



Deeping St. James

Issue No.247 September 2023

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Rejoiners, Peter and Kay Lofts, Bourne

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:

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.

20 November: Thomas Cook and the Origins of Popular Tourism

Paul Smith's talk tells the story of Thomas Cook, widely regarded as the father of popular tourism. He conducted his first excursion, a 12-mile rail journey from Leicester in July 1841. This marked the start of his venture into the world of travel. Over the next 30 years, Thomas would lead his customers into Europe, across America, up the Nile and around the globe.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Greetings, members

August saw a break from our monthly meeting and some of our groups also took a break. So September might seem like a new term for our u3a students as well as for younger members of our families returning to schools and colleges. Unlike them, perhaps, we are still able to fully enjoy the summer weather which has finally arrived!

There are a couple of matters for your attention, which arose at our recent committee meeting.

Are we still able to claim Gift Aid on your subscription? If there has been a change in your tax status, please contact Anne Burton (anne@deepingsu3a.com), in order that the imminent official return may be submitted accurately. Thank you for your cooperation.

Now for a great opportunity! Learn how to set up and maintain a website. Full training will be provided by national u3a in preparation for building and operating our new website. I know that there is talent, experience and interest among our members so I look forward to hearing from volunteers for this exciting venture.

The October monthly meeting will begin with our AGM, for which you will be receiving the usual documentation.

I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting and in some of the group activities.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS: AGM 16 OCTOBER 2023

The Annual General Meeting of Deepings u3a will be held at 10.15 am on Monday 16 October 2023, at the Methodist Church, Deeping St. James. After the AGM, there will be our normal monthly talk.

Documents are being sent out in September.

The purpose of the AGM is to approve the Chair's Report, to accept the Accounts for the 2022/2023 Financial Year, to approve the appointment of an Independent Examiner for the 2023/2024 Financial Year, and to elect, for a one-year term, the Officers and the General Committee Members.

In addition to the voting at the actual AGM, members who cannot, or do not wish to, attend the actual AGM, but wish to exercise their right to vote on the Resolutions, can do so by email or post.

We need a minimum of 35 votes on each resolution for them to be valid. Votes by email or post will be counted and reported at the AGM, and added to the votes taken at the actual AGM. The results of the voting at the AGM will be reported in the November newsletter and on The Deepings u3a website. Nomination forms to join the Committee will be available at the monthly meeting in September. Please contact the Chair for further details.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Ten members attended the latest meeting of the Sunday Lunch Group (on 27 August) at The Horseshoe Thurlby. The next lunch will be at The Wagon and Horses, Langtoft on Sunday 24 September (12.30 for 1.00pm).

Bookings at u3a meeting on Monday 18 September. Helen Perkins 01778 345674 or Tony Semple 01778 342776

Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple

MONDAY READERS



Last month, our July book united us all in disliking it. This month, we were united again, but this time, in loving our choice!

Our book was Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. This is an out of the ordinary story of a woman damaged and trapped by a childhood so traumatic that she has managed to erase it from her memory. As a result, she can barely function in normal social relationships, and holds herself together by a variety of coping mechanisms.

Which all sounds very grim! But, in fact, the book is often very funny, and the title character is so cleverly drawn and so believable, that the reader is carried through to the unexpected but very hopeful ending, by great sympathy and liking for Eleanor and her attempts to make friends. The other characters are nearly always kindly and sympathetically written as they help Eleanor to come to terms with the world, and to learn to “live – not just survive.”

We would thoroughly recommend the book to anyone wanting a thought-provoking, touching, and funny read, with a very unusual heroine.

Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

CRAFT GROUP 2

Congratulations to Maureen and Jeff Gumbrell on your 60th wedding anniversary

Congratulations to Maureen and Jeff on reaching this 60-year milestone and although we don't normally meet in August, we felt we could not miss this opportunity for a celebratory afternoon tea at Vine House Farm. Sadly, Kath was unable to join us, but Heather was able to rejoin us for this enjoyable afternoon.

Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Monday 18 September, 2pm as usual.



Report: Liz Noble
Group Leader: Liz Noble
Report by Richard Coulson

GARDENING 4 PETALS & PRODUCE

Our August meeting took us to the garden of Margaret and Dave Scott.

With full attendance, we had a very relaxing morning in the sunshine, enjoying, not only the beautiful garden, but also delicious refreshments, provided by Pam and Margaret. The garden is a true haven of tranquility and full of interesting plants with plenty of colour.

Our thanks to Margaret and Dave for a most enjoyable morning.

Our next meeting is on 19 September at Glenys Nice's. It will be our home-grown tomato tasting experience. Please let Glenys know regarding attendance on 342976 or grm194@gmail.com.

Report: Eddie Adams
Group Leaders: Eddie Adams/Glenys Nice

MONDAY WALKING

Twelve walkers met up at The Coach House, South Luffenham and ordered our food, before setting out.



We then walked to Morcott – another interesting village. One house displayed a plaque above the door, reading "Air Raid Warden". It was surmised that bombing probably occurred in the area due to its proximity to RAF South Luffenham.

It was a hot day for a walk 26°C, so we were glad to return to the pub for lunch, drink and iced water.

The walk was approximately five miles, but somebody's tracker showed more than six miles, despite the same route showing.

A big thanks to Godfrey and David for the walk.

I will be sending out the 2024 programme asking for volunteers to lead walks and we already have five dates covered.

Next walk is 2 October from Griffin Inn, details to follow.

We crossed the road to the footpath to be met by two horses and a foal. The foal took a liking to us and was very friendly, following us up the field.

The walk was mainly footpath with few sections of road.

Crossing the A47 was interesting and took some time as it is a busy road.

Onward to Barrowden Village which was a lovely place, old houses, a clear pond, many fish, lilies and dragonflies.

The village pub The Exeter Arms looked nice, but unfortunately is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.



Report and Group Leader: Steve Hanson

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group did not have an August meeting as instead members were on grandparent duties and on holidays at home and abroad.

For 11 September we have "Coffee, Cake and Chat" to organise ideas for our 2024 meetings.

For 9 October we have Abigail Rowlands, a Commonwealth War Graves representative, coming to give us a talk on the Organisation and the archive it holds. I have listened to one of these talks and found it very interesting and informative. The charge will be £3 to allow us to give a donation. If you would like to join us to listen to this talk, please contact myself or Liz Noble for further details. All welcome.

Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennan

GOOD FOOD GROUP

For our September meeting we convened at the Tanners' to celebrate the menus of the late Gary Rhodes.



The afternoon started with a comparison of Proseccos from a well-known store. Having sampled them all, we decided they were equally good!

Lunch started with a very flavoursome Stilton and port on toast, which was followed by an equally tasty fish dish of smoked haddock pie.

Crispy Parmesan chicken was the main course, accompanied by broad bean and runner bean risotto and sweet and sour baby onions. The three dishes created a plateful of varied and delicious flavours.

Despite being full, we completed the meal with two puddings. Cherry clafoutis and Jaffa cake pudding, both sumptuous.

Needless to say, each course was paired with appropriate wine!

Due to other commitments, it was impossible to find a date to meet in October so the next gathering will be in November when we will sample some of The Hairy Bikers recipes.

New members are warmly welcomed.

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

CYCLING GROUP



A lovely August morning saw six of us set off from the Bridge in Market Deeping for our August ride.

We travelled through Market Deeping via Church Street and Halfleet to the A1175 Roundabout and then onto the A15 to Langtoft.

Turning left in Langtoft we travelled through the village on Stowe Road to the junction with King Street, crossing it and continuing on to Main Street in Barholm and through the village. We continued along this road over the main East Coast railway line and onto Greatford Road which we followed into Uffington.

After stopping at St Michaels & All Angels Church for our photo we crossed the main Stamford to Deeping Road and took a left turn onto Barnack Road down the hill and across the level crossing onto Uffington Road and into Barnack. From here we took the B1443 towards Bainton and once through Bainton turned left onto King Street and across the level crossing towards West Deeping.

After clearing both the Stamford line level crossing and the main East Coast line level crossing without any delay we continued towards West Deeping and turned onto High Street towards Maxey.

At St Peter's Church we made a left turn and followed Mill Road through Maxey to the A15 and after crossing the A15 continued on Mill Road to Lincoln Road opposite Maxey House Retirement Home.

We continued on Lincoln Road into Market Deeping and to the Bull for a well-earned lunch. Overall, a very nice 15 and a bit mile ride with comfortable weather and not too many hills. Hopefully our next ride in September will be as good.

Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance

POETS & POETRY GROUP

Susanne was our hostess for the September meeting, our 'theme' was the initial 'G' or a seasonal poem. Once again, we had a lovely selection: Sheamus Heaney with *Glanmore Sonnets V11*, Roger McGough with *Summer with Monika*, John Betjeman, *Meditation on a Constable picture*, Elaine Feinstein *Getting Older*, Grace Nicholls *The Fat Black Woman goes shopping*, Carole Bromley *Goldilocks* and Alexander Gray *On a cat aging*.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon discussing the poems and thanks you to Susanne for keeping us cool and well refreshed.

Report and Group Leader: Irene Beeken

"PACERS" WALKING GROUP



On what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far (September! What is going on?) fourteen Pacers walked around Kings Cliffe. One more joined for lunch plus a guest – daughter of one of the group. This month David and Margery were in charge.

The pub could not open early due to staff problems but we had viewed the menu in advance and David was able to place our orders the day before.

We had a lovely walk all around the delightful village, a mix of very old buildings in the main street and newer properties surrounding the centre. A stream seemed to meander everywhere. We had a quick look inside the Church and visited the community orchard. Geoff Fitzjohn was able, as always, to supply all manner of bits of interesting information about people and places in the area.

Not a long walk, which was good, as the temperature was increasing all the time.

We arrived back at the Cross Keys well in time for lunch and much needed liquid refreshment.

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 4 October will be led by Stuart and Barbara - details as usual by email.

Report: Geoff Whittle

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



Seven members of the group visited Angie's garden for the Summer Lunch. We were very lucky with the weather and were able to walk round Angie and John's lovely garden in warm sunshine.

This year we decided on a slightly different format - each member brought their own "picnic" with tea/coffee provided by Angie. Angie and John had arranged tables and chairs outside for members to tuck into their own picnic lunches.

Thanks to Angie and John for hosting the lunch.

Our next meeting will take place on 13 September and will be a visit to Sharon White's garden at Hacconby and will cost £10 per head.

Please remember that it is essential to let Jean or Jane know if you are able to attend as soon as you get the email.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our September meeting proved to be the hottest of the year. However, we had a lovely, shaded comfortable seating area from which to discuss forthcoming events to take us through to the end of the year. Yes, Christmas dinner arrangements had to be included but weren't dwelt on given the weather! Afterwards, we walked around the lovely garden of member Iris and her husband Ernie where sunflowers seemed determined to reach the blue skies above and the river Welland provided a tranquil boundary.

Our next meeting will be a talk entitled "Winter is Coming" at the Blue Diamond garden centre Peterborough.



Report and photos: Ann Pettitt

Joint Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

HISTORY GROUP

Visit to Lichfield and The National Arboretum on 16 August

This was a really interesting visit. If you haven't visited Lichfield, put it on your bucket list for some very interesting History and a beautiful park. Most of you will have been to the Arboretum but we found the train journey around the site very thought-provoking and relaxing.



There are two photos included in this report. The first is of the guide, Ian, talking to us at the beginning of the day.

The second is a figure of Erasmus Darwin in his study at Erasmus Darwin's House and Museum.

The Cathedral was well worth a visit and there were plenty of places to eat!!

We owe a big thank you to Barbara McNicol for arranging the visit and for everyone who supported us on what was a lovely day out.



Next month's speaker is Brian Thornthwaite. The title of his talk is 'Paths in the Wood'. Sounds intriguing? Wondering what it is about? Come and find out on 20 September, 10am for 10.30am at The Green School

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

STROLLERS GROUP

Our stroll in August saw us return to Burghley Park Golf Club where 16 Strollers embarked on a walk taking in the hamlet of Wothorpe, which nestles in the limestone belt just outside Stamford.

Stuart was our leader on a very pleasant late summer morning, initially walking a short way down the hill which was the Great North Road, before veering off and joining Wothorpe for a short length before heading away from the traffic and into the pleasant surroundings of Wothorpe itself.



Steadily climbing through wooded areas and passing the tunnel under the A1, the view opened up to reveal the remains of Wothorpe Towers. This was built in the 17th Century by the 1st Earl of Exeter, Tom Cecil, the son of Lord Burghley, as a retreat. It is now a shadow of its former self. However, it made a lovely backdrop for photographers in the group and one offering is accompanying this article. After reaching the top of our climb, we walked around the back of these towers and they looked a fine sight with the sun bringing the best out of the limestone.

We returned to the golf club after crossing over the A1 this time.

Our next walk will take place on Friday 22 September and will be a return to Wadenhoe in Northamptonshire, the Rose of the Shires, where Geoff will be our leader.

Photograph by Anne Burton
Report and 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 Team:	June Wheatcroft Phil Jones
Newsletter Editor	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott

DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 6 OCTOBER
SEND TO:
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM