



Deeping St. James

Issue No.254

April 2024

# The Deepings u3a **NEWSLETTER**

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Market Deeping

Welcome

**New members:** Anita Hogan from Farcet

**NEXT MEETING: 15 April.** 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 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.

**17 June: Behind the scenes in the salesroom**

David Fletcher talks about his work as a valuer.

**MARGARET'S MUSINGS**

**Dear members**

We have a wealth of talent both leading and participating in our many groups. On 19 April we will be holding the Group Leaders' Meeting, to which all Group Leaders have been invited. This event, to be held at the Community Centre from 10 am until 12 noon, is an opportunity to share experiences, give feedback and raise queries, which the committee members hope to be able to answer. Importantly, it is an opportunity to express appreciation for the contribution of the voluntary group leaders. If a group leader is unable to attend, we would ask if another group member is able to come, so that all the groups are represented. The committee looks forward to the meeting.



We are all grateful to David Perkins for offering to take on the role of Webmaster. David will acquaint himself with the new national web set up and we look forward to using it under his direction in the near future. Many thanks to David Scott who has fulfilled this role for many years and will continue to handle Newsletter distribution, which is mostly via email. If you currently receive a hard copy of the Newsletter, but would now prefer to receive it by email, please let one of the committee know.

I look forward to welcoming you to the April monthly meeting.

**Best wishes**

**Margaret**

**Chair, The Deepings u3a**

**SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP**

The April lunch club will be on April 28th at 12.45 pm at The Wagon and Horses in Langtoft.

To book a place please ring either Helen on 01778 345674, or Enid on 01778 342936.

**Group Leaders: Helen Perkins and Enid Withers**

## SCIENCE GROUP

At the last meeting members were treated to a fiendish quiz on all things scientific. It was very closely contested with one pair winning by half a point. Perhaps the prize of an Easter egg will be passed on to their grandchildren.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the group. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre. The next meeting will be on 16 April when we will have a talk about The Pisces Rescue.

**Report by Gill Godden**  
**Group Leaders: David Scott and Garth Perry**

## CHURCH MICE

Twenty-one members of Church Mice visited St Stephen's Church at Carlby in March.



Paul Stokes, the churchwarden, gave us an introductory talk about the community. The Carlby sign features the church, a horse representing farming and the Mallard, the steam train that set a speed record on the nearby railway. The church is at the heart of the village and Jenny gave us an interesting talk about it. Built in the late 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries, with additions in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the church has a light and airy feeling to it. There are wall paintings above the chancel arch and some traces of red on the light plastered walls. There are two closed up doorways and an interesting 13<sup>th</sup> Century font.

In 1821 on a stormy Sunday the priest asked the vergers not to ring the bell for the church service to save the congregation having to come out in the storm. Shortly afterwards lightning hit and destroyed the steeple, fortunately killing no-one. Money was quickly raised by the relieved community to rebuild the tower.

The photo shows Henry standing by the base of the preacher's cross. The visit ended with delightful cakes served to us with tea and coffee.

Next month's visit is planned to be Essendine

**Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

March's meeting subject was "Free Family History websites". I wanted to show the Group it doesn't have to cost you a large monthly fee to do research for your family tree. I talked of the many of my favourite sites that I have used over the years.

Top of the list is the uk [genealogy.org.uk](http://genealogy.org.uk) sites of Freebmd (births, marriages and deaths), Freereg (parish registers) and Freecen (census records).

The following are volunteer transcription sites and ongoing projects so are not complete but details of what they cover are given:

- Familysearch.com, the website of the Latter-Day Saints who have a huge site of records, images, maps and guides to search.
- On-Line-Parish-Clerks.com, I used the Lancashire one for my husband's family who are from Preston so was able to do many hours of research at home before we went to the Preston Archive.
- The National Library of Wales, library.wales which I used to do a house history for my daughter in Wales. Maps, newspapers, tithe maps and much more.
- Find a post-1858 Will or a Soldiers Will with free [probatesearch.service.gov.uk](http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk) then get a copy for £1.50.
- The National Archives at Kew have an assortment of records that are free if you set up a free account.
- The Old Bailey online, where you can read the proceedings from court cases 1600-1913.

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission, CWGC.org. Imperial War Museum, [IWM.org.uk](http://IWM.org.uk), Roll of Honour, [roll-of-honour.com](http://roll-of-honour.com),
- The Gazette.

These are just some of the websites available for free research. Also, there are free accounts with both Find My Past and Ancestry where you can look at a selection of their free records and indices, or you could join our Library and get free access to Find My Past Library Edition, Ancestry, British Newspaper Archive, and The Times newspaper archive on their computers.

What about a magazine to read? Get the Libby app through the Library and read *Who Do You Think You Are* or *Family Tree* magazines free each month.

These sites are mainly transcription sites so the original record should always be seen if possible to confirm as errors do happen and sometimes there is extra information.

Why not have a look and if interested and want to learn more, join us at the Community Centre on the second Monday of the month at 2pm?

**Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennand**

### **POETRY GROUP**

Our afternoon of poetry started with *Invitation* by Grace Nicole. We then travelled to the *Stars and Planets* by Norman MacCaig then *Nightsong city* by Dennis Brutus, *Going on* by Robert Nye, the mood dipped with *In Trouble* by Edith Nesbit, but picked up with *Daffodils* by Wordsworth and *Meeting at night* by Browning, a lovely poem by Mary Wilson, *On the Death of Harold Wilson*. We laughed at *Peekaboo*, *Almost See You* by Ogden Nash. We finished with the lovely haiku by Matsuo Basho *The Old Pond*

The old pond  
a frog jumps in,  
sound of water.

Susanne was the hostess and kept everyone supplied with refreshments.

**Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley**

### **JAZZ AND BIG BAND GROUP**

Our March program was compiled by Geoff Whittle and was at the home of Phil Jones.

Geoff gave us a varied programme with lots of good music.

We began with two songs from Billie Holliday recorded in 1949: *Now or Never* with the Sy Oliver Orchestra and *Crazy He Calls Me*, with the Gordon Jenkins Orchestra. Scott Joplin gave us *The Chrysanthemum* and Benny Goodman played *Flying Home*.

*It Ain't Necessarily So*, from Miles Davis was followed by two songs: *Come On-A My House*, then *In The Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening*, a Hoagy Carmichael composition. *Get Happy*, from the Gerry Mulligan Quartet, *Le Souk*, from Dave Brubeck and then two pieces from the Joe Daniels Jazz Group. Kay Starr gave us two songs followed by one from Astrid Gilberto, *Love For Sale*.

*Airmail Special*, came from Lionel Hampton and his band. followed by Stan Kenton's popular *The Peanut Vendor*. Nothing quiet about this...

Coleman Hawkins played *Sunday Morning*, and a young Peggy Lee sang *On The Sunny Side of the Street*, recorded in 1941, with a later, more polished performance of *Bye, Bye Blues*.

Bix Beiderbecke gave us *Clarinet Marmalade*, recorded in 1927 and from 1929 we heard Fletcher Henderson and *Wang, Wang Blues*.

Just a little early the Dukes of Dixieland performed *Farewell Blues*, and then our morning ended with two offerings from Bob Crosby: First we heard *March of the Bobcats*, recorded in 1938 and then a young Judy Garland sang us out with *Swing Mr. Charlie*.

Thanks to Kath for providing the welcome refreshments.

**Report: Anne Jones  
Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jone**

## THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

In March, Fourteen pairs of boots met at the Green Man public house in Ropsley, for our walk organised and led by Brian Lawrence.



The weather was fine but we encountered quite a few areas of the dreaded MUD. Some areas of the landscape were severely scarred due to the work being carried out laying the new water pipeline.

Leaving Ropsley, we headed due east for 1.5 miles before turning south-east to join the old Roman Road, now known as King Street.

After a short distance we turned westward, crossing the East Glen River, to arrive at the village of Little Humby. Stopping here for a photograph, one of our group, David Scott, had an announcement to make. He told us that today was a special day for him – it was his birthday. He treated us to a selection of goodies that he had brought for us all and we duly sang *happy birthday* to him, on the

village green, with no complaints from the locals. Birthday bumps were suggested but we needed to conserve our energy for the walk ahead.

On leaving the village we came to a ford. There was a bridge to cross but the reckless ones waded through the water. We were now on New England Road which led us to Kirton Wood.

Here we turned northwards and skirted the woodland to make our way back to the Green Man. The distance walked was 5.7 miles.

An excellent lunch was had by all and we had a little party for David and sang once again the world's most popular song.

Thank you Brian and Mimi for organising this pleasant walk and lunch venue.

**Report and Group Leader: Richard Coulson**

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

### Mary Cassatt by Barbara McNicol



Barbara had done a lot of research into this female artist and gave a very good account of her life, followed up with two videos, one American and one British, the latter was presented by Paul Priestley.

Mary was a brave and stubborn female for her day. Women weren't recognised as being painters and very often segregated from their male contemporaries. She travelled extensively in Europe and was, what we would consider, a thoroughly modern woman. She worked hard for women's suffrage and raised money for the cause. Her paintings often reflected the relationships between mother and child, even though this sensitivity wasn't seen in her character. She ended her life, blind, diabetic and lonely. However, she left her legacy in her paintings.

Thank you, Barbara. We look forward to your next female painter. Also, thanks to everyone who helped out today.

Next month there is a change to the programme. Sandra will be talking about a well-known modern artist! Please find out more by coming along. We start at 10.30 but coffee and biscuits from 10am. Looking forward to seeing you all and also dare we say in the SPRING?

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## GOOD FOOD GROUP



The Foodies met at Hilary and Barry Akam's house to enjoy a selection of dishes taken from Ottolenghi's recipe books.

Ottolenghi is the name of a string of restaurants that have been opened by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, inventors of simple dishes inspired by their childhoods in West and East Jerusalem.

Food is kept as natural as possible, but infused with a range of delicious flavours. The common cry from the members of the foodie group was 'too many ingredients!' but the end results were delicious and different to what we would normally cook.

Lunch started with chilled red pepper and sour cream soup. Very tasty and refreshing. Spicy tomato pasta followed. The main course consisted of turkey and sweetcorn meatballs with roasted red pepper sauce, pork medallions, ultimate winter couscous, cucumber and poppy seed salad and also butter beans with sweet chilli sauce and herbs.

To round off this feast of deliciousness, there was chocolate and raspberry tart

and rum and raisin cake with caramel icing.

The next Good Food Lunch will be on 13 May and the theme is Italian dishes.

**Report by: Hilary Akam**

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

## NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Our March meeting, on Maundy Thursday, saw members meet at Deeping Lakes for a gentle, sometimes muddy, stroll around the reserve. It was a pleasure to see the trees at different stages of coming into leaf, with that vibrant green of early foliage.

The primroses were beginning to flower too. The wildlife on the water included swans, great egret as well as the cormorants in the trees. Amidst the birdsong was the call of the chiff chaff.

Our April meeting is earlier than usual, 12 April, to enable us to book a tour of the trees at Burghley, led by the Head Forester. There may be a little

space on this tour so please contact Margaret (07887623230) if interested.

**Report by: Margaret Beardshaw**

**Group Leaders: Jo Astle and Margaret Beardshaw**

## WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Fifteen members of the group met on 13 March at the Peterborough Garden Centre (formerly Van Hage) We were met by Wendy who is the manager of the hardy plants and shrubs.

A temporary marquee with seating had been erected for us outside the normal sales area. Wendy planted up a hanging basket as well as a herb planter with strawberries in the centre. She also had various shrubs and perennials to demonstrate how to plant them in a border for best effect. Wendy was very knowledgeable and her talk/demonstration was really interesting – the only drawback being the wind and the noise from the adjacent main road. Coffee and other refreshments were also provided.

**Report by Jane Cooke**

**Joint leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke**

## CRAFT GROUP 2



Thank you to Kath for hosting the craft session this month and to Anita for leading it.

From the photo, it looks as if they worked hard and managed two cards in the session. I understand Pam has ideas for the April session and is also willing to host it at the usual time, 2pm on Monday 15th - so thank you to her.

I regret it clashes with my discharge (hopefully!) hospital appointment so I cannot attend, but will look forward to hosting the May meeting.

**Report and Group Leader: Liz Noble**

## MONDAY READERS GROUP



Our book this month was (almost!) universally liked so, in contrast to last month's, everyone finished it. This was largely because it was agreed to be an easy read which didn't require much effort. It knitted two periods together to give an interesting plot with a happy ending for all the characters. Several of us described it as a 'holiday read' – and perhaps none the worse for that!

The Forgotten Gift by Kathleen McGurl, is divided into alternate chapters, the one narrated by George, who is the second son of a rich family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, the next telling the story in modern times of Cassie, who discovers a daughter she never knew she had. The two stories are woven together and linked by a decorated mirror, bought by George as a gift for the servant girl he falls in

love with and later discovered in a museum by Cassie.

There are ups and downs for both characters, with family issues and mysteries very much to the fore, but all is happily resolved and almost all the loose ends well tied up.

Interestingly, the two real extremes of opinion came from one of our members who thought it just too trite and glib, and the other, who has her books on audio CDs, who thought it worked really well to listen to, with two very different voices making it easy to follow and to enjoy.

On the whole, though, the group felt it had been an enjoyable read and would recommend it.

**Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

## THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



We were 9 strong for our April meeting at the Springfields centre, Spalding. We enjoyed coffee and light refreshments in the café at the Blue Diamond garden centre and remembered those who could not be with us, especially those recuperating from recent surgery.

Unfortunately, yet more heavy showers prevented us from



walking around the gardens as planned but we were able to admire some tulip displays from the paved areas around the shops and there was ample opportunity for some garden retail therapy.

Our May meeting will be at the Peterborough Blue Diamond garden centre when we look forward to another of Wendy's interesting and informative garden talks.

The answers to the question in last month's newsletter: The photos were taken on last May's visit to Ayscoughfee Gardens, Spalding [tulips], and a walk along the cliffs at Hunstanton, [late flowering summer perennials].

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

## STROLLERS GROUP

On Friday morning 22 March, a group of merry souls gathered at the village pub in Peakirk to place orders for lunch before setting out on our monthly stroll on a bright and sunny day. Magnolias and cherry blossom were in full bloom displaying nature's wonders as we ambled our way through the highways and byways of Peakirk and Glington.



The walk that morning was around 3 miles. We walked on footpaths, dodging the dustbins on the way out of Peakirk, observing architecture old and new and chatting together in the sunshine. We walked through Glington's estates with their manicured lawns and flower gardens, which were of interest to members of our u3a garden groups.

We stopped for a rest in Glington by the Park Entrance for refreshment and a photoshoot before winding our way back to Peakirk ready for the well-earned lunch in the Ruddy Duck.

Our April venture will be led by Bob Deller but will not be as listed in the year's programme as the going between Barrowden and Wakerley is 'soggy'. An alternative is being 'reccied' and most likely will be a return to the not so soggy footpaths of Peterborough, which will mean that flippers and snorkels will not be required!.

**Report by: Anne Burton**  
**Group Leader: Bob Deller**

## HISTORY GROUP

### The Clarksons of Wisbech by Maureen James



*Thomas Clarkson*

Maureen gave a super talk about the Clarkson family of Wisbech and their fight against slavery. She used slides to illustrate her talk but didn't use any notes!

Although the topic was an upsetting one, she interspersed her talk with amusing anecdotes and asides. Both of the Clarkson brothers were dedicated to the cause but both had different careers initially. Thomas was a clergyman and John a seaman. They both had Quaker views but didn't join the Quaker faith. The Wisbech Museum and online links will give further information about this topic. Sadly, slavery is still a massive worldwide problem.



*John Clarkson*

April's speaker is Brian Keegan who will be talking about Paul Robeson.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## PACERS GROUP

This month David and Marjorie were in the lead for a walk at Surfleet. We met at the Crown Inn Surfleet to pre-order and use the facilities. The weather, which a few days before had promised rain, was dry (apart from just a couple of spots) and mild but windy. The sun made an appearance once or twice.



We started by heading towards the many, and large, fields, passing, just before the fields, a large estate being built which surely will change Surfleet somewhat. The road/track was, in parts, totally covered in water but the grass verges on either side made it possible to get through. The fields were very wet and ploughing will not be possible for some while – looks like a difficult year for farmers in the area. Last year when we did the walk in April Brassica planting was in full swing.

We then went under the bypass and along to the river. We saw several of the houses under construction or

conversion that we had seen over the previous two years – some progress but still a way to go. After the river we walked beside the golf course which seems to have absorbed the rain very well – only saw a couple of small puddles -and then back into Surfleet – one of my favourite walks.

After about four and a half miles we were back for lunch. As usual at the Crown the food was excellent and more vegetables than it was possible to eat (all beautifully cooked) – all in all a very nice lunch. We would like to make that our regular pub for the walks but rather impractical unfortunately.

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 Stilton and guided by Geoff Whittle on Wednesday 1 May –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: 10 MAY 2024**  
**SEND TO:**  
**NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**