



Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 187

MARCH 2019

A PHOTO TO REMIND US IT IS SPRING



This photograph was taken by our Treasurer, Anne Burton (thanks Anne) and after a week of heavy winds and rain it is a good reminder that we are supposed to be in Spring or will be on 21st March. You may notice that a ‘Spring’ theme runs through several reports this month.

Continuing our Spring theme this is the ‘acrostic’ poem written by Anne Jones, and referred to in the report for the “**Writing for Pleasure Group**” on page 5. Thank you for sharing it with us Anne (Jones).



S Showtime - buds are well rehearsed
P Prinking trees unleash their green
R Rough hedges along lanes, highways, diversified
I In so many shades are seen
N Now Snowdrops, Daffodils and Tulips
G Give us a Rainbow glow

T The roadside blooms and Cowslips
I Invade each burgeoning hedgerow
M My garden gives up promises at last
E Each bulb despatching winter to the past

Programme of Speakers

- 2019**
- 18 March **FAKES AND FORGERIES.** Malcolm Kenwood, a former police specialist investigating art and antique crime, will use his case studies to tell us how skilled Forgers successfully pass off their work as that of well known artists to dupe the experts.
- 15 April **WOMEN IN AVIATION.** Alastair Goodrum will outline the feats of local, national and international female aviators who have made significant contributions to the World of aeronautics over the past 200 years.
- 20 May **VALUING FINE ART AND ANTIQUES.** Sophie Chapman from Stamford auctioneers, Batemans, will tell us about her specialism and demonstrate it using selected items brought in by herself and U3A members. **PLEASE READ NOTICE ON PAGE 2 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

Unless otherwise stated all monthly meetings are at **THE METHODIST CHURCH**, Deeping St. James. Doors open at 9.30 am. To enable us to set out chairs, etc., **please do not arrive before this time.** Coffee served until 10.20 and meetings begin at 10.30 am.

Chairman’s Reflections



I have become aware, since I complained last month about the speed with which this year was passing, that it is a feeling that many people have. At first I thought that it was just a natural effect of ageing, as I become more aware of my own mortality. However, I am now sure that I know what is causing the year to apparently speed past – it’s Brexit! Every time I turn on the radio, which is several times a day, there seems to be some “expert” burbling on about the countdown to March 29th, and how quickly the clock is ticking, and time is running out. I think that this has brainwashed me, and instilled in me the impression that I can’t keep up with the year!

A thought has just occurred to me. If they postponed the deadline for just three days, it would occur (or possibly not!) on April Fool’s Day – just seemed appropriate, given the antics of our hopeless MPs!!

Talking of “Red Lines”, I have held on to two since I retired, and I am on the brink of being dragged protesting over one of them. The prospect of having my natural good looks (no feedback please!) compromised by having to wear a lump of electronics behind my ears has bothered me for a long time, even though I know that it is just vanity, and that hearing aids are a lot smaller and unobtrusive than they used to be. The main pressure is coming from my Daughter. Her expression of exasperation when I ask her to repeat something that I haven’t heard, has changed from “Dad, I think that you need to get your hearing checked”, to “Father! Haven’t you booked that hearing test yet?!”, accompanied by a distinct increase in volume. I know that I am in trouble when “Dad” becomes “Father!”. The other source of pressure is the increasing frequency of silences that occur suddenly in the middle of a conversation, accompanied by a look of puzzled incomprehension, which clearly indicates that my reply bears no relation to what the other person has just said! If you have been the recipient of one of my random conversation pieces, then I apologise. Things are coming to a head, and I will have to do something, before my Daughter just dispenses with the shouted “Father”, and drags me into Specsavers.

My other “Red Line”, which I am determined to avoid, is having to wear Velcro fastening slippers and shoes. Illogical, and another demonstration of vanity I’m afraid, but just one more of my idiosyncrasies, for which I apologise.

I recognise that if all I have to worry about are the two Red Lines above, then I am very fortunate, compared with many of our members, but that doesn’t stop me thinking about them. As someone said recently – “Ageing isn’t for the faint hearted!”. I hope that those of you who have more serious problems find the friendship and support of our Deepings U3A helpful.

All best wishes

Garth.

Chairman

Committee Members 2018/2019

Garth Perry	Chairman
Ann Parkes	Secretary
Anne Burton	Treasurer
Liz Noble	Membership Secretary
Susanne Hoadley	Groups Coordinator
Phil Jones	Deputy Groups Co-ordinator
Kath Allen	Vote of Thanks Organiser
Lyall Seale	Co-opted
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

GROUP NEWS

This is Malcolm Hoadley receiving The Boundary River Restaurant Trophy in conjunction with Market Deeping Bowls club from Bill Shaw, owner of the Boundary Fish and Chip shop and sponsor of the trophy. Malcolm was the winner for 2018.



The U3A Lawn Bowls group ran from May to September giving members the opportunity to learn bowling skills and etiquette, and it was enjoyed by all who attended.

If you have any suggestions for new groups please contact me.

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups Co-ordinator

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP (FEBRUARY)



For our February meeting we met at Jane's home in Deeping St. Nicholas. All members of the group attended for what turned out to be an excellent meeting. The idea was to walk round the extensive grounds if the weather was fine. It was a lovely Spring morning with very little wind and the sun shining. The thousands of aconites and snowdrops were at their peak with more snowdrops in the paddocks (no sheep present at the moment).

Jane took us round the garden where we saw many plants and shrubs of interest. A sarcococca which was covered with flower and highly perfumed had produced many seedlings and most people went home with one or two.

We finished our walk by the many hellebores with photos being taken. As is usual with our group we then went back to the house for homemade cake, tea and coffee. (*March report on page 5*)

Report: JEAN FOSTER

Photo: PAM READY

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A CYCLING GROUP

For this ride on Friday 15th February only three of us were able to attend, setting off from MD Bridge under a beautiful clear sky. Of necessity, we were well wrapped up against a bitterly cold temperature.



The route took us south to Northborough then through the tunnels to Etton. Over the railway crossing at Helpston and south again passing Willow Brook farm and then towards Ufford. However, before reaching Ufford we turned off to Ashton and Bainton before turning back on the Helpston Road but then turning off and over the Lollham crossing. Then on to Maxey passing the old mill and finally back to Deeping, finishing up at Chester's for a much needed lunch to warm us through..

A feature of this ride was that we were treated to magnificent displays of wild snowdrops and crocuses growing in the hedgerows and dykes. Thanks must go to Eddie Adams for organising this most invigorating ride.

Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leader (temporarily): FRED SKIPPER

U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

The subject of our February meeting was 'Vintage Shop Displays' brought to us by Keith Talbot. The displays were items that various shops used to have standing either on a counter, on the floor, or in their window, to display the kind of goods they were selling.



There was a large figure of Robertson's Golliwog holding his pot of Marmalade. This was a very familiar sight in the 50s and 60s. If you saved the labels you could get a free golliwog brooch, which were very popular with the young people. There was a Beswick figure of the Dulux dog, a large working display of the 'Swiss Army Knife' and a hand holding a smaller one (the largest one in 1896 had 83 different functions); a figure of a cobbler and a Kiwi shoe polish stand complete with tins of polish; advertising displays for Players Cigarettes and their Navy Cut, and a striding figure of Johnnie Walker in black hat, red coat, and white trousers advertising Whiskey.

At the end of the display Keith made us all smile. Under a canopy he had made were the puppets Bonzo Dog, Muffin the Mule, Corky the Clown and Pinocchio. When he switched them on they all moved and danced. We had a very enjoyable afternoon, Thank you to the tea ladies and David for helping.

Our next meeting is on March 25th, when we will be having a visit from Mr Steve Frow with Vintage Seaside Postcards,

Report: IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

The jazz group meeting was held at the home of Peter Grey this month. The recital was in two parts, first a selection of male jazz artists including Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, Art Tatum and the fondly remembered Temperance Seven. The second part was a video of the Canadian Jazz Pianist and singer Diana Krall in concert in Rio de Janeiro. An excellent HD video disc of this concert. I think all enjoyed the morning, completed by a visit to the "Bull" in the town for our annual lunch. (I can't really call it our Christmas lunch!)



Report: PETER BAYLIS

Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES



IMPORTANT NOTICE

At our meeting on Monday, 20th May, Sophie Chapman, Senior Valuer of Batemans Auctioneers & Valuers of Stamford, will talk on Valuations. To make this more pertinent she will include the valuation of members' items. If you wish to have an item valued, can you please email a photograph of it and a short outline of what you know about it **NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL**, to deepingsu3anews@gmail.com. We will forward these to Sophie immediately after that date and she will select ones for valuation. She will email us her selection a week before the meeting so we can ask you to bring them along on 20th May.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions. For those who don't have email, please talk to GARTH PERRY (Chairman) or ANN HOLMES (Editor) and we will see how we can help you.

U3A GARDENING OVER THE GARDEN WALL GROUP Our



February meeting was a private visit to Little Ponton Hall to see the snowdrops. We were blessed with a nice day for this visit and also with the company of other garden group members.

Little Ponton Hall, nestling in a valley, is a delightful place to visit. Snowdrops and aconites carpeted so much of the woodland areas of the garden. There was the opportunity to visit the ancient church which was more or less in the gardens. Plants from the estate were sold at very reasonable prices. Monies raised went to Church funds. George the owner was very welcoming and the visit ended with refreshments that were appreciated by all of us. Now that the house and garden have been handed down to the younger members of the family they are keen to open the garden up at different times of the year.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 26th and is to Burghley House and Private Garden. Meet in the Orangery at 10.30am.

Group Leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS / JOSIE SMITH

U3A HISTORY GROUP

The February meeting was very well attended and we were treated to an excellent talk, given by Henry Roberts, entitled, 'The Treaty of Versailles'. Henry explained the historical events that led to World War 1 and the Peace Conference that resulted in the treaty. He talked about the main participating countries and their ultimatums for Germany.



The talk was illustrated with photographs and bullet points which made everything seem so clear. His commentary was at times amusing, whilst not taking away the seriousness of the content. When Henry looked back at the treaty and the demands made in The Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, it is not surprising that it would result in WW 2 just twenty years later. Thank you Henry, I wish all teachers could make 45 minutes pass by so quickly!

Barbara McNichol gave details of the August trip to Colchester and Constable Country. £20 deposit due next Month. Names will be taken on a first come, first served basis as the group is now getting too big for one coach.

Next month's speaker is Jill Collinge, the talk is called 'The Jewel in the Crown'. (It is about the history of Stamford).

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We tackled some painting of flower designs this month and completed a delightful birthday card, provided by Heather Bumfrey – thank you to her. Thanks to Kath Allen for hosting the meeting on 18th March at 2pm, at 158 Eastgate, Deeping St. James.



LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

U3A "BOOKWORMS" READING GROUP

Theatrical by Maggie Harcourt

Hope Parker, still a teenager and obsessed with the theatre, is taken on as assistant staff manager to a prestigious company with a famous director and Hollywood film star as the main heartthrob. We accompany her on her first day at the Earl's Theatre as she explores the passages and mysteries of the backstage world and meets the interesting people who work there.



Hope is bright, enthusiastic and enterprising, eventually making herself indispensable to the company. The author has written a good story with believable characters while making "the theatre" the actual star of the show. The teenager (deceiving her mum) is nervous but confident and full of the joys of life and brightens up each page.

The descriptions of Acts and scenes is both apt and pleasing. This book is a refreshing novel as it has "atmosphere" Congratulations all around. I loved it.

Report by our very own Nancy Titman, (Deepings U3A 'Bookworms' Reading Group). A copy of this report is being sent through to Maggie Harcourt with our best wishes.

'Before I Go To Sleep' by S.J. Watson

Christine Lucas is very scared and confused when she wakes each morning with no memory of her past life. Her husband tells her she is 47 years old, that they have been married a long time and her amnesia was caused by a car accident but Christine is suspicious and afraid.



Secretly she meets Dr Nash, a young neuropsychologist who persuades her to keep a journal and gradually helps her to recall some events and people she once knew. The twist in the tale is cruel and horrendous but it reveals the lies and deceit of a dangerous psychopath and gives Christine the chance of rebuilding her fractured life to some extent.

This psychological thriller is the first book written by S.J. Watson whose experiences while working in a psychiatric hospital suggested the plot. The feeling of foreboding and the horror of losing one's identity making the reader also scared and confused while fearful for Christine in her vulnerability

Scary but an interesting read; with plenty of food for thought and discussion.
Report; NANCY TITMAN

Our next Bookworms meeting is at Diana's on 25th March at 2 pm.

Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

The March meeting was planned to start with a visit to Hambleton Bakery, but, unfortunately, the Bakery had to postpone that. So nine of us met to cook and taste Scandinavian Food.



We started with Smoked Mackerel Pate (with toast and dressed Cucumber) and Herrings in a yogurt dressing with potatoes and hard boiled eggs. Then we moved on to two dishes of meatballs with different sauces, dill flavoured mashed potatoes, and Janssens Temptation (sliced potatoes baked with onions, anchovies and cream). We felt we were slightly lacking green vegetables there. Pudding was Danish Apple cake, a Swedish Plum Tosca cake and a cardamom cake, all with appropriate liquid refreshment.

Thanks to all who contributed to a very pleasant and instructive lunch time. April 1st meeting will maybe bring some surprises with April Fool's Recipes?

Guests and Visitors who would like to see how the group functions are welcome

KATHLEEN TANNER
Group Leader

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP



There were 16 members present. The Times Magazine's cartoons for 2018 were distributed for people to see. They ranged from the absurd to the very rude and were of course reflecting news for the year just passed. They linked in with the theme of the meeting which was Pop Art to Superstars. (DVD).

The film showed the way that the posters and prints of the time reflected dissatisfaction with politics/commercialism/consumerism. The DVD referred to the new style of painting from the 50s through to present time. The film was enhanced by music from the 60s along with fashion and dance styles.

Amazingly, Pop Art is still very popular in China where political statements are made through use of this style of reproduction. In the final stages of the DVD they showed the audience a fake supermarket in China which had shelves full of empty packets, bottles, and cans etc. The contents had been consumed and the packaging re-sealed in some way. The 'Supermarket' was a tourist attraction and, believe it or not, the fake containers were sold as souvenirs! A political statement that made fun of consumerism? Not sure what to think!

Next month, Bill Sandles is our speaker. His talk sounds a bit like Erotic Art but that may be fake news! (We may have misunderstood what he said the title was!). New members welcome.

Report: SANDRA JONES
Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / YVONNE McCULLOCH
01778 344235 / 07507325065

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



All stood on the bridge to avoid the large crocodile!!!!

Twenty seven walkers met at The Bertie Arms on a bright sunny day. From the pub we did a loop around Uffington, then past Copthorne School towards the river. The walk then took us towards Stamford, crossing the river for our return to the pub where a good lunch was had by all.

Thanks to Lesley and Viv for the walk of 5.5 miles. Our April walk will be from Ryhall, details to follow.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

We had a good turnout at our February meeting, when David MacVitie was testing our knowledge with Science Quiz. It was wide ranging and challenging, but very enjoyable. The results will not be revealed, but one or two of our members surprised themselves with what they didn't realise they knew! It was well received, and sparked a good amount of discussion, but nobody argued with the Quizmaster! Our thanks to David for all the effort that he put in to creating the quiz.



For our next meeting, on 19th March, we will be visiting the Museum of Technology, near Parsons Drove, which looks very interesting. The only sobering fact is that I am sure there are many exhibits which we will recognise, and may even have owned or worked with!

Report: GARTH PERRY
Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP



After heavy overnight rain, dark cloudy skies and a forecast of showers and wind, twelve members of the Group met in Bourne Woods for the walk of about four miles led by John and Mavis Smith. The walk was from Bourne Woods out to the town via West Road, Burghley Street, then Christopher's Lane back into the woods again.

We were very lucky with the weather as it was dry and no wind throughout, but we did end up with muddy boots from the woodland paths. The route took us through parts of Bourne unfamiliar to most of the Group, including the ancient natural spring which is between Christopher's Lane and the woods.

We then retired to The Sugar Mill for lunch well before the forecast showers arrived.

Report: JOHN SMITH
Group Leaders: LYNN & STEVE WHITE

Photo: STEVE WHITE

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

This month we had a super visit to Garden Answers Magazine where we were welcomed with refreshments and given an interesting insight into the magazine and how it goes from initial concepts to the edition we see on the newsagent shelves. Editor Liz Potter and art editor Gill Lockhart explained all the processes of cover design and feature selection so that we left the visit filled with admiration for the work they all do.



We were also delighted to leave with smashing goody bags containing all kind of items including many flower and vegetable seeds, notebooks, tea towels and other gifts.

Our next meeting will be at Swine's Meadow on Thursday 4th April at 10.30 am kindly organised by Sandra and Mike Bowers.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A CRAFT GROUP 3

Only four members were present but two Octopuses were finished which will be sent to Mat Unit, Peterborough for babies in special care.

ANITA SETCHFIELD
Group Leader



U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP



Another sunny morning greeted 11 Strollers as we visited Little Bytham for our second stroll of the year. Searle was our walk leader on this occasion and he led us on a walk starting from the Willoughby Arms, before heading over the East Coast main line. Negotiating over some undulating fields to the west of the village we met up with one of the tributaries of the Glen river, where the photograph was taken.

We passed through the village, which is mainly lovely cottages and houses built of the local Clipsham stone, which glistened in the almost spring-like sunshine. We walked under the viaduct carrying the railway line and most of the morning was spent with the sound of trains ascending or descending Stoke Bank.

Our route took us east of the village before returning to the Willoughby Arms. After eight years the group has met for monthly strolls, it is surprising that we still manage to find villages we haven't visited before. Overall, the group thought it was a very enjoyable morning stroll, followed by a satisfying lunch.

Our stroll in March will take place on Monday 25 March when David and Linda Mann will lead us, starting from the Prince of Wales Feathers at Castor for a walk through the Nene meadows. Members of the group who wish to take part should contact them.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A GARDENING FOR PETALS AND PRODUCE

In February, we joined with the 'Over the Garden Wall' Gardening Group for a lovely afternoon's visit to Little Ponton Hall, where we admired the beautiful display of snowdrops and aconites (for which it is famous in mid February) and walked up to admire the church.



We were met and welcomed by George McCorquodale, who told us about the garden and its surroundings. Later we walked around the walled garden, where the gardener was busy with the roses, were offered some plants for sale, and admired the historic dovecote.

Our host offered us a welcome cup of tea and piece of cake before we left. The garden is infrequently open to the public, but well worth a visit when possible. I hope some of our group got some good photographs.

The March meeting for the Petals and Produce Group is to be a visit to the Olive Grove Garden Centre, in Polebrook, near Oundle, on Tuesday 19th March (morning). Arrangements for shared transport will be made.

KATHLEEN TANNER
Group Leader

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Betty and Peter Shoulders, and Claudette Herman Deeping St James.



U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

Our March meeting was held at Lynn's home, who made us very welcome and kept us all refreshed, Thank-you Lynn.



Our theme this month was Spring, and what a lovely collection we had, 'The Daffodil', William Wordsworth; 'Spring' from Philip Larkin; 'Loveliest of trees the Cherry now', by A E Houseman; 'The Miracle of Spring', by John Drinkwater; 'The Landscape Laughs in Spring', by John Clare and 'Spring' from Love Labours Lost' by William Shakespeare.

We spent a most enjoyable afternoon and our next meeting is on Monday April 1st.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader



U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our Writing group met on a cold, windy and wet morning, but we soon warmed up with laughter at some of our pieces of writing. Three people had written poems. Anne had written a clever acrostic on 'Spring' with the words 'Springtime' starting each line. Mike had written some cynical poems centred around the news we are bombarded with each day. Another member of the group had written a hilarious poem about the time a group of pensioners went into an Ann Summers shop to shelter from the rain, and what they saw and bought!

Members - we need new suggestions for topics, so please bring your ideas along to next month's meeting.

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

At least five friends of the composer of the 'Ann Summers' poem will guess the identity and give notice that we shall look forward to having it read to us when next we meet!! ANN

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

For our meeting this month, members brought along medals awarded to ancestors for services to their country. We also had memorabilia items, Toby Jugs of WW1 Lord Kitchener, Field Marshall Haig and First Sea Lord Jellicoe.



The animal charity PDSA awarded "Billy" the messenger pigeon it's highest honour, the DICKIN MEDAL for exemplary services. Just 11 months old, Billy was part of the crew of a Handley Page aircraft. The aircraft was shot down by heavy fire and two of its crew were killed. The pilot and one crew member survived to release Billy with details of their plight. Through a gale and snow storm Billy arrived home (260 miles) the next day. Despite Billy's heroics the pilot and crew were captured before they could be rescued.

Report: **JOSIE SMITH**
Group Leaders: **JOSIE SMITH / JEAN BRENNAND**

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Twelve members of the group visited Helpston Garden Centre. We were made very welcome by John and his team with tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. This was followed by a very informative talk by John on planting up pots with various types of plants including dwarf rhododendrons, herbs, alpines and strawberries using ericaceous and multi purpose compost and grit etc. as appropriate. John emphasised the importance of getting the right size pot for the right plant. Members then had a chance to ask any horticultural questions.



Everyone had a walk round with many of us treating ourselves to some of the lovely plants and containers on offer.

Report: **JANE COOKE**
Group Leaders: **JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE**

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

Twenty two members of Church Mice visited Trinity Methodist Church in Stamford in March.

The minister, Andy Fyall, gave interesting talk on both Methodism and the church (or more properly the chapel).

Andy started by talking about John Wesley, an Anglican priest in the 18th century, who was not happy with the Church of England and started preaching all over the country, often outdoors, to the 'common people'. He was the founder of Methodism.



The first Methodist chapel in Stamford was opened in 1803 on the site where its successor is now built. The present chapel is large and airy with a gallery and enough seating for about 300 people. There have been a number of changes, moving away from an organ and pulpit at the front to a simpler organisation with a communion table and font dominant. A large cross 15 feet tall made from wood from Burghley Park hangs above. After the talk and a look round members sat and had tea and lovely cakes.

Report: HENRY ROBERTS Photos: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leaders: JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our meeting today was at the home of Terry Noble, who nobly stepped in when Joy was unable to arrange it. Terry entitled his selection 'SPRING' and we began with Handel and 'Ottone - The Spring is Coming' sung by Kathleen Ferrier who is always a delight to listen to. Singing's



'Rustle of Spring' with Daniel Sabbah at the piano was followed by the popular 'Spring' from Vivaldi's 'The Four Seasons' and the happy song from the film 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers' gave us a smile.

J.S. Bach came next with a Cantata 202 - 'Awake Thou Wintry Earth' with Carlo Curly at the Organ. Ella Fitzgerald sang 'It Might As Well Be Spring' from 'State Fair' and this was followed by 'Spring Sonata, Op.24' 1st Movement, with Davis Oistrakh on violin and Lev Oborin on piano. Mozart's 'Spring Quartet, K 421, 1st Movement, was played by the Hagen Quartet in a live performance and then we heard Tchaikovsky and two pieces, 'March - Song of the Lark' Viktoria Postnikova, soloist, and 'April - Snowdrop' sung by Vladimir Tropp. Schumann's 'Symphony No. 1, Spring, (1st. Movement) with Herbert Von Karajan conducting the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and then a piece much enjoyed was 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo of Spring.' Not much in evidence these days.

'Dallas Wind Symphony', Variations on a Shaker Melody from Appalachian Spring, then made room for The Beatles and 'Here Comes the Sun'. We almost ended the morning with Grieg and 'To the Spring' (from Lyric Pieces) with Hakon Austbo on piano but Terry gave us an extra treat with something I confess to having forgotten, so apologies for that Terry.

A really pleasant morning away from wind and rain with our usual delightful selection of music. Thank you to Terry for the programme and Liz for the yummy refreshments. We were very pleased to be able to welcome Jessie back to our group today. The April meeting will be at Joy's home. Report : ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Lunch this month will be at The Black Horse, Baston, on Sunday, 24th March, 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Please notify Tony Semper or Michael Griffin or add your name to the list at Monday's meeting if you will be attending.



U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP



There is a writer who has probably created more murders and crimes of all sorts, than any other author! He is Anthony Horowitz and he wrote 19 murders into the first seven programmes of *Midsomer Murders*, for a start. He also wrote eleven episodes of *Poirot*, creating *Foyle's War* and wrote for *New Blood*, plus much more for television. No less a prolific murderer in print, his best-selling books include horror and crime for both adults and children, among them being the incredibly clever *Magpie Murders*.

We had one of his Sherlock Holmes novels to read this month and it was a popular choice for all of us. The book was *The House of Silk*, written in the voice of Dr. Watson, after Holmes's death. Horowitz captured that voice perfectly in this account of one of Holmes's cases, involving child exploitation and abuse in the upper echelons of Victorian society. The familiar characters were perfectly re-realised, Holmes himself, Watson, Moriarty, Mycroft, Lestrade and Mrs Hudson all appearing in their proper places.

The plot was clever and twisted and there were several surprises along the way. To add to our enjoyment, nuanced aspects of Holmes's character were brought out and the writing contained lightly witty aspects.

This comes well recommended to any fan of Anthony Horowitz – or Sherlock Holmes. If the writer is new to you we suggest you try him out!

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Rutland was the destination for our March walk led by Lesley and Viv Evans from The Noel at Whitwell. Twenty three members left the pub and headed in the direction of Rutland Water where we bordered the shore line as far as Barnsdale before turning right up Barnsdale Hill, crossing the A606 and continuing up Barnsdale Avenue for a while but not quite as far as the Garden Centre. From here we turned eastwards until the Viking Way was joined before heading southwards and directly into the rear garden of The Noel for our pleasant meal and drinks. For the birthday boy a treat of a lit candle and a fudge cube made David and all smile and sing. Thanks.

In view of the extreme windy and wet weather over the previous two days we got off pretty light with no rain just sunshine and wind, a really successful walk in the event. Many thanks to Lesley and Viv for leading the walk and organising the lunch.

The next walk on 11 April will be led by Garth Perry and will be The Stilton Circuit commencing from The Talbot Inn, 5 North Street, Stilton, Peterborough PE7 3RP. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Garth by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk. Photo: STEVE HANSON

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT