



Deeping St. James

Issue No.252

February 2024

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

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



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Mike Parsons from Market Deeping and Sue Baughan from Werrington

NEXT MEETING: 19 February. 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:

19 February: The Third Rock

A fascinating talk by Keith Townsend about The Third Rock.

18 March: The History of Crime and Punishment in Peterborough

Stuart Orme from the Cromwell Museum tells us about crime and punishment in Peterborough.

15 April: Vintage shop advertising

Keith Talbot gives us all the facts about vintage shop advertising.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

It was good to see many of you at our January meeting. What a fascinating talk we were treated to! If you thought you knew your Stamford, there were more intriguing facts revealed by Nicola Sandall.

As you know, Deepings u3a is part of the national u3a organisation, which has just officially launched "u3a Friends" with the aim of complementing the activities of local u3a groups, with online national Newsletters, information about nationwide u3a events and national initiatives and much more. You can sign up at u3a.org.uk/newsletter.

Our own Deepings website has group information, together with details of our policies and procedures. Do take a look.

When mentioning website, we are still looking for a volunteer to take on the role of webmaster in the near future. Please have a chat with one of the Committee if you would like to support the group in this way.

We would also be grateful for one or two more volunteers to act a "meters and greeters" on a rota basis at monthly meetings.

Thank you all for supporting our u3a, either participating or leading, in so many activities.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



HISTORY GROUP COACH TRIP – Open to all u3a members



The History group are running a trip to the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal on Wednesday 21st August. The cost, which includes coach fare, a guide, entrance to the Museum and a 45 minute trip on the Dudley Canal, will be between £56-60 depending on how many seats we sell. Non-History Group members are very welcome to join us on this interesting trip. If you are interested contact Barbara McNicol on 01778 344052.

REMINDER: 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, which 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.

MAHJONG GROUP

A New Year and a new hobby.

Sometimes we think we might like to try something new but are very hesitant to try. Fear of joining unknown people or not being able to understand the rules, stops us from moving forward.

Our Mahjong group has been going for many years now and with a great success. We meet every Friday morning 9.45 till 11.45 at the Community Centre.

We have a large room and have plenty of space and would love to have some new members join us.

Come along for a taster session. I can promise that no one in the group bites (well at least I have not seen any marks!!)

Free coffee, friendship and a great deal of laughter is guaranteed.

Report and Group Leader: Peg Torrance

POETRY GROUP

Catherine was our hostess for a very pleasant afternoon of poetry. We had a wonderful selection:

- *Valentine* by Carol Ann Duffy
- *Grandad and a Pramload of Clocks* by John Lindley
- *The Little Dancers* by Laurence Binyon
- *Life is Fine* by Langston Hughes
- *To a Snowdrop* by William Wordsworth
- *The Arrow and the song* by Henry Wordsworth Longfellow
- *The Owl and the Pussycat* by Edward Lear
- *Solitude* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox
- And another by Carol Ann Duffy *The Last Post*.

Many thanks to Catherine for keeping us supplied with tea and biscuits.

Thanks also to Irene Beeken who has been our group leader and founder of the poetry group since it started, she will still be an active and inspirational member of the group but has stepped down from the group leader role due to other commitments.

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

January report



The first walk of the year was led by Brian Littler, destination: Bourne Woods.

The original walk which had been reconnoitred during the Christmas period was found to be rather muddy but not a problem.

Meanwhile the floods arrived and a subsequent visit to assess the walk found it to be impassable. This called for an amendment to the route with a bit more road walking than usual. However, Brian was able to detour the group into the woods via the Forestry Lodge so he was able to keep us all on reasonably dry ground.

We completed the walk in just over five miles and arrived at the Sugar Mill in time to enjoy a hearty lunch. Including myself there were eight walkers.

February report



Oh, what a wet morning! Nine **extra-hardy** walkers braved the weather prediction and met at Rasell's Nurseries, Little Bytham.

On leaving the car park we turned left, under the railway arch, then immediately turned left again. After a couple of hundred yards, we took a footpath to the left leading us onto a raised wooden walkway besides the West Glen River and underneath the railway lines. Crossing several meadows we emerged onto a wooden footbridge crossing the river, with a ford. Turning left here we emerged onto Creeton Road. After a hundred yards we entered onto the track known as Park Lane. This led us uphill onto Bytham Riding,

then northwards onto Chestnut Avenue. This avenue leads straight onto Grimsthorpe Castle, which we could see straight ahead of us. As the avenue began to dip downhill, we turned right through the woods to Pebble Gate. Over a couple of stiles, alongside Elsea Woods we now crossed a ploughed field and emerged onto a concrete track called Halehouse Road. A short way along we took a field edge path to the corner of Herrings Plantation. Continuing westwards, alongside Kennel Plantation, we arrived back onto Bytham Riding. From here we retraced our route back to Creeton Road. Turning left we headed back, under one of the railway bridges and stopped to look and talk about Mallard House (named after the 1938 record-breaking run of the Mallard steam locomotive on the overhead railway line adjacent). Carrying on, up to the church, we turned left down Church Lane, crossing another wooden footbridge besides a ford. In five minutes we were back to base to peel away our saturated clothing and footwear.

A very welcome brunch and hot drinks revived us. We can recommend this little venue serving a variety of meals, well priced and very accommodating.

Thanks to Brian and Helen Driscoll for arranging the catering and also a message for one of our group Pat Hanson: We miss your input, but especially your company, so hurry-up and mend and return to us.

As walk leader for the u3a Thursday walking group I set the members a little competition for the year 2023, as follows:



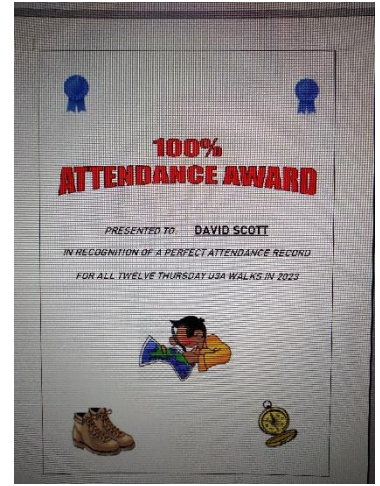
Throughout 2023 I have counted the number of stiles that we have had to climb over (Thursday walks only). The person that can state the number that is closest to number that I have will win a prize.

If there are two correct guesses, the winner will be the person who has attended the highest number of Thursday walks in 2023.

The correct number was 46 stiles. No-one guessed the correct number but two of the group guessed 38, which was

the closest. The two closest were Helen Driscoll and Brian Littler. Helen had attended 6 walks of the twelve but Brian had attended for 10 – therefore Brian was the winner! Helen won second prize, a bag of Walkers crisps, whilst Brian won first prize – see picture.

David Scott attended all twelve walks so he was presented with a Certificate of Attendance. Well done!



Reports and group leader: Richard Coulson

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

A social get together this month. A morning of quizzes to test the memory and a snippet from Take One Picture was the format of the morning. I think everyone had a good catch up and brains weren't tested too much in the process! Thank you to Barbara for her quiz about B----- M----- . Who was born in P----! And to David who made all the technical operations possible.



There were light refreshments and coffee. Below is the painting used by schools in Take One Picture.

Three Children Playing Musical Instruments, painted by Molenaar

Next month our speaker is John McGowan who is focusing on his last Canal print 'Compass'.

10 for 10.30 at Deeping Sports and Social Club. New members welcome.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

GOOD FOOD GROUP

The theme for our February lunch was James Martin recipes. As well as hosting TV's Saturday Kitchen, he has written over 20 cookbooks and received many cookery awards. We chatted over a drink with a dip made from broad beans and artichoke hearts and savoury grapes coated in Stilton and walnuts pieces. Then we sat at the dining table and started with green lentil and coriander soup. Our main courses were creamy whisky chicken, vegetable lemony rice and Caribbean shepherd's pie followed by two desserts: sticky toffee roulade and strawberry pavlova with caramel sauce.

Our next meeting is on Monday 4 March and our theme, following St David's day on 1st March, is Welsh recipes.

If anyone would like to join us, please contact group leaders Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk.

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

CRAFT GROUP 2

Maureen and Anita had done us proud this month and thank you to them for spending such a long time cutting and trimming all the parts for the two designs of card. It was almost too much choice of cut-outs and then of course what colour backing to choose etc, etc! Fun to do and a good start to the new year. Good to welcome Heather back with us too, although sorry Avril not well enough to come this month, especially as it was just after her special birthday – we all wished her well. Look forward to seeing you all on 19 February at 2pm.



Report: Liz Noble
Group Leader: Liz Noble

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Fifteen members and some husbands of the Wednesday Garden Group had a very enjoyable post-Christmas Lunch at the Waggon and Horses in Langtoft. We were very well looked after by the young waitress and, judging by the empty plates, everyone enjoyed their meal!

Our next meeting will be on 14 February at Baytree, Weston with a talk by the owner and founder, Reinhard Biehler. Details to follow.

Report by Jane Cooke
Joint leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



This month 22 walkers met at the Milton Golf Club on a fine, dry but blustery day. We were lucky to have such good weather for a February ramble.

We began heading northwards alongside the golf course and then along the edge of a very substantially built very old stone wall. We emerged onto Castor Road at a spot known as Salter's Tree.

Here there used to be

a substantial elm tree where medieval salt merchants met to conduct their business. The tree had hung from it a gibbet and it is rumoured that a man called Salter was hanged there.

We proceeded, still north, along Salter's Way, an ancient trackway having evidence of Roman usage.

This track led us onto Helpston Road where we turned left and crossed over the A47. Turning immediately left we travelled a path going eastwards, running parallel to the A47. A defined path now headed us south into Castor.

Crossing Peterborough Road, we headed down Port Lane crossing the fields of Splash Dike.

On reaching the railway line we passed underneath and turned east to walk a path parallel to the rail track. This path took us onto Mill Lane which we followed northwards to emerge onto the road known as Loves Hill. Turning up Loves Hill it was only now a short stroll back to the golf club.



The walk was 5.5 miles in length with only one muddy area, easily conquered.
The lunch provided was of a high standard in a delightful environment with pleasant staff.

Report: Richard Coulson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Eleven members met in Margaret and David Scott's lovely, and obligingly sunny, garden room.
After a short business meeting when the programme for the year was completed and agreed, we all enjoyed a wonderfully humorous quiz devised and delivered by David. It was great fun - smiles all round! We had joint winners but everyone left feeling that perhaps they knew a little more than they thought they did!
A most enjoyable and positive start to 2024. Our next meeting will be in Bourne.

Report and photo: Ann Pettitt and Alistair Smith
Joint Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our January meeting was held at the home of Terry Noble who gave us a programme entitled:

Music for lower pitched instruments.

Beethoven got us off to great start with The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble playing *Three Equali for Four Trombones*.

Mozart followed with *Per Questa Bella Mano K.612*, Thomas Quasthoff (baritone), Christoph Anaker (Double Bass) and the Statskapelle, conductor, Julien Sulemkour.

The *Tuba Concerto* by Vaughan Williams; Ian Fletcher on Tuba with André Previn conducting, gave us *Prelude 4 22, Romanza 5 06, and Finale 3 07"*.

Bottesini's *Allegro Moderato 6 05, Andante 6 09, and Allegro 4 20* was followed by Vivaldi's *Concerto for 2 Cellos in G Minor, RV 531*.

Weber's *Bassoon Concerto in F* with Izabella Musial on Bassoon was the penultimate item and the morning ended with something quite different composed by Henry Mancini but played by a Double Bass Quintet: *The Pink Panther Theme*.

As enjoyable as ever, thank you Terry for putting our programme together. Thank you also to Liz for the very enjoyable refreshments.

The next meeting will be at the home of Phil Jones.

Report: Anne Jones
Group Leader: Terry Noble

CYCLING GROUP

After the recent icy weather and following rain, 12 January provided much better cycling conditions – temperature had relented and the rain had abated. The route had been organised by Mike Peace who unfortunately was unable to ride but did manage to join the lunch at the Packhorse in Northborough. This time only three of us managed the ride.

From Market Deeping, the route took us north on the A15, turning right along Meadow Road, up by the gravel pits and then into Langtoft. Crossing the A15 we continued along to the junction with King Street for a left turn.



At the Lolham level crossing one of our number was caught behind the barrier as it descended. However, the barrier raised again to let him through. CCTV cameras must have caught him allowing the control room to react.

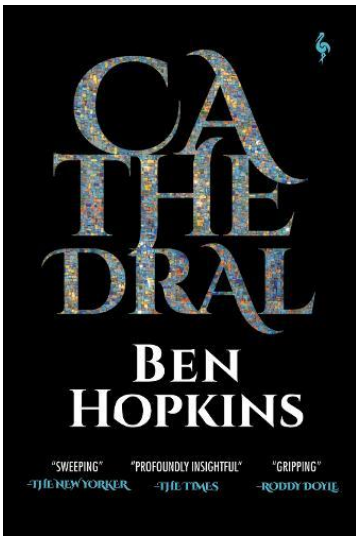
Carrying on down King Street the route took us to Helpston and Etton for a photo stop.

Then back to Northborough for a well-earned lunch – a total distance of 14 miles.

Thank you, Mike for organising the route. Our next outing is on Friday 9 February leaving the bridge at Market Deeping at 10:30am.

**Report by: Terry Noble
Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

MONDAY READERS GROUP



Our book this month was *Cathedral* by Ben Hopkins.

It was a ‘big, thick, intelligent book’, as a young pupil of mine once described his choice of reading, and we all found it a complex read. Based, in medieval Germany, it concerned the rebuilding of a cathedral, the myriad of people, politics and religious beliefs that swirled around it and its city. The story followed the lives of several main characters in a woven pattern, with the shuttle moving backwards and forwards in time and place. This meant that it was important to keep track of who, where, and what the story was concerning. For some of us, this was an unequal struggle, and they abandoned the book unfinished. For the rest of us, who stuck with it, it was a very rewarding book.

The period was brought to life in a very masterly way, in all of its often brutal details of religious and social squalor, intolerance and, often as well, artistic beauty. The description of the mechanics of building a huge medieval cathedral

were fascinating, and we were drawn into the life of the characters and city in a way that reflected the very skilful writing.

This is a book that repays the effort needed to read it, and it’s one that any lover of a ‘big, thick, intelligent book’ might very much enjoy!

Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

QUILTING GROUP



Four members of the group met to have a go at ‘free motion quilting’. This allows the sewer to guide the fabric without the assistance of the sewing machine. Confidence was gained quickly and everyone soon got the hang of guiding the fabric to produce lines, swirls and curves. This was the last meeting of the group. Thanks to Maggie who organised the group and all the talented ladies shared their expertise and experience and showed us all what is possible with a few pieces of fabric!



**Report: Liz Lonsdale
Group Organiser: Maggie Griffiths**

STROLLERS GROUP



Our first venture for this year started from the Boat House at Thorpe Meadows in Peterborough. Led by Stuart Wilson, 12 Strollers set off from the east end of the boating lake on a bright January morning towards the Nene Way, which is alongside the eponymous river. Upon reaching Orton Stauch, we crossed the river towards the Orton Mere station of the Nene Valley Railway. Making our way back we passed under the Nene Parkway where the group admired some urban artwork on one of the support pillars. Having covered 2.7 miles we enjoyed a lunch back at the Boat House. The photograph shows Geoff, the group's resident 'farrier', attending to



Lilian's footwear, proving that the group, which may be down at heel, has not lost its sole.

You may think this is a lot of cobblers!

Our next walk will be on Friday 23 February when Geoff will lead us starting from the Milton Golf Club in Peterborough.

**Report by Stuart Wilson, photo by Anne Burton
Group Leader: Bob Deller**

HISTORY GROUP

Stamford to Deeping Canal System by Maggie Ashcroft



High Locks, Deeping St James

This month, we had a fascinating talk about: The Navigation, The Cut or The Canal System, that was started in the 17th Century and carried items such as coal, household goods and drapery between the Deepings and Stamford or vice versa.

Some of the slides showed familiar faces from the village as they investigated the history behind this now, obsolete transport system. The slides also showed the various parts of the system that can still be seen and the locks or remains of locks that have become part of the landscape. Some are even in domestic gardens. Maggie showed maps, historical documents and artifacts that relate to the construction of this transport system and also talked about the mills that lie alongside the River and worked independently from the Cuts.

It was a well-received talk and attendance was excellent. Members were given the programme for the year ahead and information for the August trip. A plea went out for a person (or two persons) to replace Lesley when she retires at the end of 2024!

February's talk is about Villages of South Lincolnshire and the speaker is The Reverend David Bond.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

PACERS GROUP

We were so lucky with the weather - again. On the previous day there was rain and on the following day the rain was heavy and persistent but we had a dry walk with no wind and a nice temperature for the time of year. Ideal walking conditions.



Thirteen of us met at the Woodman, Longthorpe to order lunch, use the facilities and register our cars for free parking.

With Stuart and Barbara in charge we started by walking beside the new residential home and down to the edge of the lake at Ferry Meadows. We then turned left heading towards Longthorpe and followed various tracks, none of which I knew, arriving at the Green near Longthorpe Tower – at that point I knew where I was..

We visited Holywell ponds in Longthorpe which (good old google) used to be part of the estate of Thorpe Hall, supplying fish for the

lord of the manor. According to the 'visit Peterborough' site they are the best remaining examples of medieval fish ponds in the Peterborough area – and I didn't even know they existed!

We then continued along further unknown tracks before reaching the giant white footbridge which crosses the parkway to the car park opposite the Woodman.

A thoroughly enjoyable 4 miles and we were back for a nice 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 month the walk will be guided by Steve and Lynn on Wednesday 6 March – 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: 8 MARCH 2024
SEND TO:
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