



Deeping St. James

Issue No.253

March 2024

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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

[Click here to visit our
Deepings Website](https://u3asites.org.uk/deepings/home)



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Keith Lloyd, Deeping St James, Sydna Burman, Langtoft
Roger Green and Gail Green, Market Deeping, Malcolm Roe, Market Deeping

NEXT MEETING: 18 March. 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 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.

20 May: Making a stand for Chelsea

Keith Wreghitt explains the work done behind the scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

I have recently enjoyed inspiring visits to art galleries. The National Gallery is hosting models of the seven short-listed sculptures for the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square – the one which changes every couple of years. You can access them on line and maybe even vote for your favourite!

At the National Portrait Gallery was a collaborative piece with students remembering refugees who came to UK from the Basque country in the late 1930s, fleeing from the Spanish Civil War, which included an interpretation based on Picasso's harrowing "Guernica" painting.

I've also visited the extensive exhibition at Peterborough Cathedral, featuring the work of local artists in a variety of media. There is currently an exhibition at Peterborough Museum of the work of William Wood, who was commissioned to record, in watercolour, scenes of Peterborough, before major changes were to take place in the city.

As members of u3a we express our creative talents in many ways through our groups, craft, watercolours, flower arranging, gardening, art appreciation etc. Maybe we should hold our own exhibition?

I wish you all a happy and sunny Easter

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a



SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next u3a luncheon is on 24 March at the Blue Bell at Ginton at 1.15. They are limited to numbers, (between 10 and 14 at the most) so please let Helen or Enid need to know if you are coming as soon as possible.

Group Leaders: Helen Perkins: 01778345674 and Enid Withers: 01778342936

CHURCH MICE

28 members of Church Mice visited St Guthlac's church in Market Deeping in February. Members of Church Mice who are members of St Guthlac's did all the arrangements. Lyall Seale, who helped to start Church Mice more than a dozen years ago, gave a full account of the church. It was built in the 12th Century and has had many changes since, particularly towards the end of the 19th Century. Lyall talked of Joan Plantagenet, mother of Richard II and Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, both of whom were connected with Market Deeping.

There are a number of stained-glass windows, the most notable of which are the two St Guthlac windows which have 12 roundels showing the life of St Guthlac. These were copied from the Guthlac Roll which is one of the most important illuminated manuscripts held in the British Library.

After the talk and a walk round the church, the members went across the road to have tea and cakes organised by yet another member of Church Mice.

Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

January report

Our first meeting of 2024 saw eight members meeting in the Community Centre. To start the New Year the subject was "How to get the best results searching Find My Past".

Going back to basics, we watched a video of one of the Find My Past experts explaining how to get more from searches on the website.

Mary McKee talked us through some of the many categories available on the site and also different ways of searching. Wild cards are something we don't always think of using, asterisks to substitute letters, sometimes names can be spelled in many different ways. Question marks or even advanced searches and the wave icon plus a number searching a newspaper article to find things within a limited number of words are a new feature. A new viewer has now been developed for the site for the newspapers which hopefully by now is being used to make the site more user-friendly and the availability of a new crop feature so that you can now print out only the article on the page you want. All useful features that may have been missed for the occasional user of Find My Past.

For our next meeting we will be discussing "Free websites" that we can use to gather information at no cost.

February report

The Family History Group meeting for February was cancelled due to members' commitments for the date. Peg instead offered a chat at her house and individual help with research, two members went along.

Our next meeting is on 11 March at 2pm in the Community Centre and will be a discussion about "websites that are free to use and do not need an expensive subscription" but still give you lots of information to add to your tree.

Please come along and join us if you are interested in finding out more about your ancestors and the papers that are gradually becoming available for us to look at from the various archives. We meet on the second Monday of the month in the Learning Room at the Community Centre at 2pm. The venue is central to Deeping so easy to get to either walking or by car.

Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennand

POETRY GROUP

We were a small but beautifully formed group for our March meeting. Our letter of the month for guidance was M or a favourite poem.

We had a wonderful selection including John Milton's *On His Blindness*, *The shoes*, by John Mole, *Coochi-coochi* by Bill Greenwell, *Mind* by Michael Rosen, *The Hippopotamus song* by Michael Flanders, *The West Wind* by John Masefield and finally *High Flight* by John Gillespie Magee.

We all enjoyed the variety of poems and the skill of using language. Many thanks to Juliet for hosting us and supplying the refreshments.

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our February meeting was at the home of Phil Jones and was entitled: 'One More Once...'

Music aficionados will know that Count Basie ended his rendition of *April in Paris* with this very phrase... So to begin the morning we heard *Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens*, a cracking start from Louis Jordan and then of course, *April in Paris* from Count Basie. Followed by a terrific arrangement from the BBC Big Band, *Artistry in Rhythm* which had us tapping our feet and Spike Jones & his City Slickers made us smile with his version of *Cocktails for Two*. Then another toe tapper – *Drummer Man*, featuring vocalists Irene Daye and Gene Krupa.

Frank Sinatra with the Count gave us *Fly Me to the Moon*. Jools Holland & his Rhythm and Blues Band, and Larry Elgar gave way to the splendid Lena Horne with *I Got Rhythm*. Nina Simone sang *I Put a Spell On You*, and Gordon Goodwin offered *It's Alright With Me*, which led to Spike Jones again and *Leave the Dishes in the Sink, Ma*. Nothing else to be said...

Ray Conniff, Bobby Darin and Cab Calloway continued the music and Chet Baker gave us *My Funny Valentine* – just a little late!

Stop The World, Diana Krall sang. Seth MacFarlane told us about the *Night They Invented Champagne*, from the film *GIGI*. Louis Armstrong's *When it's Sleepy Time Down South* was followed by Phil's final choice – *Zing Went the Strings of my Heart*, from Judy Garland.

It was such an enjoyable morning, with Phil's usual musical surprises. So many thanks to him and to Kath, celebrating her birthday, for the refreshments.

We also welcomed a new member to the group: Anne Holmes.

Next meeting is also at Phil's home with a programme from Geoff Whittle.

Report: Anne Jones

Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

My Life as an Artist by John McGowan

It was a pleasure to welcome John back to talk to us, and tell us about his life and how he became the



printmaker of today. He showed us slides of his early family homes in London and examples of his art work from his younger days. He didn't study Art at school after the age of 14 but used the school facilities during lunch times and after school to develop his skills. His work developed into printing as time went by. His specialism was warehouses (see photo).

He has held several exhibitions of his work and had an exhibition last summer in Peterborough Museum which was very well attended.

He became an Art teacher after a spell at Teacher Training College and was well known in this area from his

expertise at A.M.V.C at Glington. It really was a fascinating morning. John sold some of his cards and the money raised went towards his fund-raising campaign for Cancer Research. Sadly, he told us that this was going to be his last talk.

Thank you to David for all the technical help.

Next month, Barbara is giving the talk and it is about the life of Mary Cassatt (1844-1926). We hope you can join us. New members welcome. It takes place at the Deeping Sports and Social Club, 10 for 10.30 (third Tuesday of the month).

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

CYCLING GROUP

After two months of cancelled rides due to weather, on 8 March four of us actually managed to complete a 15-mile ride.



It was a lovely morning although a bit chilly in the easterly wind. We started by cycling to Maxey via Mill Road and then off-road along the path past the quarries to Etton and onto Helpston. From here we took Heath Road and after passing through the wooded area where there was evidence of some large tree-felling we turned right onto Stamford Road. We continued from here to along to Marholm Road and into Ufford and on past the Sheep Dip to Bainton, continuing along the B1443 and turning left onto King

Street and the dreaded Level Crossings although we didn't get held up too much.

We continued on King Street, turned onto High Street towards Maxey and taking Mill Road to cross the bypass and back into Market Deeping to the Stage for our lunch.

A nice refreshing ride after the disappointment of the previous cancellations. Many thanks to Dave for planning the route and hopefully now that we are heading for Spring there will be no more weather cancellations.

Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance

GOOD FOOD GROUP

This month we met at Anne and David's house. As we were now in March, the theme of this month was Welsh Cuisine, to celebrate St David's Day.

We started with a Welsh leek soup, followed by Glamorgan sausages, a Welsh onion cake, a chicken casserole and shepherd's pie. The dessert was a Welsh Eve's pudding followed by three Welsh cheeses. This was accompanied by wine and port and followed by coffee to round off another successful meal.

Report by: David Gaskell

Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



In a change to our programme (already!), nine members of the Wednesday Gardening Group met at Jane's house in Deeping St. Nicholas on a mild but dry morning.

We had a walk round the very wet garden and saw lots of snowdrops, aconites and hellebores, as well as a few early flowering shrubs and others which are beginning to show signs of Spring.

We all then adjourned to the house for refreshments and conversation. Several members brought little posies from their garden and there were discussions about successes and failures in the garden in 2023.

The new programmes for 2024 were handed out (kindly printed once again by John).

Report by Jane Cooke

Joint leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

On a crisp, fine, sunny day 18 walkers met at Burghley Golf Club to order lunch before we set off.



We headed off down the hill to the west entrance of Burghley Park, then followed the track towards Burghley House, passing a herd of deer were nearby with several pale/white stags.

Leaving the park via Barnack Road, we walked along a grass verge. Crossing the road near Pilsgate came the good bit. Ploughed fields with Mud, Mud glorious Mud!

We soon found it was a

waste of time cleaning the mud off our boots, as there was more, and yet more, to come.

Our boots got heavier and heavier and it seemed that we had grown a few inches!

Eventually we crossed the railway line and then a never-ending walk along the Torpel Way. The first part was the equivalent of skating on ice.

Upon reaching Barnack Road we went through the park and eventually back to the golf club. The last 0.6 mile was uphill and very telling on calves, hamstrings and knees. The walk was approximately 6.4 miles.

A good lunch was had by all. A big thanks to David and Godfrey for organising this walk.

Details for the walk in April to be notified to members.



Report: Steve Hanson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson

MONDAY READERS GROUP



Sadly, we had a less than satisfactory meeting this month as, for one reason or another, fewer than half of the group had actually finished (or even started) the book!

Of the three or four of us who had managed to read it, one really didn't enjoy it, but the other three had, despite agreeing that it was a complex read, needing attention paying to it.

The book was *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. Set in America, in a small township which was built by a 19th Century entrepreneur as a vanity project, the story followed two families living on the same plot of land in widely separated periods of time. One, in the original period, the other in contemporary times. There were cleverly managed parallels between the two strands of the book, and the two families. Along the way, issues such as the effect of Darwinism on the Creationists running the education system, the contemporary problem of climate change, and the complex interaction of the families as they struggle to deal with

their problems, similar in many ways, despite the time gap, are well drawn and the characters are interesting and engaging.

Not a beach read, perhaps, but for those of us who liked it, a satisfying one!

Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

Nine group members met at the home of Roy and Ann Pettitt in Bourne armed with a maximum of six garden-themed photos. A surprising range of photos was shown covering all seasons, virtually all weathers with the exception of fog, members' previous gardens, past group outings when some of us looked somewhat younger(!), stunning reflections and garden wildlife.

Our next meeting will be at Springfields in Spalding where we will meet for coffee and then, weather permitting, tour the gardens to see the Spring bulbs. No doubt many will be keenly looking out for any signs of damage caused by over-active squirrels after one member reported how upset she was recently to discover that the display of tulips she was so looking forward to brightening her front garden had been decimated by squirrels' digging and gnawing!

Can you identify where these "local" photos were taken? No prizes! Answers in the next copy of the Newsletter.



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

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

An almost random selection.... was the title for our February programme from Phil Jones.

We began the morning with Gavin Sutherland and The City of Prague Philharmonic and *Help*, from the Beatles Cracker Suite. There was a strong Beatles presence to the programme with *Eleanor Rigby* and *Blackbird*, from the Whan Quartet. The Pete Breiner Chamber Orchestra then gave us *The Beatles Concerto*.

Mike Oldfield's *Celtic Rain* was followed by an arrangement from John Rutter and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. *Linden Lea* came from Roderick Williams and then we heard *Humoresque*, from Dvorak.

Music by Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff's *Benedictus*, music from Karl Jenkins and then Alfred Cortot, a French pianist, conductor and teacher, played a *Piano trio in G Major*.

Michael Crawford sang *The Music of the Night*, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Nigel Kennedy gave us *Thais, Act 2 – Meditation*, accompanied by the English Chamber Orchestra. Popular Sarah Brightman with André Bocelli sang *Time to Say Goodbye*, although it was not quite, as we listened to another Beatles' song - *Girl*, and then finally Cristina Garcia Banegas, gave us *Penny Lane*, from *Beatles Love Bach*, which closed the morning.

A wealth of good music, plus lots of information about the various artists that we heard, for which we thank Phil, also to Kath for the refreshments.

Report: Anne Jones
Group Leader: Terry Noble

STROLLERS GROUP

A good turn out resulted in fourteen Strollers led by Geoff Fitzjohn doing a walk around the villages of Castor and Ailsworth.



After ordering our lunch at Milton Golf Course we moved some of the cars down to Station Road, Ailsworth. Fortunately it was a lovely sunny day but after days of heavy rain the walk had to be adjusted for safety reasons so we were able to keep on tracks and footpaths. These are lovely villages, full of history, and gave us plenty to look at including thatched cottages, sheep, horses and a stop off at St Kyneburgha.

At our planning meeting in November we had discussed, where possible, trying to provide a shorter alternative walk for anyone who for different reasons needed to have

a shorter walk. This proved possible so that everyone was catered for.

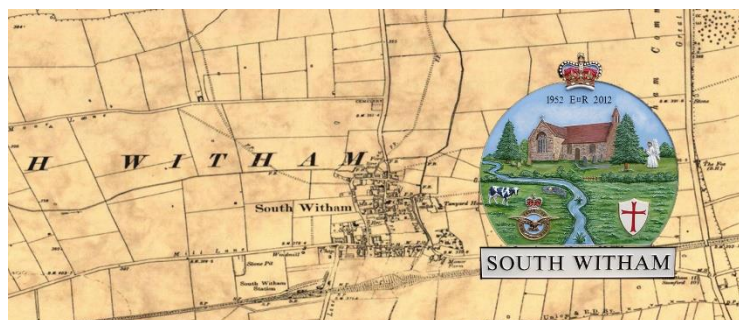
We all returned by car to the Golf Club where we were well looked after and served a tasty lunch. It was an enjoyable morning, especially so as the sun shone for us after all that rain!

Our next walk will be on Friday 22 March when Anne Burton will lead us starting from the Ruddy Duck at Peakirk. Details will be sent to members of the group in the monthly update.

**Report by Geoff Fitzjohn, Photo: Anne Burton
Group Leader: Bob Deller**

HISTORY GROUP

The Reverend David Bond gave a very interesting talk about **Villages in South Lincolnshire**. We explored the



types of villages, using words such as; Nuclear, Open and Closed. He talked about the main rivers in this area, The Welland, The Glen and The Witham. He showed slides of various villages in the area and the types of stone used to build the houses on the main streets.

It certainly gave us insight into the history of the area. We won't walk through some of our villages in future without giving thought to today's talk. We

learn something new every day!

There were 50 people in attendance – a fantastic turnout, given that the weather outside was horrendous.

Next month we have Maureen James to tell us the story of The Clarksons of Wisbech.

Thank you to everyone who helped today and to Barbara who collected the deposits for the August trip.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

PACERS GROUP

A lovely sunny morning (as opposed to the 'cloudy' forecast on the met office site) and 14 Pacers met at the



Packhorse to pre-order lunch.

With Steve and Lynn in charge, we set off on Plan B (the report back from the inspection of the route for Plan A was 'wet and swampy'), which started with a walk along the old Lincoln Road, then right onto Bridgegate Lane (really a track beside the field), then right again towards Northborough.

A left turn led us to the back of the Village Hall where there was exercise equipment - only for adults, must be 4'7" to use! The group had a go and

as no muscles were strained we were able to continue, going around the back of the primary school. A left turn then led us to Paradise Lane and then to the bank on the cut. Flotsam half way up the trees showed how high the water had been a few weeks ago. It is much lower now but still fast flowing. Past nine bridges and back to the pub for lunch.

A very nice walk of just under 4 miles in lovely conditions. Lunch at the Packhorse was excellent and to be recommended.

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 at Surfleet guided by David and Marjorie on Wednesday 3 April – 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: 5 APRIL 2024
SEND TO:
NEWSEditor@DEEPINGSU3A.COM