



Issue No.248      October 2023

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

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Welcome

New members: None this month

**NEXT MEETING: 16 October.** 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:

**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.

**18 December (ticket only): Christmas - The Midwinter Festival's Different Traditions**

Philippa Massey looks at the seasons, the worship, the feast, the decorations, the entertainments, from pre-Christian celebrations to the present day.

### MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

I write this on the last day of September, with autumn moving on apace. From the window I watch the birds circling as they prepare to roost in my neighbour's lofty horse chestnut tree. The tree is magnificent throughout the year, now displaying its autumn hues. How sad to learn of the act of vandalism which felled the famous Sycamore Gap tree on Hadrian's Wall.

Autumn is also the time for our AGM when we have the chance to review the past year and appoint the committee for the coming year. You will all have received the documentation for the meeting and we look forward to seeing you there. The brief business meeting will be followed by the talk, "Jack Binns, Local Hero".

Two members of the committee are not seeking re-election this year – Lyall Seale, who has been responsible for many years for finding inspiring speakers for the monthly meeting, Elaine Batchelor, who brought her experience to the role of secretary, as well as Jennifer Rogers, who stood down for personal reasons earlier in the year. We extend our thanks to them all.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and in our various groups.



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 were 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 were available at the monthly meeting in September. Please contact the Chair for further details.

### **CHRISTMAS MEETING TICKETS ON SALE £3** – October and November meetings



Our Christmas meeting on 18 December 2023 from 9.30 is in our usual meeting venue, The Methodist Church, Deeping St James. Coffee on arrival followed by a talk on Christmas – Mid-winter Festivals' different traditions, followed by Christmas refreshments.



As usual entry is by TICKET ONLY – price £3 - and will be on sale at October and November monthly meetings or email/phone Liz Noble to reserve yours. Liznoble102@gmail.com or 01778 342855. Correct money would be most helpful!

### **U3a 2024 diaries – “Best Diaries in the World”**

Unfortunately, everywhere prices are going up, and this includes our u3a diaries for next year. The 2024 diaries will therefore be £4.50 each. Last year we were left with some unsold stock, so this year we will supply by order only!

At the October monthly meeting I will be taking diary orders. I will need your name and telephone number, together with the quantity you require – no restriction on quantity. Payment of **£4.50 each** will be payable on receipt of diaries.

Please note that this may be the only diary order made so please complete the form at the October meeting - or telephone me as soon as you can (01778 344916).

**June Wheatcroft**

### **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP**

The Sunday lunch on 22 October will be at The Packhorse in Northborough. 12.30 for 1pm.

**Report and Group Leader: Tony Semple**

### **CHURCH MICE**



After an August break from visits, 19 Church Mice members went in September to St Leonard's church in Glapthorn near Oundle. Styling itself a 'simple country church' it was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century as a Chapel of Ease to the nearby church at Cotterstock.

Charles Wide gave us an interesting talk about the church and its place in a village of 270 people, of whom 10 per cent attend the weekly services, a proportion that almost all other churches will envy. The church is light and airy, as there are few stained-glass windows and all the walls are plastered.

On the plaster in a number of places are remnants of wall paintings, giving a good idea of what the church would have looked like centuries before. In the porch there is a notice saying that all the pews are free, quite the opposite of some churches where some parishioners paid for the best seats. The chancel is long and bright leading to the altar surrounded by the communion rail where Charles told us the vertical supports were made narrow enough to stop dogs getting to the altar!!

The photo (left) shows the interior of the church.

After the talk and a look round, Tricia and Nerissa plied us with tea and lovely cakes.

**Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

### **ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

Twenty-two of us met today and Graham from Molecey's Magical Mill came to give the presentation.

You may wonder why the piece of artwork below is relevant. Please read on.



Graham gave a potted history of the land and the Mill. He showed photographs and maps from various ages and told us about the owners of the Mill over the centuries. One of the owners, were the Riley family. Bridget Riley was, and still is, an artist; she is 91 now and began her art career with patterns made from her interpretation of the ripples of the water surrounding the Mill. The pattern below is one of her hall mark designs. It was a lovely morning and we have been invited back to Molecey's Marvelous Mill in May 2024.

Next month our speaker is Alan Brooke and he will be talking about J.M.W. Turner. It is on the fourth Tuesday (the 24<sup>th</sup>).

Thank you to Barbara for standing in for Yvonne, and to David for his expertise.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

### August Report



Normally we concentrate on British wildlife but this month we thought we'd spread our wings a little further and so on Thursday 24 August, 13 of us rose bright and early for the long flight to Peru where after a bumpy drive we finally arrived at the farm. Well ..... much of that is true but actually it took all of 15 minutes to arrive at Flatlands Alpacas, based at Crowland. Louise Holland established her flock (herd?) of nine of these fascinating animals five years ago and her enthusiasm, coupled with her in depth knowledge, ensured he that we had an entertaining as well as informative morning. We fed them on carrots, found they loved being stroked and learnt all about their history and the special requirements for keeping them in Britain. We handled a newly shorn fleece, feeling how much silkier to the touch it felt compared with sheep wool and could immediately see why clothes made of Alpaca wool are so in demand but very expensive.

Next month's visit to Scout Island should be far less exotic ..... although there is that rumour about a lion!

**Report by Philip Astle**

### September report

We stayed closer to home this month with a ramble along the Welland and around Scout Island. Amongst birds spotted were green woodpecker, heron, little egret, cormorant, red kite, blue and great tits, robin and grey wagtail.

There was also activity from fish coming up for their lunch as we made our way back to the bridge over the weir, having enjoyed a snack ourselves on some juicy blackberries.

**Report and Group Leader: Margaret Beardshaw**

## MONDAY READERS



Each year, in summer and at Christmas, we have two get-together meetings with nice food, at an outside venue. This year, our summer one was running a bit late, for various reasons, so it became an early Autumn one instead!

We met up at Waterside Garden Centre for Afternoon Tea (which always seems to deserve capital letters, even if the words are not strictly proper nouns). The Oasis Restaurant manager, Nigel, had been very kind and allowed us to book in 45 minutes early so that we could meet up in 'The Library' for our book discussion before they served our tea. Our book was *The Mitford Murders* by Jessica Fellows (who

is the niece of Julian Fellows, author of the *Downton Abbey* series). We were divided by this book, largely because it is a mixture of some real people, the Mitford sisters and their somewhat odd family, and an actual murder of a real First World War heroine nurse, Florence Shore. The true murder was never solved, but Jessica Fellows has decided to pin it on another real-life character, Florence's best friend, Mabel. This seemed like a colossal piece of libellous cheek to some of us, whilst it didn't worry others, who just enjoyed the story.

It is an easy read, with some interesting things to say about gender issues of the period, and the effects of shell shock. Whether we learnt anything about the Mitford family we weren't all convinced.

It's worth trying if you are an Agatha Christie fan, and don't mind an odd blend of fact and fiction in your plots.

Incidentally, the tea was delicious!

**Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

## CRAFT GROUP 2



We met on the afternoon of the monthly meeting as usual and Maureen had prepared two types of card using various techniques. Thank you to her for all the preparation and cut out figures and text which must have been quite tedious!

Maureen is determined we should start to think about Christmas next month and has some ideas for then – watch this space!

Look forward to seeing you on Monday 16 October, 2pm as usual.

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

## JAZZ AND BIG BANDS GROUP

Our September meeting was at the home of Phil Jones and the programme was devised for us by Geoff Whittle. His title was: 'It's the Saxophone one ...'

As Geoff's title suggests, we heard some of the best saxophonists ever recorded, sadly most, if not all, no longer here. The first offering was from Tenor Saxophonist Coleman Hawkins and *Stardust*. Two other pieces were *Out of Nowhere* and *You'd be so Nice to Come Home To*.

Sidney Bechet along with the Claude Luter Orchestra, all recorded three items in 1952. They were: *Le Merchand De Poissons*, (The Fishmonger), then *Si Tu Vois Ma Mere* (If You See My Mother...) – they sound much better in French! He also played *Washbash Blues*.

Johnny Hodges with Gerry Mulligan played *Back Beat*. John Coltraine's offering was *B J* and Charlie Parker played two pieces - *How Deep is the Ocean* and *Out of Nowhere*.

*Ding Dong* and *Lester Leaps* came from Lester Young on Tenor sax.

Sonny Stitt played *Angel Eyes* once a popular hit for Nat King Cole, and *Sonny's Blues*.

*Lullaby of Birdland* was played by Dexter Gordon. Earl Bostic gave us *Flamingo*, recorded in 1951. Then Gerry Mulligan again with two items recorded in 1977 - *Limelight* and *Apple Core*. Stan Getz ended our Saxophone journey with *Opus de Bop*. Definitely different!

It was an enjoyable morning of music thanks to Geoff and thanks go to Kath and Phil for hosting it.

Our October meeting is at the home of Anne Jones.

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

## MONDAY WALKING



October's walk was led by Penny and Geoff Hurst.

The group met at The Griffin Inn, Irnham and, apart from a minor detour, undertook a 5.5 mile picturesque, countryside walk on the Irnham Estate in very pleasant weather conditions.

Before enjoying an excellent lunch provided by The Griffin Inn (which had opened especially for our group), we were kindly given a guided tour by Sir Jamie Benton Jones the owner of Irnham Hall grounds and walled garden, to cap a very enjoyable day.

**Report and Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Family History Group met in the Community Centre for our September meeting to talk of the subjects for discussion for the up-and-coming 2024 meetings.

Subjects included webinars and videos as an alternative to speakers, looking at free websites, refocusing on the ways we search, looking at old maps, Electoral Rolls, and newspapers. Maybe a trip to a local archive or even the National Archives at Kew. All ways of researching for the story of your Family History.

If you would like to join the group and learn about how you can find out about your Family History please contact myself or Liz Noble for details. All are welcome.

**Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennan**

## POETS & POETRY GROUP

Our October meeting was hosted by Cathryn and our initial for poems was "H" - or your favourite poem. There were fewer than usual due to other appointments but we had a very interesting and varied selection of poetry.

Sheamus Heaney - *The Railway Children*, George Herbert - *Love*, Giles Brandreth - *How to lose two pounds a week*, Anonymous - *On a tired Housewife*, A E Houseman - *Inhuman Henry*, Langston Hughes - *Life is Fine*, Gerard Manly Hopkins – *Inversnaid*. We also studied a Haiku.

Thank you to Cathryn for making us so welcome, enabling us to enjoy a very happy afternoon.

**Report and Group Leader: Irene Beeken**

## THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Today's walk leader, Garth Perry, led nine walkers from the Wishing Well Inn at Dyke, on a dry, calm, cloudy day.

We headed west along Main Road up to and across the A15, Bourne Road. Still heading west, we walked alongside fields to emerge at the village of Cawthorpe. There is only one road into this village with no other way out. One of the group mentioned that for this reason this type of village is known as a Pudding Bag Village.

"Puddings, like jam roly-poly and other treats, were once made in muslin bags; and the houses in villages with a single opening which served both as access and exit made them enclosed, as if in a pudding bag with an opening at only one end."

Turning left after the village, we skirted alongside the edge of Bourne Woods then turned right to walk through Fox Woods. Heading now eastwards, crossing several pasture fields we emerged back onto the A15 to where the High Street from Morton joins. Still heading eastwards, through fields, parallel to High Street, we had the pleasure of overcoming a selection of stiles.

Joining Morton's Main Street at St. John the Baptist church, we turned right and walked along Station Road for a short while before turning southwards, through crop fields to head to Dyke. We walked alongside the field edges, zig-zag style, left, right, left, right, finally emerging besides a small village green, in Dyke.

A short walk along Main Street brought us to our lunch stop, the Wishing Well.

We were all highly satisfied with our meals, the venue and the hospitality of the staff.



**Report and Group Leader: Richard Coulson**

## CYCLING GROUP

A very nice morning saw us leave the bridge at Market Deeping for our monthly ride. Due to holidays etc, there were only four of us this month as we headed along Lincoln Road and across the bypass via Mill Road into Maxey. We continued through Maxey on Mill Road, picked up Maxey Road and over the railway crossing into the centre of Helpston via Church Lane passing what used to be the "Exeter Arms" pub.

Crossing directly over we took Woodgate, past John Clare Cottage onto Heath Road and carried on over Stamford Road onto Helpston Road. We followed Helpston Road into Ailsworth where we were treated to a coffee by Kevin (I think he was being nice to us before the upcoming steep hill climb up "Love's Hill" out of Caister).

Suitably refreshed from coffee, we took our photo and cycled along Peterborough Road through the lovely villages of Ailsworth and Caister. Then onto the dreaded Love's Hill out of Caister and again via Peterborough Road onto Marham Road, Caister Road into Marholm. In Marholm we crossed onto Hurn Road for the return part of the ride and then turned onto Woodcroft Road for the final run via the Railway Crossing at Woodcroft Stud into Etton.

We rang the bell at the crossing to get the Gate Keeper to come and open the gate, anticipating our short only  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to the pub for lunch, only to be told by the Gate Keeper that the level crossing had been closed that morning for some weeks to come and he couldn't open the gates. This now created a 3.5 miles detour to get to lunch going back along Woodcroft Road and then striking out across gravel tracks to get to Etton via Helpston.

Eventually arriving at the Golden Pheasant for a well-deserved and overdue lunch and rest. The detour turning an approximately 18 mile ride into closer to 21 miles. Even with the detour the ride was very enjoyable and our thanks to Kevin for planning the route.

**Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

## ITALIAN GROUP



We wanted to have our Italian Summer lunch (pranzo estivo italiano) in Summer, but everyone was busy or on holiday!

So, we had it on 21 September which seemed like Autumn! We had a very good Italian style lunch at Mella's. We all brought some Italian food, but Mella's Italian platter was the star of the show.

As per normal, not a lot of Italian was spoken but a good time was had by all.

**Report and Group Leader: Lynne Alcorn**

## “PACERS” WALKING GROUP

Twelve walkers met this month at the Packhorse at Northborough, with Stuart and Barbara in the lead. So nice that the pub has re-opened after so long although still work going on inside. We ordered lunch from a reduced menu (kitchen being upgraded) but, that being said, still a large enough choice of foods.



In overcast weather, we started down Church Street, round the back of the school and past the village hall. Turning right we walked along the edges of several fields towards the Peakirk Road. Looking across to Rippons Drove Lane we could see four emus in a field. We were not that close and we assumed they were emu rather than ostrich (nobody had thought to bring their guide to emu and ostrich with them) as they were not that tall. We crossed the Peakirk Road and walked beside another field to the river bank near Low Locks. Then along the river bank to Deeping Gate, down Bridgegate Lane (who knew that a rough track like that had a name), and then walked along the old Lincoln Road and back to Northborough.

A very pleasant four miles in an ideal walking temperature.

We had time to order drinks before lunch was served. The food was very tasty and can be recommended – can't wait for the full menu to be available.

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 1 November will be led by Margaret and Jo - details as usual by email.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

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

## QUILTING GROUP

We resumed our meetings in September after the summer break. It was lovely to see the efforts made by the new members to our group. They obviously had listened to advice given by the existing group.

They both acknowledged there's a lot of trial and error learning, something in quilting that is always ongoing during the quilting process and that the un-picker was an indeed a useful tool.

There has been a request regarding binding techniques and the different way in which this binding can be joined. This is no easy fete to do this well and that a neat binding can make or break a quilt. We will cover this at the October meeting.

These efforts are made by one of the new ladies Carol. Well done some lovely work.

The pictures show Xmas stockings, tablet runner and squares that can be hung and a quilt for a child who likes racing cars.



**Report and Group Leader: Margaret Griffiths**

## THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



What a great morning for a dozen of our Thursday Gardening group with a visit to the newly taken over Blue Diamond centre in Peterborough - part of the same group as Springfields and in fact our demonstrator was Wendy who gave us a talk in Springfields previously. Now in her promoted position she proved as interesting and knowledgeable as before. The talk was "Preparing for Winter" and her choice of plants from heathers to many colourful



shrubs and grasses was delightful, showing just how many colours could be included in the garden throughout the winter. She managed to throw in a demonstration of planting a glass corked container for indoors as well. Thank you to Ann for arranging it. November meeting at 102 Church St, DSJ for next year's planning.

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

## HISTORY GROUP

**Paths in the Wood by Brian Thornthwaite**



It was an interesting morning. Brian told us a story about Twyford Wood and North Witham Airfield. He told us about the American airmen and the Pathfinder teams. The Pathfinders parachuted into Normandy a full hour ahead of the main airborne assault and six hours before the amphibious troops hit the beaches. The airfield is now part of the woodland and apart from concrete roads the land is now at peace for walkers to enjoy.

### The Pathfinders

Thank you, Brian.

Barbara was thanked for her planning of the August visit to Lichfield and The National Arboretum. Next month, Pat Abel will be telling us about her trip to Europe on a Lambretta which sounds very daring for the time!

**Update\*\*\*\*\*Barbara has booked The Wagon and Horses for the Christmas meal on 20 December.**

**She will take £10 CASH deposits on 18 October when menus may be available to look at. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE BARBARA A CHEQUE. (She will take the cash straight to the Wagon and Horses.)**

See you all on third Wednesday in October. 10 for 10.30 at The Green School

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## STROLLERS GROUP



A return to Northamptonshire was the programmed walk for September, where Geoff led us on a walk starting from the picturesque village of Wadenhoe, which nestles beside the River Nene, or should that be Nen, in that part of the world.

It was a glorious autumn morning and the sun highlighted the attractive stone cottages, some of which were capped with thatched roofs. Geoff led us out of the village and immediately we crossed over the river by a footbridge, which heralded a view of the mill, reminiscent of Flatford Mill in Suffolk, of Constable fame.

That was followed by a gentle climb, with occasional stops to appreciate the view of the valley, and in no time at all, we arrived at the village of Achurch, where we had a group photograph in front of, I just had to write this, a church!

In the village, we passed a postbox of Victorian origin and marked 'VR', for Victoria Regina, one of only a few in the country, Geoff then showed us a poster designed by a villager of old, one Alfred Leet. This poster was the one showing Lord Kitchener pointing at us imploring that 'Your Country Needs You'.

After walking along the main street, we returned back with the attractive river valley laid out in front of us. Returning over the footbridge, with the view of the mill, we entered Wadenhoe and strolled around some of the streets, admiring the attractiveness of the buildings in the soft light of autumn sunlight, thence back to the King's Head for lunch. Our next walk will be a change from the programme, with a walk starting from the Packhorse at Northborough on Friday 27 October. Details to follow.

**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: 10 NOVEMBER**  
**SEND TO:**  
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