

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 188

APRIL 2019

THE GLORIOUS “NORTHERN LIGHTS”



This wonderful photograph was taken by Liz and Terry Noble during a recent holiday in Norway. See also photograph on page 2.

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
Lyll Seale	Co-opted
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Programme of Speakers

- 2019**
- 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 do not bring items for valuation unless we have asked you to do so following our request in last month's Newsletter.**
- 17 June **FENLAND FOLKLORE** by Dr Maureen James.

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



To quote a very old joke “I used to be indecisive, but I’m not sure any more”. This weather is just not making it easy to decide what to wear when venturing outside the house, which, if you are on foot or on the bus, usually results in wearing too many layers, and being uncomfortably hot all day. It’s not so bad for the ladies, as surplus clothing can be stuffed into the capacious handbag, whereas we chaps have to go slowly pinker and moister, and bear it! It’s no better if going by car, because that just encourages half-filling the boot with loads of alternative clothing, causing a problem when the boot capacity is needed for shopping, or really essential luggage!



Different types of weather all seem to have their own set of consequences. On one of the gloriously warm and sunny days at the end of March, I experienced one of these. After a fresh start to the day, the sun, shining from a clear blue sky, quickly lifted the temperature to a very pleasant level. Encouraged by this, I flung open all the doors and windows to get some fresh air into the house. All was well until lunchtime, when one of my near neighbours lit up a barbeque! I quite like a BBQ smell if I am in the midst of it, wrapped around a cool beer and some well prepared food, but hate it when it envelops the garden, and permeates the house, where it seems to linger for days.

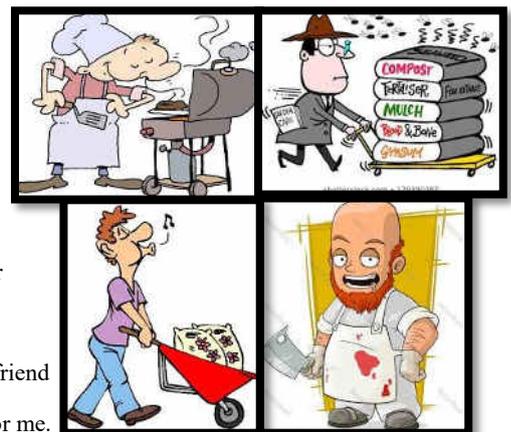
Unfortunately for the culprits, I had just started a job in the garden which provided them with some competition! I had nine bags of Organic Farmyard Manure to spread around the flower-beds, and it just **had** to be done that day, even though the wind was blowing moderately in their direction! The lovely countryside smell got progressively stronger, as more and more bags were cut open and spread, and as it did so, I couldn’t help but notice that the volume of chatter from down the road diminished. About an hour into the task, the chatter ceased altogether, the conservatory doors were closed, as were all the windows on the back of the house. The battle of “Smellgate” had been won! There were of course consequences, as my work clothes, and indeed me, needed an immediate thorough wash, and for a few days there was a slight smell of manure in the back of the house. I’m not a “neighbour from hell” really!

I had considered giving up “Chairman’s Reflections” for Lent, but decided not to incur the wrath of our Editor by doing so. I can’t however wait to see what picture Ann comes up with to accompany this article!

Best wishes
GARTH,
 Chairman

Ann couldn’t resist the challenge! Sorry I’m no artist but here’s my effort at a comic strip depiction Of Garth’s poor neighbour and Garth that day!

Thanks to the friend who found the ‘weather’ pic. for me.



COACH TRIPS

There are still a few seats left on the following trips and are now being offered to any member of the Deepings U3A. If you are interested please contact the organisers, details below:

COACH TRIP TO NEWSTEAD ABBEY GARDENS AND THE GARDEN AT FELLEY PRIORY, 18TH JUNE 2019, £17.50



This year we are visiting north Nottinghamshire for our gardens visit. Newstead Abbey, the ancestral home of Lord Byron has beautiful formal gardens, a Japanese oasis as well as 300 acres of parkland.

Felley Priory is situated very close by and is renowned for its rare and unusual plants, with 2.5 acres of beds and borders. It is known as Nottinghamshire's best kept secret. There are Tea rooms at each stop.



The total cost of the trip, including entry to both gardens is £17.50. Although Newstead Abbey, the house, is not open, they will organise a private tour for us, at an extra cost of £9.

For more detailed information please get in touch with Eddie Adams.

U3A 'CHURCH MICE' & ART APPRECIATION GROUPS' JOINT VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE, 9TH JULY.



This visit is planned for Tuesday 9th July; we shall leave Deeping at approximately 09.00 and leave Cambridge in the late afternoon. In the morning we shall have a one and a half hour guided tour of King's College Chapel and one other city centre church.

After lunch in one of the many cafes and restaurants in the city centre, we shall visit the Fitzwilliam Museum to view the permanent collection and the special exhibition "Beggar-staffs – William Nicholson and James Pryde" (I shall bring details to the next meetings, it looks fascinating.)



The cost for the visit, to include coach, entry and guided tour of the Chapel will be £27.50. A deposit of £5.00 will secure a place. The balance of £22.50 may be paid in two further instalments—30th April £12.50 and 31st May £10.00. Cheques should be payable to "Deepings U3A Social Account" and may be handed to me (Margaret Beardshaw) at meetings or posted to me.

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GROUP NEWS

Hello everyone hope you are enjoying the weather



If you have any changes to your groups please let me know by phone or email. I would love to set up some new groups any ideas? I'd really like to hear from you .

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups Co-ordinator

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Sandra and Tony Eberle, Market Deeping.



TERRY'S ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT



Yes, I am assured it is Terry beneath all the warm clothing! Hope he remembered to 'book' the reindeer and sleigh for the Deepings Carol rounds next December! Both photographs were taken on time exposure at 10.30 at night, even though it looks like daylight. Thanks to Liz and Terry for sharing the photographs with us and I make no apology for printing them so large—they are so unique I thought you would like to see them as clearly as possible. ANN

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U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

April's Sunday Lunch will be at "The Square", Market Place, Market Deeping, on Sunday, 28th April, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm. If you will be attending this lunch please notify Tony Semper or Michael Griffin or add your name to the list at Monday's meeting.



U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Thanks to Kath Allen for hosting the meeting in March which although reduced in numbers produced some little bags and this month we hope to produce one of Heather's cards – thanks to her.



Meeting on 15 April at 2pm .

LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader 01778 342855

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our Writing Group met on a cold morning in April, but we were soon warmed up through laughing at some of the pieces!



Julie had modified her hilarious poem about the group of pensioners who went into an Ann Summers shop. We heard the new version and laughed once again at the images and innuendos that it contained.* Two members of the group had taken one of the suggested titles off our list, and written on 'Spring'. Betty had also brought along a booklet we had compiled ten years ago from our pieces of writing, and we read out some of our contributions and reminisced over them.

We now have a new list of five suggestions to write about in the forthcoming months with lots of scope for imaginative interpretations.

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

**So too did Julie's five friends!!*

“OVER THE GARDEN WALL” GARDENING GROUP

Members enjoyed a lovely stroll through the grounds and private south gardens of Burghley House, which are open to the public at selected times of the year in aid of the Evergreen Care Trust.



The magnificent views of the lake with seasonal displays of Narcissi and spring bulbs along the banks, was certainly worth braving the chilly winds for. The south gardens are dominated by mature Oak and Lime trees with ongoing restoration to the terracotta urns which forms the centrepiece of the fountains. A final stop at the Orangery Restaurant for a welcome drink, concluded a pleasant way to spend a morning.

Report: Josie Smith

Group leaders: MAGGIE SMITH / JOSIE SMITH

U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

A trip to the seaside was our afternoon's entertainment for our March meeting. Chris Frew came along and brought a large presentation of Seaside Postcards, and told us the history of these and the artist and cartoonist Donald McGill, born in London 1875 and died there in 1962.



Steve told us that it was only the rich people in the 1800s, who could afford to go to the seaside, but when the railways came the first train from London to Brighton was packed with people. There were also steam ships with bands on board going from London Bridge to Gravesend. Once the seaside had opened up, the public travelled by charabanc, motor bike, bicycles etc. Ten thousand cyclists arrived in Brighton one weekend. Most cars were hired in 1920 and 4/600 cars arrived at Bridlington. With this volume of people visiting the seaside resorts, this opened up business for a lot of people— guest houses, deck chairs, donkey rides etc; most people were enjoying themselves so they thought they would send a postcard to those back home, and it became the done thing.

In the early 1950s the newly elected government were concerned at the apparent deterioration of morals in Britain, and decided on a crackdown on these postcards. The main target on this list was the renowned post card artist Donald McGill. In the more liberal 1960s the saucy postcard was revived and considered by some as an art form. During the artist's career, lasting over 60 years, and with over 1200 postcard designs, they sold in millions and became a major contribution to British popular culture. There is a museum on the Isle of Wight that houses all his memorabilia

Please note that the next meeting of the Group will be on April 15th at 2pm, at the usual place, when we will have Mr Bill Sandle giving us one of his interesting talks and presentations.

Report IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE GROUP

An unexpected shortage of members available to drive others to the March meeting resulted in a small group visiting the Olive Grove Nursery in Polebrook, near Oundle.



We were impressed by the wonderful display of olive trees (some of great size) and other Mediterranean plants that they grow and display. We had a lovely and instructive walk round in the sun, (and managed not to spend too much money on tempting plants). We can also recommend the coffee and cakes!

Our April meeting (Tuesday, 16th April) is to be a visit to Rasell's Nursery, Little Bytham, when we will again need volunteer drivers.

KATHLEEN TANNER

Group Leader

U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP



For obvious reasons our theme was 'April Fools' food. Although we started with Egyptian Ful (pureed Broad Beans), many of the other dishes were designed to trick.

We had what appeared to be 'fully iced cakes' which turned out to be made from meat and mashed potato and Pizzas, disguised as 'fruit tarts'. Also, in honour of the French tradition of 1st April, Poisson d'Avril, (when people try to pin paper fish on each other's backs) we had a version of fish and chips, salmon and ginger fish cakes, shaped to look like fish fillets, with sweet potato chips and mayonnaise. After our 'sweet' pizzas we had a mixed fruit Fool.

May meeting, Tapas, and in June we hope to make the delayed visit to Hambleton Bakery Prospective members and enquirers welcome.

KATHLEEN TANNER

Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

Our April meeting was held at Swines Meadow nursery. It was a cold day but fortunately Colin had the heating on in the meeting room.



He gave us a very informative talk on Hostas and shade loving plants for about an hour. He told us it is not recommended to buy Hostas with yellow or red flowers as the horticultural companies have not yet perfected them. There are also some Hostas that are suitable for hanging baskets. Several of us were surprised to see such a great selection of shade loving plants.

At the end of the meeting several members purchased a variety of plants, then we were treated to a huge slice of cake, and tea or coffee. Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd May at 10.30am (Venue to be arranged).

Report : MIKE BOWERS

U3A HISTORY GROUP

Today we were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Jill Collinge, who is a Blue Badge Guide in Stamford. Jill illustrated her talk with various slides of the town and also related stories/sayings connected with many of the buildings.



She began with the churches (seven of the original nine remain) and the 1000 year history of the settlement. Stamford had been a very wealthy place in medieval times. The wealth was a result of the wool trade. Jill took us through the centuries and each one had a style of architecture relating to the period.

There were some fascinating facts, including the ones relating to false teeth! However: Did you know that Stamford had its own Red light district? Yes indeed it did! Don't all rush at one to find it!!

Thanks to everyone who helped on Wednesday and to those who collected the deposits for the August visit to Colchester.

Lesley has arranged some excellent speakers for us. Next month is no exception. We are going to learn about The Market Deeping Railway. The presenters are Brian White and his colleague Martin.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP



Our April meeting was hosted by Barbara and Peter Baylis and, given Peter's knowledge of the music scene, we knew that we would have an enjoyable morning with something a little different as well as some old friends. Peter's programme began with something a little different.

Michel LeGrand played 'The Jitterbug Waltz' then we heard The Carpenters and 'This Masquerade' followed by Shakatak and 'Nightbirds', a favourite of mine. Manha De Carnival came from Quincy Jones and 'Softly As in a Morning Sunrise' was played by the Modern Jazz Quartet. Dinah Washington sang 'Mad About The Boy' and Edgar Sampson in his only recording gave us 'If Dreams Come True' which we then heard vocalised by Peggy Lee with George Shearing. Eva Cassidy sang 'Over The Rainbow,' and Thom Rotella's Band played 'Come Down Easy' - new to many of us. Two recordings from a test CD were also unusual as they were only recorded to test out the quality of sound in new systems. 'Knee Drops' and 'All Quiet On The Western Front' (spelling questionable?) were definitely different, but no surprise. Peter always finds something to get us guessing!

Lou Busch followed with 'Rainbows End,' Nancy Wilson sang 'Midnight Sun' a lovely lyric this one and then Shelly Mann and Nelson Riddle were followed by Grover Washington Jnr. and 'Winelight'. Diana Krall played and sang 'East of The Sun' from the album 'A Night in Paris' which completed Peter's programme.

A pleasant morning filled with pleasant music for which we thank Peter, and Barbara for the lovely fruitcake, tea and coffee. Next month we will meet at the home of Phil Jones.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



The walk was led by myself, perhaps that was why the numbers were down !!!!

Eighteen Walkers met at The Green Dragon, Ryhall, on a bright sunny day. Nobody was at the pub at 09.45am to take our food orders - was it an April Fools Spoof !!! Alas someone turned up at 10.00, so no thoughts of no lunch surpassed.

The walk took us through Ryhall into the countryside following the Gwash river, then up across towards Tolethorpe. Several hills and stiles later we looped round towards Essendine and more stiles to the finish at the pub. The walk was 6.3 miles (five additional stiles were encountered due to a route divergence). A good meal was had afterwards.

The next walk will be led by David and Linda Perkins on 13th May (6th May is a Bank Holiday) from Barnwell details to follow.

STEVE HANSON

Group Leader



A HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP



For our April poems we chose the letter 'A' as we have decided to proceed through the alphabet each month with our poems.

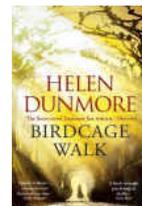
We had a large and varied choice and these gave us plenty to discuss with their contents and meanings. We had 'After Lunch' by Wendy Cope, 'Above Tinturn Abbey' by William Wordsworth, 'An Irish Lake' by William R Rodgers, 'At Noon' by Clive James, 'Accidently Falling' by Patricia Agabi, 'April Rise' by Laurie Lee, 'A Subalterns Love Song' by Sir John Betjeman, and 'About Ben Adam' by Leigh Hunt.

Thanks to Angie for keeping us well refreshed, double thanks from me for her lovely chocolate cake. Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 7th. at Cathryn's house.

IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leader

U3A "BOOKWORMS" READING GROUP



'Birdcage Walk' by Helen Dunmore

While the French Revolution is raging across the Channel, England is also in a state of anxiety and uncertainty.

Elizabeth Fawkes, a young woman from a household of radical writers, has married John Diner Tredevant, a property developer who is building a terrace of fine houses in Bristol. When the political situation halts his ambitious plans, he becomes frustrated, ruthless and more and more controlling and sinister towards his wife. He is also haunted by a dark secret.

This story is a psychological study skilfully written by the author who developed a brooding fear with a delicate touch. A good story, very well written and highly recommended.

Our next meeting is at Rita's house at 2 pm on Monday, 22nd April.

Report: NANCY TITMAN

Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITTE

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

For our first trip out this year, in March, we went to The Museum of Technology, near Parsons Drove, which was very interesting. The tour was not specifically guided, but one of the owners was on hand to provide helpful information, explanations, and even demonstrations.



As we had expected, it made us conscious of our age, as many of the exhibits we not only recognised, but had owned or worked with. Some of the household items prompted not altogether tenuous renditions of the original advertising jingles! Nevertheless, we enjoyed the visit, and would recommend this Museum, which might be of particular interest to the Antiques and History Groups. Although they are not open to the public until May, they will open up for group visits. The website is www.museumoftechnology.org.uk.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th April at 2pm, in The Institute, 38 Church Street, Deeping St. James. Mr Malcolm Kenwood, will be talking to us about Frank Hornby, of Meccano and Train Sets fame.

Report: GARTH PERRY

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



The Natural History Group spent the morning of March 28th at Ferry Meadows where one of the Rangers, Chris Rawlinson, led us to the meadows by the River Nene on a tour of the new wetland restoration project called "Bringing Nature Closer" where he told us about the work that had been done and its benefits to the area.

Over the winter the meadows had been cleared back to grass and then scrapes and ditches had been dug out which would provide more areas for wading birds to feed and breed. We assembled on the new viewing platforms to see the work and the geese that had already gathered. Then we walked with Chris round the area and down to the river where we were very excited to see two kingfishers along with a number of other birds such as buzzards, cormorants and grebes. It was an extremely enjoyable and informative visit on a sunny morning which was rounded off by looking across to the new boardwalk and seeing the first bluebells of the season.

Our next visit on April 22nd is to look for Signs of Summer on a walk through the Paddock and other places in Market Deeping. Contact us if you would like to join us. Other good places to visit are Dole Wood Open Day on Sunday April 14th and Deeping Lakes on Sunday June 2nd.
Report: JO ASTLE

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

After an inspiring session sharing what we currently have as books on our nightstands we discussed our book for this month: *The Devil's Workshop* by Alex Grecian.



Everyone found the plot a compelling story and thought that it was fast paced and interesting. The settings were very authentic and conveyed Victorian London atmospherically so that we could imagine ourselves there. We thought the characters were well drawn and realistic too and often wondered if the secret societies described existed as they had been presented by the author. Much of our discussion centred on the graphic violence in the descriptions because although we couldn't say we enjoyed those elements of the story we still thought the book was well written. Many of us felt quite repulsed and disturbed by the content at times, but overall we found *The Devil's Workshop* a good read.

Report: LINDA HILL
Group Leader: LIZ WATERLAND

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

For our Family History meeting we tried something new to our group, a presentation via the Internet. Our chosen topic, *The History Of the Workhouses*, by Peter Higginbotham. With the use of the new U3A projector the sound and picture was perfect.



The talk was relevant and very informative, members agreed they would like to listen to more of these talks in the future.

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

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP



Eighteen Walkers set off from the Five Bells at Edenham on a bright but cool morning to explore Edenham village and surrounding area. We walked up a slight incline and passed through a livestock farm. There were hundreds of white hens running around with large barn like houses in the background. We were met by a very inquisitive herd of young cows (bullocks I was told) they followed us down the field till we went through the bottom gate.

The next part of the walk entered Bourne woods at the top end where there is extensive logging and tree culling taking place, at one point we had to cross a log bridge to get over the ruts caused by the heavy machinery. We walked halfway through the woods taking an exit bridge, which is waiting for repair, out to farmland and back to Edenham via some sewage works and another herd of cows.

Returning to the Five Bells in time for a very good and welcome lunch.

The next walk will be the bluebell woods from the Fox & Hounds and will be led by Maggie Griffiths, details to follow by email.

LYNN & STEVE WHITE
Group Leaders

U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP



Yet another sunny morning greeted the Strollers for our walk in March which was led by David Mann.

Starting from the Prince of Wales Feathers in Castor, we set off out of the village up a gentle hill to the north. Turning to the right we stopped for a photo-stop at the rear of St. Kyneburgh's church. We then crossed fields which involved a further climb bringing us to the top of Love's Hill. A short walk alongside the old A47 took us to the junction with Castor Mill Road, which we turned down.

Now going downhill, we crossed over the Nene Valley Railway and down to the banks of the river, from which it took its name. A gentle stroll along the meadows adjacent to the river, where we stopped for another photo-stop, shown above, we meandered towards Waternewton before turning back to Castor. We crossed over the railway and walked up the hill, which is the site of the former Roman settlement, Durobvidae. We entered Castor from the south and back to the Prince of Wales Feathers.

As the programme shows, there is a change of plan for this month. As the fourth Monday of April is Easter Monday, we are having our monthly stroll on the following Monday, the 29th. The walk will commence from the Six Bells at Witham on the Hill, meeting at 10:15. Members of the group who wish to take part should contact me a few days before.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP



In our March meeting we interpreted our theme of 'Tea Time' by using cups, saucers, plates, tea pots, cake stands etc for containers. We mainly used garden foliage and flowers and some even made little flower 'cakes' which

looked great. It was interesting to create small scale arrangements for a change.

In April we did what has been known as Continental style of parallel vertical placements in long tray containers. They are often placed in front of church choir stalls or on window ledges. It was good to see a variety of colourful arrangements.



In May we will see what can be done with a supermarket bunch of flowers using any container apart from a vase, and adding any other accessories and foliage that you wish.

The group is now full, limited by the room size. Please contact me if you may wish to join at a future date.

PAT LUDLOW
Group Leader

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

Twenty two members of "Church Mice" in April visited St Margaret's church at Quadring.



The church tower and steeple can be seen clearly from a distance across the Fens, despite the fact that the tower leans away from the body of the church. The church, built in the 13th century stands nearly a mile outside the village, probably because Bicker Haven nearby was a major port centuries ago.

Inside the church one is struck by the light coming from the clerestory windows and the size of the church. The stained glass windows are worth looking at, particularly the modern one at the Lady Chapel altar. There is a font, probably predating the church and a spiral staircase leading to a turret, where a rood screen would have stood.

Notable in the church is a bier, formerly used to transport coffins, and also a 'hood', carried into the churchyard to protect the vicar from the elements at funerals. There is also an old chest formerly used to store parish records.

After the visit members retired to the village hall for cakes and tea.

Report: HENRY ROBERTS
Group Leaders: JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

U3A QUILTING GROUP



Our April meeting involved 'applique'. This is the process in which pieces of fabric in different shapes and patterns are stuck then sewn onto a larger piece of material to form a picture. Liz very kindly prepared a heart shape sample of material for all the group to have a go. She explained the difference between the bonding products. Some had proved more successful than others.

In the show and tell session prior to the demonstration there was yet more lovely work that had been completed by the group. Some of it was a very high standard. (See photo).

Our next session in May will again be demonstrated by Liz. It is the 'Dresden'

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader

U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



We met at the New Inn at Folkingham on a cloudy but dry morning and after ordering our food set off along field paths on an undulating walk towards the small village of Walcot. Most of the footpaths were well trodden with only one across a crop field where the farmer had planted over the right of way.

From Walcot we made our way past a ford in the road back onto a footpath across the fields where we had to cross several stiles. We arrived for our photo stop just outside the village of Pickworth and then started the journey back to Folkingham.

We finished our walk with a good meal at the New Inn before making our way home.
Report GILL HARDY

Group Leaders: HILARY & BARRY AKAM

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

On Wednesday, 10th April, ten members of the group visited Russell Nursery at Little Bytham. The weather was kind to us and we all enjoyed a good walk round with most of us treating ourselves to some of the lovely, and often unusual, plants on offer.



This was followed by lunch in the café and, as usual, a good talk.

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

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Joy Elliman entertained a somewhat depleted Listening to Music Group to a most enjoyable programme of some of her favourite pieces, most of them relatively short.



The programme was very wide-ranging, and enlivened by stories and anecdotes from Joy's wide musical experience and knowledge. On the more "serious" side, we heard Julian Bream play a movement from Rodrigo's Concerto de Aranjuez and by way of contrast, the Kings Singers' rendering of "Some Folks' Lives Roll Easy", by Paul Simon.

Elgar featured three times : "Dorabella" from Enigma Variations ; Overture, "Cockaigne" ; and Capricieuse, played by 'cellist Natalie Clein – all most enjoyable. The Flight of the Bumble Bee was very appropriately followed by On Wings of Song, sung by Isobel Baillie

Many other instruments and combinations of voices were represented, and one of the highlights was Thomas Dunhill's "Cornucopia" , a virtuoso piece superbly played on the French Horn by Ifor James – a fitting representation of the cornucopia of music to which Joy had treated us.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 May, at Frank Mills' home in Tinwell. Report: JIM PRINGLE

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

Committee member, Kath Allen has the difficult job each month of finding someone to propose the vote of thanks to the Speaker. If you have a particular knowledge of the Speaker or the subject and feel able to take on the task of saying a few words of thanks, please let her know.

I have had to do a fair amount of "cutting and pasting" this month to get the right "fit". I hope that doesn't mean any reports are missing. I do try hard but sometimes accidents do occur. If anything should be missing, please let me know and I will correct it next month. ANN

With Easter approaching, this would have been a brilliant photograph for the front page but the Northern Lights just had to be 'the one' this month.

Luckily space is available so I am still able to include it.

Many thanks to Steve Hanson for sharing it with us



U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



We have often said that doing a walk in the reverse direction gives a completely different perspective and this is what happened for the group's April walk as Garth Perry took 18 members on a return visit to the Stilton Circuit which we last walked over two years ago. This was a very pleasant walk in bright sunny conditions with just a slight breeze through rolling countryside. The walk commenced from The Talbot Inn at Stilton and took in the villages of Folksworth, the Morborne Masts, the site of a medieval village at Washingley, Caldecote and Denton, before returning for a good well earned lunch at the Talbot. Many thanks to Garth for leading the walk and organising the lunch.

The next walk on 9 May will be led by Eddie and Chris Adams and will be at Burton Coggles commencing from The Cholmeley Arms, Village Street, Burton Coggles, Near Corby Glen NG33 4JP. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Eddie by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, on 01778 346363 or e-mail eddie&chris@trebartha.f9.co.uk and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch. Photo: DAVID SCOTT

GODFREY PARKES/ DAVID SCOTT
Group Leaders