



Deeping St. James

Issue No.246

August 2023

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: None this month

**NEXT MEETING: 18 September.** 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:**

**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.

**16 October: Annual General Meeting, followed by Jack Binns "Local Hero"**

A remarkable individual, born in a workhouse, employed by the railway, progressed to become a nationally acclaimed maritime hero and ultimately the President of an American corporation.

## MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Hello everyone

I hope you are enjoying your summer activities, be they holidays at home or abroad, days out (with u3a trips, perhaps?) or looking after grandchildren.

Visits from my grandchildren have allowed me to share in some memorable experiences this summer – a Proms concert, flying hawks, an owl, eagle and vulture (my grandson, not me!), the Buckingham Palace Tour and two different cinema experiences in Oppenheimer and Indiana Jones.

Hopefully the weather hasn't dampened our spirits too much, especially for the walking groups; the Pacers were very fortunate with a fine sunny morning for the August walk.

We have no monthly meeting in August and one or two groups also take a break. If you are looking for something to pass the time, you will be very welcome to visit Crowland Abbey Flower Festival over the Bank holiday at the end of the month. Our theme is "Flower Festivals Through the Years", revisiting a selection of themes since 1985.

I look forward to meeting you in September.

Best wishes

**Margaret**

**Chair, The Deepings u3a**



## SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

On 23 July, 10 members spent a leisurely couple of hours at the Red Lion, West Deeping.

Everyone appeared to enjoy the meal. Our next lunch will be at The Horseshoe, Thurlby on Sunday 27 August. No a3a meeting in August so please contact Helen on 345674 or Tony on 342776 if you would like to attend.

**Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple**

## CRAFT GROUP 2



Having made various types of paper flowers a couple of months ago, we decided to make use of them on cards, although depth of flowers meant they were not suitable for an envelope so we had to make a box too!

Next month we are having our summer tea outing and will be celebrating Maureen and Jeff Gumbrell's diamond wedding anniversary in early August. Congratulations to them. Look forward to seeing you on Monday, 21 August at 3pm at Vine House Farm.



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

## MONDAY WALKING

A pleasant morning, in Yaxley, greeted 19 walkers. We met at the Farmers Carvery to book our lunches.

We began turning up Green Lane, through a park and then along a tree-lined avenue through a housing estate (the streets were all named after British Car Manufacturers, eg Bentley Avenue, Rolls Close etc.)

We exited alongside Beeby's West Lake, created from the clay extraction pits for the old London Brick Company. We skirted the lake clockwise, on our left was a new housing development overlooking the lake, then up to cross Aqua Drive.

Now heading East, we walked a path through woodland alongside Stanground Lode (network of waterways in England, primarily used for land drainage, which lie in The Fens between the Rivers Nene and Great Ouse, and between the cities of Peterborough and Cambridge)

Crossing over the railway line we emerged at Crown Lakes, then on to Farcet.

After walking behind the Church of Saint Mary's we crossed Broadway and headed down Main street.

After 100 yards we turned right, heading South West, walking

alongside meadows and crop fields. These fields presented us with three stiles to overcome. Passing under the railway line we emerged onto Mere View and after a couple of hundred yards we turned right into Middleton's Road Recreation Ground. After walking around the park, it was only a short hop to our destination.

Excellent food, excellent service, huge portions, free teas and coffees – what a perfect finish to an enjoyable morning's walk.

7 miles / 3 stiles / aggressive brambles (poor Godfrey Parkes!)

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

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

For our July meeting in the Community Centre, Geoff Taylor came from the Chainbridge Forge in Spalding. He started by telling us of the history of the Forge that sits on the banks of the River Welland in Spalding's High Street.

The Forge's history starts in the mid 1700s and they have been able to find the names of some of the Blacksmiths who have worked at the Forge. At one stage in the 1800s, 10 Blacksmiths were believed to work in Spalding for the Port and the Market town. When renovating and clearing the building they have found some strange items including gun parts. On researching, they think they have found the story of the guns. The Dodd family bought the Forge in 1899 and stayed for three generations until it was eventually sold to South Holland District Council for £1 in 1988 and left for nearly 30 years.

Work began in 2010 to develop the building into a Museum and The Friends of Chainbridge Forge was formed in 2011. The Museum receives no public funding for its running costs so has had to develop as a business. A Blacksmith works at the Forge creating private commissions, taster sessions and demonstrations as well as someone doing outreach talks to schools. They also use their Local History collection for talks in care homes for dementia patients. With Heritage Lottery funding they have worked with the University of Lincoln and have developed a "Visual blacksmith" so are keeping up with new technology to show the younger generations the job of the Blacksmith.

No meeting for August and on 11 September it will be a "Coffee, Cake and Chat" to get together ideas for the next year.

On 9 October we are having a speaker, Abigail Rowlands, and the topic is "The Commonwealth War Graves". Abigail will be speaking to us about the organisation and its history. The cost will be £3. All u3a members are welcome.

If you wish to join us either contact Jean Brennand, Liz Noble or just come along to the Community Centre, Learning Room on 9 October at 2pm.

**Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennand**

## GOOD FOOD GROUP

Our theme this month was Caribbean food. We began with appetisers with our sparkling wine, spicy shrimps and chorizo and savoury biscuits. Our starter was sweet chilli prawns served on a leaf of lettuce followed by a spicy chicken and vegetable soup called Souse. Then came the most well-known of Caribbean food, Jerk Chicken, and also beef patties.

We all realised that Caribbean recipes were much the same as recipes from anywhere but with the addition of some spice and perhaps lime juice! Their desserts were based on tropical fruit which was evident in our desserts: caramelised pineapple, bananas baked in rum and coconut and apple cake.

Our next lunch is on 1 September and the theme is recipes by Gary Rhodes.

Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

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

## JAZZ SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

The July meeting was at the home of Group Leader - Phil Jones. Phil entitled his program *New York, New York*.

Having recently visited 'The Big Apple,' Phil gave us a varied program with music that recalled some of the places he visited and we began with the Overture/Audition from Danny Caroll of *42nd Street original cast*. A great way to begin.

An unusual duet from Frank Sinatra and the now sadly missed Tony Bennet of - what else - *New York, New York*. Ella gave us *Lullaby of Broadway* and Sarah Vaughan sang *Lullaby of Birdland*. Quite a number of unfamiliar musicians followed: The Jasper Blom Quartet offered *Statue of Liberty*, *Ellis Island*, came from an Italian band Mau Mau and another version of *Ellis Island* was played by Edmond Hall, an American jazz clarinetist and bandleader.

The Gasteiz Big Band played *Brooklyn*. Screen Jazzmaster, based in St. Petersburg played *5<sup>th</sup> Avenue*, and then back on more familiar ground, we heard from Glenn Miller, Malachi Thompson and *Lucky Sunset*, with their versions of the piece. *47<sup>th</sup> Street*, *46<sup>th</sup> Street*, also got a mention as did *Central Park*, first from Jazz fruits Music with piano and guitar and then from Anne Shelton, popular British vocalist from the 1940s & 50s. Nina Simone played a musical version of this too, from her album *Can't Get Out of This Mood*. Leonard Bernstein visited Times Square with his *On The Town*, original cast recording and we stayed in Times Square with Sonny Grey from *Sonny Grey in Directo*.

Our morning finished with the delightful Blossom Dearie singing *Manhattan* from the Verve Jazz Masters album.

Phil gave us lots of information about the lesser-known artists he featured and it was a challenging and interesting selection, so many thanks to him and to New York!

Thanks to Kath for the refreshments.

There is no meeting in August but in September we have a programme collated by Geoff Whittle.

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

## ART APPRECIATION

### Visit to Bury St Edmunds

The guided tour of the Cathedral was excellent. The weather was just right and the organization spot on. Margaret organised everything down to the last letter and managed to get everyone to the destination in record time, thanks to a quiet road and a very accommodating driver. If you haven't visited Bury St Edmunds, put it on your list of places to go to. It is a very interesting and historical place where not everything is as old as it looks. Thank you, Margaret for arranging the day for us.

(Did you know that the word bonfire came from the act of burning bones?)



The two photos are of The Abbey Gardens and the statues depicting the martyrdom of King Edmund.

There isn't a meeting in August but we will be back on September 19th when Graham from Molecey's Mill is our speaker.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## CYCLING GROUP



*Is this our final destination??*

After a week's delay due to weather (it is Summer, isn't it??) five of us managed to set off from the bridge in Market Deeping for our July ride.

We went along Church Street, Halfleet and via Towngate East to Cross Road. Here we crossed the A1175 Spalding Road and continued along Cross Road to Baston Outgang Road and into Baston.

Crossing the A15 in Baston we travelled along Greatford Road and on to King Street for a short way then turned onto Baston Road where there is a bit of work going on for the laying of the water pipeline.

We then turned right onto Wilsthorpe Road and carried on into Wilsthorpe, turning left along Braceborough Road to Braceborough where we stopped and contemplated the sign

for the "Retirement Home" and had its centre stage of our first photo.

However, we carried on through Braceborough onto Carlby Road to Greatford and turned right at the "Hare & Hounds" towards Belmesthorpe by the side of the West Glen River before turning onto Barholm Road.

We cycled along Main Street in Barholm and via Stowe Road to cross King Street continuing towards Langtoft. After stopping for another Photo Shoot, we carried on to Waggon and Horses where we stopped for an eagerly anticipated lunch.

Weather was pretty good to us and we managed the ride without the forecast rain.

Thanks to Mike for planning this enjoyable route which was just under 15 miles. Also, good to welcome a couple of newcomers (Cowan and Dave) along to try out the group. Hope to see them again.



*More like Old ganders!*

**Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

## LISTENING TO MUSIC

The programme began with (St) Hildegard of Bingen's *Caritas Abundant in Omnia (Love aboundeth in all Things)*, performed by Julija Skobe and the St. Stanislav Girl's Choir, conducted by Helena Fojkar Zupancuc.

Maria von Paradisi's *Toccata* (unknown harpist) was followed by another *Toccata* played on the Harpsichord by George Malcolm and then we heard *Sicilienne* with Lynn Harrell, cello and Victor Asuncion, piano.

*Faust Overture* was composed by Emilie Mayer and then Judith Weir (Master of the Queen's/King's Musick) gave us Psalm 42: 1-7 *Like as the Hart*, sung by the Choirs of Westminster Abbey & Chapel Royal at the Queen's funeral, followed by the Choirs of St. Paul's Cathedral & Chapel Royal, played at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service.

Two movements from *Serenade in D* came from composer Dame Ethel Smythe, Lili Boulanger gave us Psalm 24, *Pie Jesu* with Janet Price, soprano and the BBC Symphony Orchestra & Chorus. *Overture in C*, played by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, conductor Edgar Braun, was composed by Fanny Mendelssohn. This piece was composed in 1820 but was discovered, unpublished, in the Mendelssohn Archive and premiered in 1994.

Elizabeth Poston wrote the lovely *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, sung by the Cambridge Singers, conducted by John Rutter, and Terry slipped in an additional piece from Clara Schuman, playing the piano, which was a pleasant ending to our morning.

Thank you, Terry for putting this enjoyable program together and to Liz for the refreshments.

There is no meeting in August and the September gathering will be at the home of Frank Mills.

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

## POETS & POETRY GROUP

Juliet was our host for our August meeting. We had arrived at the letter 'F' for a poet or your favourite poem. A good selection was made by members, we had: 'Ageing' by Ruth Fainlight, 'The Equestrian' by Marc Chagall, 'Flying Crooked' by Robert Graves, 'Finding your Voice' by Joseph Coelho, 'The Dual' by Eugene Field, 'Invisible Kisses' by Lem Sissay, 'For my Grandmother Knitting' by Liz Lochhead, 'Seascape with Sun and Eagle' by Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Our thanks to Juliet who made us very welcome, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

**Report and Group Leader: Irene Beeken**

## “PACERS” WALKING GROUP

Well, someone was looking after us this month. Two days before the walk the weather forecast was for heavy rain all day and even the day before it was rain but maybe not heavy. On the day itself this had changed to overcast and showers. There was a shower at 9.30 before we met but after that dry and, when the sun came out (not in the forecast at all), it was quite hot. Don't you love this summer's weather.



Eleven walkers this month (plus one more for lunch) met at the Blue Bell Helpston to order lunch. We then drove to Barnack for the walk.

With Geoff and Julie leading we walked through Barnack with Geoff supplying various historical and other interesting facts. Then round the edge of the famous 'Hills and Holes', along various tracks and across fields (all dry despite the rain the previous night) and through to Southorpe. One field had a large number of sheep who, whilst keeping a reasonable distance from us, walked alongside us down the length of the field.

A very pleasant walk of four miles and with excellent weather. We then drove back to Helpston for a very enjoyable 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 walk on Wednesday 6 September will be led by David and Margery - details as usual by email.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

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

## NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Not the greatest weather for dragonflies, not the greatest weather for humans, but the July outing of the Natural History Group proved irresistible to fifteen hardy souls.

Trisha Thompson, hosted this informative introduction to dragon- and damselflies. She is entirely self-taught, but what she doesn't know about the order of Odonata isn't worth knowing. Her evangelical enthusiasm is masked by a calm demeanour. Her quiet zeal is infectious though; so much so that the group spent a happy two hours – some longer – scanning the banks of the Crowland Lake for these amazingly complex insects.

The group were quickly able to tell the difference between dragonflies and damselflies and learned what the significance of exuvia is to the average member of this order of insect. For those that want to know, exuvia is the sloughed skin of a dragonfly or damselfly larva when it metamorphoses into an adult. To the slightly hesitant delight of her audience, Trisha had a sample of her vast collection of exuviae on hand to illustrate

her talk.

The weather did impact on the number of insects we could see, but common blues, blue-tailed damselflies and willow emeralds did reveal themselves in satisfactory numbers. The large red-eyed damselfly was my personal favourite with its huge boggly eyes, which are – yes, you guessed it - red.

A brown hawker dragonfly did also show itself briefly at the end. What they all had in common, however, were fascinating life-cycles and stunningly iridescent colourings all brought to our attention by Trisha. A splendid and enlightening morning for all.

**Report by Margaret Beardshaw**

**Group leaders: Jo Astle and Margaret Beardshaw**

## WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



Eight members of the Group along with two guests (but u3a members) visited Francis and Maisie Prior's huge garden at Inley Drove near Sutton St. James.

The weather was kind to us and members enjoyed wandering round the different borders and looking through hidden gateways. The garden is packed full of lovely plants, along with some unusual trees and is surrounded by paddocks which are grazed by a neighbouring farmer's sheep.

Gradually, everyone congregated on the patio for tea and cake. We were made very welcome by the Priors and everyone enjoyed the varied conversation afterwards!

Our next meeting will be the summer lunch on 9 August at Angie's house. Details to follow.

**Report: Jane Cooke**

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

## THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our August meeting was held in the comfortable surroundings of the hobbies room of Browning Court, home to group members Roy and Ann Pettitt. Refreshments were kindly provided by the management.

Discussion ranged over a number of gardening topics including how to deadhead dahlias and whether they needed to be lifted and stored over the winter months, and how best to adapt to climate changes in our own gardens. We also reviewed future events including booking a venue for the annual Christmas Lunch.

The morning was completed by a tour of the Browning Court gardens. Of particular interest was the colourful summer planting around the front entrance and in the west garden where it complemented the new patio. The peacock butterflies on the Buddleja and the tomatoes and melons growing in the greenhouse were also well received.



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

## THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Seven intrepid people met outside the Green Man at Ropsley to start a six-mile walk around the villages of Ropsley and Boothby Pagnell.

The area just south-east of Grantham is great walking country with woods, easy hills, and good paths.

Although the group was small in number, with many members on their holidays, we were all keen. The group has tackled a number of walks from Ropsley in the past but this was a new walk, although it did pass over some paths that we had walked before. The weather was kind to us; not too hot and the rain kept away, so everyone had a good time.

We arrived back at the pub by 12.45, just right for the lunches we had ordered for one o'clock. As we had come to expect from this pub the meals were good and the portions large. A great time was had by all, it was just a pity that the group was so small.

**Report: Brian Lawrence.**  
**Group Leader: Richard Coulson**

## HISTORY GROUP

This month's topic was 'I Never Knew That' and our speaker was Jill Collinge.

Did you have a Black Sheep in your family or were they all Straight-Laced? Did you achieve something By Hook or By Crook or did you think You Might as Well be Hanged for a Sheep as a Lamb?

We had a really entertaining morning where Jill presented us with well-known words and phrases from the past that have become part of our everyday language. Jill has written a book on the subject which will be published soon. We will look out for it in the local bookshops.



Have you heard of the insect called Kermes? Lots of these, dried and squashed, produced a dull red colour and were used to dye wool in the Middle Ages. Hence the words 'Dyed in the Wool'.

So only Let Your Hair Down when it is appropriate to do so, and remember to----- Keep A stiff Upper Lip.

No meeting in August. September's meeting is being led by Brian Thornthwaite and is entitled: Paths in the Wood.  
Thank you to everyone who helped out today.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## STROLLERS GROUP



Our latest walk was a return to Witham-on-the-Hill, a pretty village set in the limestone belt which runs through central England, decked with attractive stone buildings. It was also a repeat of a walk we had in 2019 BC, before Covid, and many strollers recalled our previous morning there.

There were 14 of us and we set off under a cloudy sky, but thankfully rain was neither forecast

nor materialized. Setting off through the village, we had a brief stop at the stocks, with its tiled conical roof. Knowing the character of the village today, it makes you ponder on the 'crimes' which were being paid for here some 200 years ago. The photograph shows the group leader contemplating his punishment, before resting his ankles in the stocks.

We left the village and went up a road, which became a track, rising to fields of ripened corn, awaiting their appointment with the combine harvester. We then joined the track-bed of a railway, which closed some 60 years ago, and in its day, connected Saxby in Leicestershire and on to Bourne, Spalding and Norfolk.

Leaving this track, we turned to return to base, which included some gentle slopes of a field track, which was pitted with limestone, which didn't make it easy going whilst also

negotiating a steady climb.

Reaching the village, we retraced our steps back to the Six Bells for lunch.

Most members of the group commented on the virtues of this walk, despite the fact that it was a bit more challenging than what this group normally faces each month.

Our walk in August will start from Burghley Park Golf Club and will be led by Stuart on Friday 25 August.

Photograph by Ann Burton

**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 REPORTS: 8 SEPTEMBER**  
**SEND TO:**  
**[NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM](mailto:NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM)**