wansford, with Wansford growing larger in part due to the arrival of Wansford Station, whilst Thornhaugh declined in population. There is evidence of a Saxon Church at Wansford at one time, but due to the collapse of the chancel through neglect, it became known as the smallest parish church in the country, with only the nave and tower standing. The chancel we see now was only built in 1902 but evidence of the foundations of the Saxon original were found. The outstanding feature of the church is the font (see photograph) It is thought the figures depicted had been painted at one time. It was brought to the church after being found in a field at nearby Syberton, a place now destroyed.

Modern additions since 2008 include removal of pews, easier access toilets and, most recently, a servery which we were able to use for refreshments provided by our very welcoming hosts Liz and Rev Jane and we hope to see them again at our June visit to Thornhaugh Church.

Reports and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

Photo: Lyall Seale

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Ten members met at Margaret and David's home. The main topic of discussion was next month's popular summer lunch which Mike and Sandy have offered to host again this year. The menu was agreed and we all look forward to it. Following the meeting, members strolled around David and Margaret's garden, which looked very attractive despite the disappointingly dull and cool June morning.

Pictured: - One of several lovely clematis currently in full bloom and two dubious-looking characters loitering in the lower planting!



Report and photos: Ann Pettitt
Joint Leaders Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

POETS & POETRY GROUP

Angie was our host for our June meeting, we were made very welcome with the heating on (in June).

All members of the Group would like to thank Kath, who has hosted the meetings pre-covid and since, but now feels she needs a rest.

We had a good selection of poetry as usual and as it was the anniversary of D Day, one poem really stood out, written by a man named Ken Hay now aged 97 years entitled 'When I look back'. This is a reflection of his experiences in Normandy. He was 17 years old when he went out there, and is a tribute to his lost comrades. This poem was read at the Commemorative service at Bayeux War Cemetery on the 78th Anniversary of D Day. Several other poems we had were on the sombre side and two members had brought along poems by Pam Ayres, who never fails to humour us. We had a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Report and Group Leader: Irene Beeken

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

May report

The Thursday walk for May began from the Hare & Hounds in Haconby, a traditional inn dating from 1617.



Heggies Cottage

It was a fine morning for the 13 walkers, heading across fields, northwards to the village of Dunsby.

Heading still northwards, we climbed up over Ringstone Hill. Below the hill, to the west was the site of the ancient deserted village and manor of Ringstone. Dating from before the Norman Conquest, the village survived into the 19th Century.

Arriving at Rippingale we headed towards the church and came across a very large information map of the village. Walking clockwise around the village we entered the ancient Pinfold – but found no stray animals inside.

Leaving Rippingale, we headed back to Dunsby. On the way, we encountered a very large herd of noisy, angry cows blocking our route. Employing several countryside tactics, we eventually managed to persuade them to move from our path.

Arriving back to the eastern side of Haconby, we followed a path besides the pretty Methodist Chapel to skirt around behind the manor house to arrive at the church. Just after the church we came to Heggies Cottage. This is the oldest dwelling in the village, built in the 16th Century and restored in very recent years. Painted yellow, the

upper section still retains the original 'Wattle & Daub'.

From there, it was back to the pub for an excellent, not too expensive, two course lunch – (we can truly recommend this pub).

An excellent morning's walk – although the weather looked threatening at times, we were very lucky. This walk must surely hold a record for the u3a with a total of 17, yes 17, stiles plus a selection of bridges and kissing gates.

Thanks to Pat Hanson for preparing this stylish walk and to Helen and Brian Driscoll for arranging the facilities.

June report

The Thursday walk for June, led by Steve Hanson, began at the Castle Inn, Castle Bytham.



It was a fine morning for the 10 walkers present. We began travelling westward through the village, along Main Street. After bearing right onto Morkery Lane, we cut left onto the signposted pathway and followed an almost hidden path through waist-high wild flora. Turning left, the path took us through a horseshoe-shaped stone railway tunnel to emerge us onto a glorious vista of cultivated crop fields.

Following the field edges, alongside a small brook, we headed due west. Crossing over the brook we headed uphill to skirt Little Haw Wood, then through Lady Wood and Addah Wood. The path through the wood also ran alongside the perimeter fence for Stocken Prison.

Heading now south-east, around and across fields we emerged at the village of Clipsham. Turning left through the village we followed a gravel track-way due east to emerge at Clipham Stone Quarry. A path took us uphill alongside the quarry. This quarry is famous for supplying and shaping stone for all types of buildings, including restoration work for Windsor Castle, Lincoln Cathedral and The Houses of Parliament.

The paths now headed due north, again through cultivated crop fields, passing the dilapidated School Farm. Crossing the now defunct Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway route (not obvious) we entered a small wood behind the

11th Century St. James church. The walk concluded, our next stop was the inn where we were all treated to an excellent lunch provided by very pleasant staff.

May I say that our Thursday and Monday walks are not to be missed. The walks are well presented, the meals are usually of a high standard, but most of all the walkers are a fantastic bunch of funny, witty, well educated, very nice people. We would like to increase our numbers – so give it some thought and go for it, while you still can.

Report: Richard Coulson
Group Leader: Richard Coulson

HISTORY GROUP



*The Spalding Gentleman's Club
The Secret Museum*

The Secret Museum by Patti Harris

Today's meeting topic was fascinating. Patti told us the history of Ayscoughfee Hall and the museum.

We were introduced to Maurice Johnson who was known as The Antiquarian.

He was a lawyer and a lover of the popular coffee scene in Georgian times. He specialized in drainage law and,

apparently, he and his wife had 26 children! Thirteen sat at table so we assumed that only thirteen survived. There are lots of facts about the museum online. People are encouraged to visit now as it is open far more than in the past.



Ayscoughfee Hall

Patti showed slides of some of the many artifacts and books exhibited at the museum. The more valuable pieces are kept in storage.

The Ashmolean Society is the only other society still in existence apart from The Gentleman's Club Spalding.

There are now female members of course!

Next month we have the return of Stuart Orme telling us all about Wellington's Secret Service.

Thank you to everyone who helped today.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

STROLLERS GROUP

Eight walkers met at the Peterborough Milton Golf Club for our end of May walk in Castor on a bright and sunny morning. We left the car park and headed left over the A47 flyover to Castor Heights proceeding down Love's Hill to Mill Lane on our left and proceeding down the lane with the vegetation on the verges in overdrive. On arriving at the bridge over the Nene Valley Railway, we had to make our first diversion as the path alongside the railway track was impassable, so we headed towards the Mill and turned right following the path onto the Nene Valley flood plains which were a mass of yellow buttercups with clover adding to the colour scheme with the wildlife complimenting it.

Mindful of the diversion adding to the distance, we headed under the railway bridge back via Splash Lane onto the Peterborough Road and into Water Lane picking up the footpath over the brook and bringing us back to Castor Heights and the Milton Golf Club for a well-earned lunch after a 3.8 mile walk, enjoyed by all.

The walk in June will be led by Glenys Nice and will centre on Maxey.

Further details will be forwarded to members of the group a week before.

Report: David Mann
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
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