



Deeping St. James

Issue No.251

January 2024

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

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Deepings Website](#)



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Pat French from Baston

NEXT MEETING: 15 January. 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:

15 January: Stamford and the local area

Nicola Sandall will give a talk on Stamford and the local area

19 February: The Third Rock

A fascinating talk by Keith Townsend about The Third Rock.

18 March: Stuart Orme: The History of Crime and Punishment in Peterborough

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

It was good to share our Christmas meeting with many of you and our thanks are due to Liz Noble and her helpers for arranging the enjoyable seasonal celebration; there is a lot of work behind the scenes. Liz also deserves thanks for devising and executing our contribution to the Priory Church Christmas Tree Festival; as well as contributing to the event, the details on the tree publicized our various groups and activities.

I know that many groups enjoyed Christmas events; thanks to all the organizers.

So here we are in 2024, a new year with daylight hours lengthening; I particularly welcome the lighter mornings with the birds beginning to sing and bulbs encouraged to emerge from sleep. However, the new year has not been good for many whose homes and livelihoods have been struck by the extreme weather. Let's hope it is not too late to reverse some of the damage modern living has brought to our planet.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the administration of the Web Site. Training is given, so it is an opportunity to brush up on existing skills, which I am sure someone out there in the membership has. Please contact one of the committee for details. Also, is there anyone who would like to join the small group of welcomers at the monthly meeting?

I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



NOTICE FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Your last chance to renew your Deepings u3a membership!

Wishing all Deepings u3a members a Happy New Year. A big thank you for all those that have already renewed for 2024.

Your u3a Membership needs to be renewed if you wish to continue attending groups and/or monthly meetings. Please see previous newsletters or contact me if you are having problems renewing.

[email: membership@deepingsu3a.com](mailto:membership@deepingsu3a.com) or Tel: 01778 343158

If your subscription has not been received by 31 January 2024 you will no longer be a Deepings u3a member and you will be removed from the 2024 Register. You will be able to rejoin at a later date if you wish, but note that the membership year is a calendar year and does not run from the date of joining.

David Perkins, Membership Secretary

COACH TRIP

to Blooms of Bressingham and Peter Beales Roses, Tuesday 18 June 2024

This year we are planning to visit two stunning gardens in the heart of Norfolk: Blooms of Bressingham and Peter Beales Roses at Attleborough.

We will have plenty of time at each place to browse the gardens and the nurseries as well as having some relaxing refreshments. The cost of the trip is £29.50, includes entry to both gardens and driver's tip. We plan to be back in the Deepings by approximately 6.30 pm.

Further information is available from Eddie Adams 01778 346363 or eddieandchris@trebartha.f9.co.uk.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

This month's Sunday lunch has been booked at the Wagon and Horses in Langtoft-on the 28 January 12.30 for 1pm.

Please let either Enid or Helen know if you are coming.

A big thankyou to Tony Semple who retired from organising the Sunday Lunch for a number of years, we will all miss him.

Report by Helen Perkins

Group Leaders: Enid Withers and Helen Perkins

CHURCH MICE GROUP



December's visit was to St John's church in the centre of Peterborough. We were treated to an illustrated talk by June and Vernon about the church based on their enormous collection of postcards of Peterborough.

The original St John's was built around 1078 near the present site, but that wooden building was prone to flooding and a new building was constructed on the present site in 1402. There was originally a spire but when major alterations were made in the early 19th century it was removed.

Inside the church there are many memorials to Peterborough citizens including Edith Cavell. There is a fine modern elaborate high altar and many stained-glass windows mainly Victorian.

The picture (left) shows the East Window and Rood Screen.

After the visit refreshments were taken in the cathedral precincts.

Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



The last Thursday walk of 2023 was organised and led by Claire Bysshe and assisted by Godfrey Parkes. On a surprisingly dry day nine members met at the Crown Inn, Elton.

The arranged circular walk was going to take us through Elton Park pastures, towards Warmington, through Fotheringhay and back to Elton. Heading south, towards the A605 our route met an obstacle in the form of a heavily flooded footpath.

We were unable to proceed or bypass the water so out came the phones and apps were fired up to find an alternative route. The tech-wizards found us an alternative by crossing over the A605 and entering the village of Eaglethorpe.

Now back on track we could head towards Fotheringhay but again our route was blocked by an even deeper flooded pathway, under the A605. Enter the tech-wizards again and now we had to take a detour towards the outskirts of Warmington.

Because we had arranged a lunch time, at the pub, we decided that our only option now was to retrace our steps and head back to Elton.

The walk recorded a distance of 5.3 miles and the sun came out to say hello. An enjoyable walk with a difference, proving that we are able to surmount problems encountered, with the help of technology, common sense and teamwork.



A big thank you to all participants for providing excellent walks and pleasant company throughout our roaming during 2023 and of course Merry Xmas.

Report and group leader Richard Coulson

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



Happy New Year!

We didn't meet in December but we are starting the year on Tuesday 16th of January with a social get together. This involves a fun quiz and another look at The National Gallery's Take One Picture scheme.

We have a full programme of speakers for this year and visits to Molecey's Mill and Norwich. If you enjoy a chat whilst learning a bit about Art, you are more than welcome to attend, providing you are a member of the u3a.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month as apart from December and August. The venue is The Deepings Sports and Social Club on Outgang Road. 10 am for 10.30. Coffee served from 10am

This is a famous painting. Who was the artist?

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

GOOD FOOD GROUP

After the excesses of Christmas, we met at Cynthia and Chris's house and a menu of leftovers.

We started with South Sea black bean soup followed by two risottos, one with turkey and one with broccoli. Parsnip and pigs in blankets casserole followed. Desserts were sticky apple pudding and Christmas cake ice cream. It goes to show how much can be produced with leftovers. We also had a small cheese course of a pear-shaped Cheddar flavoured with pear schnapps. Red and white wines accompanied the meal with a welcome coffee to complete a very satisfying meal.

Report by Cynthia Hartley

Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk

CRAFT GROUP 2

Happy and healthy new year to all by the time you read this!

Our December meeting is traditionally a tea, cake and chat to plan some ideas for 2024, which we did and look forward to seeing you on 15 January at 2pm and

thanks to Maureen and Anita for the preparation for the session.

Report: Liz Noble

Group Leader: Liz Noble

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Brian and Norah Littler led 16 walkers from the Bull Inn, Market Deeping, on a fine, dry but cold morning.

The proposed route had to be extensively altered due to the flooding caused by the recent heavy rain.

We began by heading south on Lincoln Road, crossing over the swollen River Welland. On reaching Maxey House we turned right onto Mill Road. Continuing along we carefully crossed the A15 and carried on, eventually meeting High Street, Maxey, at Saint Peter's Church. Turning left on High Street we headed eastwards into Maxey. Before reaching the Bluebell pub we turned left onto Castle End Road to emerge back onto Mill Road.

We now retraced our route back to Lincoln Road. Turning right, then left, we headed along Sutton's Lane then at the end left onto Deeping St. James Road. Just before the old bridge we walked alongside the River Welland and crossed over at the High Lock. Trapped beneath the

iron bridge at High Lock were two picnic tables, with four seats attached. They must have been washed down the river from the rear of The Stage during last week's torrential rain.

Next stop for the walkers was the Bull Inn for a pleasant lunch, the owners opening specially to serve us – thank you.

Report: Richard Coulson

Group Leader: Steve Hanson

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our December meeting was held at the home of Terry Noble who had asked each member. to bring along a Christmas favourite to make up the programme.

Everyone contributed and we had a delightful morning of different offerings, all with a Christmas flavour.

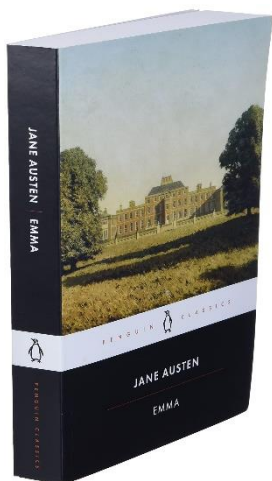
The very enjoyable refreshments were provided by Liz.

Good wishes were exchanged, together with Christmas cards.

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and would like to extend an invitation to anyone who enjoys Listening to Music to come and join us.

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

MONDAY READERS GROUP



It is a truth universally acknowledged that a book group in possession of a Jane Austen novel, must be in want of time to read it. Our book group was, indeed, in want of time to read Emma; as Mr Woodhouse might have remarked on receipt of such a book at such a time, "The ladies would not like to have such a book: when are they to read it?"

A Jane Austen novel of itself is not altogether unwholesome, but I am sure Mr Perry would not recommend it for Yuletide perusal!"

And, indeed, many of the group had not such time, and found, after the first essay into its contents, that it had delighted them quite long enough, and the cover was firmly closed. Some indeed found it positively disagreeable and altogether too much of a burden, unlike the film.

It is true that two of the elegant ladies found it a good-humoured, pleasant, excellent book, and were very willing to praise it in terms with which Miss Bates herself would heartily concur, namely, "They were so good as to sit an hour or more reading it and were so kind as to say they like it very much."

All the ladies, however, agreed that one might learn much about the social life of the time from such reading, and were especially engaged by such descriptions of the life of the fair sex of the period as to make them very sure that it would not have suited them to have lived such lives.

In general, the little gathering was deserving of the strongest approbation as the first of the new year

with much to recommend it, even fit enough for a gathering at Maple Grove!

Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

STROLLERS GROUP

The first outing for the Stroller's Group in 2024 is a return to Peterborough, for a walk led by Stuart Wilson, starting from the Boathouse at Thorpe Meadows. The course is flat, which goes without saying in Peterborough, but will be a welcome return to that area of the city, which we last visited quite a few years ago. It will take place on Friday 26 January, meeting at 10:15. Members of the group will be given more details of the walk a week or so before.

Wish all at u3a a happy new year and hope that the Strollers have another successful year on the road or track.

Report and Group Leader: Bob Deller

HISTORY GROUP



Twenty-nine members attended the Christmas lunch at The Wagon and Horses in Langtoft.

The food was good. The staff was rushed off their feet but everyone seemed to have a good time as you can see from the photograph above. David has a hat to match his jumper!

Thank you, Barbara for organising another event for us.

Reminder: we are looking for a replacement for Lesley as Speaker Finder.

The 2024 programme will be given out in January and these are the titles you can look forward to, but not in chronological order.

- From Deeping to Stamford by Canal
- The Clarksons of Wisbech
- The Ark Royal
- Paul Robeson
- With a Strong and Steady Hand
- Molecey Mill
- Villages of South Lincolnshire
- So you thought You were odd?
- Fair Maid
- Poems

In order to see when these will take place and to get your programme, please attend the History Group on the third Wednesday in January at The Green School. 10am for 10.30.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

PACERS GROUP



Twelve Pacers met at the Crab and Winkle on the first Wednesday of January to start the walking programme for 2024. We were all very pleased we had not been walking the previous day – 2 January. That was the day it rained all day and the river in Deeping rose to its highest levels for many years. We ordered lunch, used the facilities and then set off for a gentle walk to start the job of getting rid of any excess weight after all the Christmas food and drink.

We started by going over the newly-refurbished bridge over the railway and then along the old Lincoln Road (hard to believe that not that long ago it was the main road to Peterborough) and then onto the pedestrian footbridge over the roundabout. Right at the playing fields, then left past the old rectory and the Blue Bell. We had to miss the normal walk, up North Fen Road, the footpath and the woods as the recent rains had made it impassable.

At Glinton one of the group decided to catch the bus back to Werrington. This will mean that in the official results they will have to be disqualified!

Then down Foxcovert Road, over the bridge for a short stop at the restored Sobrite soda water spring and the statutory photo. Back along Serjeant Way and after a little under 4 miles (with dry feet) we returned to the Crab and Winkle where we had a good and extremely reasonably priced lunch (the senior's special was two courses for less than £10 – so much for the January diet) 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 month the walk will be guided by Stuart and Barbara on Wednesday 7 February – details by email as usual.

Report; Geoff Whittle

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023/2024

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Mary Martin
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Gift Aid Secretary	Anne Burton
Membership Sec.	David Perkins
Group Co-ordination	June Wheatcroft
Team:	Phil Jones

Non-Committee members

Newsletter Editors	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott
Speaker Finders	Gill Godden/ Lynn Ayres

DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 9 FEBRUARY 2024
SEND TO:
NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM