



Deeping St. James

Issue No.245

July 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: None this month

JULY MEETING: 17 July. 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 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.

AUGUST: NO MEETING. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE A NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST AND THE DEADLINE FOR REPORTS IS FRIDAY 4 AUGUST

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 again everyone

Here we are, well into the season of great summer sport – the Ashes and Wimbledon (and the Grand Prix, of course). One of my retirement roles, as a tour manager, gives me the chance to lead groups to Wimbledon; I have already enjoyed a few days of exciting tennis, strawberries and cream etc.

Of course, there can be the inevitable delays for “rain stopped play”! I hope the weather does not spoil any of our outings or holidays in the coming weeks.

I look forward to writing to you again before the September meeting.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

On 25 June, eight members attended our latest venue (The Deeping Stage) and everybody enjoyed the meal and cheerful conversation.

Our July meeting will be at The Red Lion, West Deeping on Sunday 23 July 12.30 for 1.00pm. Bookings will be taken at the u3a meeting on Monday 17 July.

Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple

CRAFT GROUP 2

Thanks to Pam we tackled a multi cut out shaped card which she had prepared for us and we assembled. Lots of sticking and accurate positioning but successful outcomes.

Thank you, Pam for the hard work in preparation.

Next month we are going to tackle a card using the small paper flowers we made a few weeks ago. This may involve making suitable boxes for the cards too, which will be another challenge! Look forward to seeing you on Monday, 17 July.



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

CRAFTY CREW



The group were a bit depleted again this month due to holidays but we managed a very productive afternoon. The box and card were made specifically for a gift but the mouse doorstops were our real "crafty creation". They were fairly easy to do and fun, only three pieces of fabric to machine together, some stuffing, a bag of sand in the bottom half, felt ears and a button nose to hand sew and to finish a long felt tail or one made with plaited garden string.



A cup of tea and home-made cake completed a very successful afternoon. I have got dates for two or three fairly local craft exhibitions which I am hoping some of the group will be able to get together to visit. It's always good to see different work of other crafters and maybe get inspired to try something new.

Report and Group Leader: Jennie Jackson

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Our meeting of the Family History Group for 12 June had a last-minute change of subject. Our new subject was "Wills and Probate". First, we watched a video from the YouTube *Find my Past* channel with Ellie Ayton (social media for FMP) and Steve (Genealogy Expert for FMP) talking about "Wills and Probate" and the history of how and where we could find these historical "gems". Copies are held not only online from Find My Past or Ancestry, but in the National Archives at Kew, University Archives, local Archives as well as in some banks or solicitors offices. They also explained the process of passing away without a Will or "Intestate". We then discussed cases in our own trees of family situations where bequests were made, how wives and family were treated and how Wills contained useful information to fill in the stories of our families' lives.

I showed Wills I had managed to find, from pdfs from the Government website (costing as little as £1.50) of Service men, to ones intestate, to family wills of the 1800s, and an extraordinary original Will written by my 2 x great grandfather.

Hopefully Geoff Taylor from the Chainbridge Forge at Spalding will be our subject on 10 July at the Community Centre at 2pm for our next meeting.

Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennan

GOOD FOOD GROUP

This month, we started our Garden Party-themed lunch with Aperol Spritzers. Our starter was a cold soup, a spicy gazpacho followed by an avocado, watermelon and cucumber salad. Our main course was a Greek chicken tray-bake accompanied by an egg, potato and pea salad.

Then we had three desserts: a no-bake chocolate cake, an apple cake and a strawberry sponge dessert with an unusual ingredient - Nesquik! The weather was warm – we had to be shaded from the sun. It rained a little later, but long after we'd finished!

Our next lunch is 7 August and our theme will be Caribbean food, prompted by the current news items about the Windrush anniversary.

**Report by Sheila McGurk
Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk**

QUILTING GROUP

The June meeting saw the Courtyard Step quilt that we were working on now having all blocks completed. This is now ready for the navy sashing and border to be added before the bating and backing fabric can be applied.

Ann very kindly demonstrated the steps required to make a simple purse for those who wanted to have a go. It is simple quick and easy to make. Thank you, Ann for sharing that with us.

We welcomed a new member Christine to our group and hope she enjoy what we have on offer.

There is no meeting in July due to holidays. We resume on 8 August.

Report and Group Leader: Maggie Griffiths



MONDAY WALKING GROUP

The Monday walk in July began from the Ship Inn at Seas End. A fine, cloudy, blustery day saw 23 walkers head southwards alongside the river Glen, towards Surfleet. The riverside path skirted the Spalding golf course, with views across the river showing a varied selection of riverside properties, most with their own moored pleasure boats. Upon reaching the A16, we crossed using an underpass.



Turning left, then right, we headed towards Surfleet along Park Lane, a track/roadway to bring us beside the church of St. Lawrence at Surfleet.

Most of the church was built between 1270 and 1480, although parts date back to the early Norman period (1066-1130). The tower and spire really have a distinct lean, as the foundations started to sink in the soft Fenland soil when the tower was built (1270-1350). The tip of the spire is over six feet from the perpendicular. Local legend maintains that the tower bowed to a passing knight!



Surfleet church is dedicated to St Lawrence who was a deacon in Rome. Originally, Lawrence was responsible for the material goods of the church and the distribution of alms to the poor. After he had given away the church treasures, the Prefect became

so angry that he had a great gridiron prepared with hot coals beneath it and had Lawrence placed on it. After the martyr had suffered pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he cheerfully declared: "I'm well done on this side. Turn me over!". From this, St. Lawrence derives his patronage of cooks, chefs, and comedians. To mark his suffering, the weather vane, on the top of the spire, takes the form of a gilded Gridiron.

The church is one of the few in England to possess a peal of 12 bells.

The return journey followed a pathway alongside the river emerging onto the A16 alongside the Riverside Inn. Back through the underpass we continued our return alongside the river/golf course.

We all enjoyed a very nice meal, well prepared and served by pleasant staff.

**Report by Richard Coulson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

ART APPRECIATION

Juniper, Black Birds, Orchids, Lilies, Arrows through the Heart, are all symbols we see in works of art.



June's talk was given by John Shearman and was very thought provoking. It even allowed for some group participation. John gave us plenty of examples of paintings where there was something shown in the scene that might indicate an emotion such as sorrow.

Then there were dogs! From Greek and Roman times, dogs meant many things to different people: affection, security and healing, being just three.

The photo is from a Van Eyck painting and is possibly meant to be the eye of God watching the young couple in their nuptials. Following this slide there was a debate: Was it fashion or a pregnancy?

Thank you, John. We hope you will return next year.

Also, a big thank you to David who can take a back seat now, until we return in September, when our speaker will be Graham from Molecey's Mill.

In July, we are visiting Bury St Edmunds. Margaret will be our tour guide. and organizer.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

LISTENING TO MUSIC

Our meeting took place at Simon Leytons's house on 14 June. Simon began with three pieces illustrating the development of musical harmony from plainsong up to high polyphony – starting with Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179), then Josquin de Prez (1450–1521) through to Palestrina (1525–1594).

Simon's daughter is a professional cellist so, in recognition of this, Simon included the Prelude from J.S. Bach's Suite No. 2 for unaccompanied cello played by Paul Tortellier.

Staying with the cello theme, we heard the haunting *Adagio* from the recently discovered Cello Concerto in D minor played on authentic period instruments by Hidemi Suzuki and La Petite Bande.

Amongst his various accomplishments Simon is a bassoonist, so we heard two movements from Hummel's Bassoon Concerto in F. This was followed by the rarely-heard *The Shepherd on the Rock* for soprano, clarinet and piano by Schubert.

Großer Herr (Mighty Lord), an aria from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* was exquisitely performed by the incomparable Dietrich Fischer-Diskau and this was followed by Britten's *Missa Brevis* written for boy's voices.

To finish we heard a movement from Brahms' *German Requiem* in which Simon was singing in the Bass Section of the Philharmonia Chorus conducted by Otto Klemperer.

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

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 on 12 July at Terry Noble's house.

Report: Terry Noble
Group Leader: Terry Noble.

"PACERS" WALKING GROUP

Twelve walkers, plus one more joining for lunch this month. The Hare and Hounds at Greatford, which does not normally open for lunch mid-week, had agreed to open for us which was very kind and much appreciated.



The landlady had also arranged for the church to be open (usually closed) so before the walk we spent 15 minutes or so looking inside – definitely a bonus. Thanks to Steve the walk leader this month for all the arrangements. Nice weather for walking – not too hot with a little sun from time to time and not as windy as it had been for the past few days.

After viewing the outside of Greatford Hall and the inside of the church, we passed the many attractive houses and gardens, most with streams, before moving out into the country.

All the ground was dry which was a great change from our last walk in Greatford, when we disappeared into the mud at one point.

We crossed one field with cows and calves but they did not seem too bothered by us. By the church in Barholm on the way back there were a couple of slate stiles which tested the knees, hips and calf muscles.

At the Hare and Hounds we had an excellent meal.

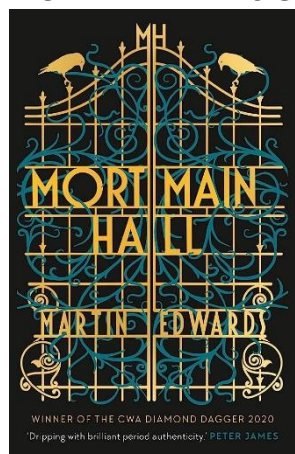
New members are always welcome, please contact one of us if you fancy a not too hard walk on the first Wednesday of the month.

We usually walk between 4 and 5 miles.

Next walk on Wednesday 2 August will be led by Geoff and Julie - details as usual by email.

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

MONDAY READERS GROUP



July report

It's very seldom that our whole group agrees on our opinion of a book, and unheard of for everyone to dislike it – but our July book managed to unite us all against it!

The book was *Mortmain Hall* by Martin Edwards.

It promised well when it was chosen – a Gothic style thriller, perhaps, with a classic murder, a good plot, based round a feisty female character, and a varied cast list.

However, despite a promising blurb, our comments included the following:

It was difficult to read, very confusing because of the plethora of characters, none of whom were well drawn or likeable.

It took a very long time to get to any interesting point (*Mortmain Hall* itself doesn't really come in until 80% through the book)

The ending was disappointing and contrived, coming after a great deal of waffle.

All in all, it was 'don't read' from us. If you read it and enjoy it, please let us know!

Report by: Liz Waterland
Group Leader: Liz Waterland

CHURCH MICE



Nineteen members of Church Mice visited St Andrew's Church, Thornhaugh (pronounced Thorn How, Thorn Oh or Thorn Haw) on a hot summer's day in June. Those who had been to its fellow church in Wansford in May would have recognised Jane, the Rector, and Liz, who provided the lovely tea.

Jane explained that the large parish had remains of Roman industry and villas. The church dates from the 12th Century, but what we see now is mostly from 1889. The first impression of the church is how light it is without stained glass windows. There are traces of the colour used in medieval times to decorate the church. There is a squint hole for members of the congregation to observe the elevation of



the host at the altar in the days when a rood screen separated the chancel from the nave.

The outstanding feature of the church is the monument to John Russell in 1613. The

Russells became the Bedfords who own Woburn, and yet Russell chose to be buried and commemorated in Thornhaugh. One of the five bells dating from the 17th Century, was replaced and can be seen at the rear of the church. The excellent talk was followed by an excellent tea.

July's Church Mice visit is to Oundle.

Reports and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

Photo: Lyall Seale

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Sixteen members, partners and friends met to enjoy the annual July summer lunch.

As usual the food was delicious, more than matching our expectations. The weather was ideal and everyone enjoyed a happy, relaxed occasion.

Many thanks to Sandy and Mike who hosted the event in their very pleasant garden. What a pile of washing-up to deal with!

Our August meeting will be weather dependant so the most appropriate option will be agreed nearer the time.

Report and photos: Ann Pettitt

Joint Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

POETS & POETRY GROUP

Our meeting this month was held on Tuesday 3 July.

Juliet was our hostess for the month's meeting. We were diminished in numbers due to holidays etc., but we had a good selection of poetry. The choice was a poet's name starting with the letter E, or America or a poem of your own choice. The readings and discussion kept us busy and with a plentiful supply of refreshments due to Juliet, we had an enjoyable afternoon.

Report and Group Leader: Irene Beeken

HISTORY GROUP

The subject for June was "Wellington's Secret Service" by Stuart Orme

As usual, Stuart gave us a wonderful, hour-long history lesson. If only we had had such talented, enthusiastic and amusing teachers when we were at school!

The portrait is of Harry Smith, of Whittlesey fame. He was, perhaps, the real-life Sharpe from the novels by Bernard Cornwell. Stuart's talk contained so much information that it was almost impossible to write a report. BUT!

Did you know:

- The word guerilla means little war?
- George Scorell was a master code breaker
- The only code not broken from this era was The Great Paris Cypher and it was eventually broken by Lady Napier over breakfast (really?).
- Patrick Curtis, who was Rector of the Irish College in Salamanca University was a trainer of spies



- Lord Bathurst was a gadgets man
- There was a Shutter Telegraph System and a Murray's Shutter System. Both transmitted coded messages by semaphore.
- Colquhoun Grant was a hero. A real Daring Do man.
- Sadly, intelligence gathering was frowned upon after the Napoleonic Wars as it was thought ungentlemanly.

An excellent morning. Thank you to Stuart, David, and everyone who helped today.

There are still seats for August's trip to Lichfield.

Next month, we have Jill Collinge who is telling us about things we didn't know.

10 for 10.30. Third Wednesday of July.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

STROLLERS GROUP

Our latest stroll was a return to Maxey, where Glenys and Sue had organised a stroll taking us around the village.



There were 15 strollers taking part and we had the benefit of a pleasant summer's morning.

During the walk we saw some orchids in flower and also had a welcome from a cuckoo.

We finished the morning with lunch at the Golden Pheasant at Etton, bringing back memories of our last visit there, which was our first stroll after the second lockdown.

Our stroll in July will be at Witham-on-the-Hill on Friday 28 July. Details will be circulated later this month.

Report: Bob Deller

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: NO MEETING IN AUGUST
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ARTICLES FOR
AUGUST NEWSLETTER: 4 AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER DEADLINE: 8 SEPTEMBER
SEND TO:
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**