



Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 176

APRIL 2018

“...AND THE SHEEP SHALL SAFELY GRAZE”



Admittedly a bit late for Easter but grateful thanks once again to David Scott for the Photographs.

Committee Members 2017/2018

Garth Perry	Chairman
Ann Parkes	Secretary
Anne Burton	Treasurer
Liz Noble	Membership Secretary
Susanne Hoadley	Groups Coordinator
Phil Jones	Deputy Gps Co-ordinator
Lyll Seale	Speaker Finder
Kath Allen	
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Programme of Speakers

- 2018**
16 April **10.15 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** to approve the three resolutions circulated to all members in the Formal for Notification of this meeting in last month's Newsletter. This will be immediately followed by our talk entitled **BOMBER COMMAND AND THE INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE** by Air Vice Marshall Paul Robinson who will tell us about Bomber Command from WW2 and the development of the international Bomber Command Centre near Lincoln.
- 21 May **DAIRY FARM REVISITED** by Jane Barnes. In 2014 Jane told us about her life as a farmer's wife. She returns to update us on their dairy herd, cheese production and what's going on in the farming industry in UK and worldwide. She will bring cheese produced from their milk for sale.
- 18 June **THE TRUE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF THE ARCHERS** by Jim Latham

Unless otherwise stated (**note timing above for this month's meeting**) 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



About two weeks ago I got up as usual, but when I put my right hand under the hot tap, I got a very sharp stinging sensation at the end of my thumb. Closer examination of the offending digit, revealed that I had a split in the end of it, behind the nail. This looked like a large paper cut, but considerably deeper and wider. Now I know how painful a paper cut can be, but this split was much more painful than that, especially when any pressure was applied to it. Forcing a button through a buttonhole certainly brought tears to my eyes! I suddenly appreciated why the human thumb is considered a very advanced evolutionary feature, as it is involved in almost every task we undertake with our hands. Most of those tasks, particularly grasping and picking up, put pressure on the thumb, and as a result they hurt a lot! I recall with shame, that we had a boy in secondary school whose hands, every winter, were covered in these cracks, who used to get mercilessly teased when he cried with the pain of doing simple tasks. Schoolchildren can be very cruel when they don't understand.

The scandal over the misuse of personal data, highlighted this month in the media, reinforced my distrust of, and refusal to get involved in, Social Media. Even in the last few days, Google has discovered several million more sets of data that have been traded and misused. I must admit to having little sympathy with people who put far too much of their personal data online in the first place, but I can identify and have sympathy with one of the contributory factors to this problem, the failure to read the Terms and Conditions. We all do it – when we want to use a website to purchase or sell something, or to download a really useful App, and that really annoying and time consuming note comes up, informing us that we can't proceed any further without reading the T's & C's, and ticking the box to confirm, we frequently just tick the box. A University-based researcher, set up a small selling website, and put a clause in the T's & C's saying "that in agreeing to these conditions, you undertake to slaughter your firstborn child". Less than 1% of users spotted and questioned the clause! A lesson to us all!

Stop Press - Breaking News



I am sure that the sad tale of my garden ornament, Pot Man, who had been slowly disintegrating, and waiting for attention on my "To Do" list for a number of years, moved you all. However, I can report that, while confined indoors by the snows, I sprang (?) into action! Feeling a bit like that TV Supervet, limbs were taken apart, cleaned and reassembled on new wires. I only had one anxious moment, when I thought that his left leg, which had been in the dark in my garage for years, would look paler than the other limbs, that had been left out in the sun. However, fake tan was not necessary, as they all cleaned up to the same colour, and he is back in his rightful spot in the garden.

Best wishes
Garth
Chairman



So glad there is a happy ending for 'Potman'. Ann

COACH TRIP TO BAUMBER WALLED GARDEN AND GUNBY HALL, HOUSE AND GARDEN

The gardeners' coach trip this year will be featuring two Lincolnshire gardens on Tuesday 11th September. Both are interesting and beautiful.



Gunby Hall house (right) will also be open and included. The price is £27 (£20.50 to NT members) Coffee and a light lunch are also included in the price.

For more information, please pick up a leaflet at the main meeting or from the leaders of the Gardening Groups of U3A or John Marsh or Eddie Adams

GROUP NEWS

Important note for Group Leaders' Diaries

There will be a Group Leaders' Meeting on Friday 8th June, at 10 am, in the Green School. The Agenda will be explained in the May Newsletter, but could all Groups ensure that they are represented please



Proposed Lawn Bowls Group: I have arranged a meeting at the Market Deeping Bowls Club on Monday, 23 April at 10.30 am. Park in the Community Centre car park, walk passed the Community Centre and follow the path. If anyone else would like to come they would be very welcome.

Boards are on the table—one for anyone interested in starting a second Spanish group and one for suggestions for new groups.

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups Co-ordinator

U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

An unusually large group of ten met to try recipes from the Hairy Bikers, and had a substantial repast of two soups, a salad, a Lamb and Fennel casserole, a Sausage casserole and a Chicken dish. Three puddings followed, again of the heavier sort. We seemed to be rather low on fresh fruit and vegetables this time, although we did add a Mango Granita.



Only Ian sported a suitable beard for the occasion.

Next meeting is on 14th May, again a week late because of May Day Bank Holiday, when we shall be trying sweet and savoury recipes involving CHEESE. Maybe we shall get ideas at the Melton Mowbray Cheese Fair at the Bank Holiday weekend.

Prospective members and guests welcome

KATHLEEN TANNER
Group

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH

Lunch this month will be at The Horseshoe, Thurlby, on Sunday, 22nd April. Usual drill, names please to Tony Semple or Michael Griffin or added to Tony's list at Monday's meeting.



U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

*Here the sparrows built upon the trees
And stock-doves hide their nest
The leaves were winnowed by the breeze
Into a calmer rest*

(My Early Home Was This by John Clare)

This month (March) we combined a visit to the studio of local artist John Mills with a visit to John Clare Cottage where John had set up an exhibition of his paintings.

We had a really warm welcome at Mr and Mrs Mills' house and Mrs Mills also provided refreshments for us. John Mills is a very talented artist and his landscape paintings are beautiful. John has a collection of 'Wind In The Willows' books, paintings and models which are delightful. It was a very enjoyable morning. Thank you John and Carol for your hospitality and kindness.



Lunch was taken at John Clare Cottage and Irene read two of John Clare's Poems, an extract of one is above.

Next month we are looking at 'A Day in the life of Beryl Cook'. (DVD from the U3A Resources). If members have any Beryl Cook paintings/cards please bring to the meeting.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Contacts: SANDRA JONES / YVONNE McCULLOCH

U3A MONDAY REAERS GROUP

It is unusual for one of our book choices to be a non-fiction book, and even more unusual for it to be one quite so intense and sometimes grim as our April choice. This was, *Do No Harm* by the eminent neurosurgeon, Henry Marsh.

Marsh came to public notice when he featured in one of the *Your Life in Their Hands* T.V. series, but this was his first book and is an account of his life and work, both in the NHS and in the Ukraine, where he has spent part of each year.



The book split our group, with some finding it unreadable, because of personal circumstances; the book is so honest and detailed about brain surgery, its effects on patients and families, and Marsh's own failures and feelings, that it came too close for home for some of us.

That majority of us who did read it found it an often difficult read, but engrossing, fascinating and hugely informative about the frankly incredible world of neurosurgery, the workings of the brain, and its ills and recoveries. We were left with a deep sense of the extraordinary work done by surgeons such as Henry Marsh, the enormous responsibility carried by them and the often difficult systems they work under in our overstretched but wonderful NHS. It is a painfully honest book, but rewarding to read, perhaps because of that.

Our next meeting is on 14th May at 10.00 at the Library and our book is Peter James's thriller, *Dead Like You*

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jan Moore Market Deeping, David Blessett, Deeping St. James and rejoiner Veronica Gough Deeping St James



U3A HISTORY GROUP

A lovely Spring Day was a welcome change for our group and member, Kay Plunkett enlivened the proceedings with her account of the life story of Kaiser Bill.

Kaiser Bill had a very challenging and sad childhood. The rest of his life seemed to be influenced by this experience and he came across as a rather unfortunate character who had a job fitting in to society even though he became the last Emperor of Prussia.



His grandmother, of whom he was very fond, was Queen Victoria and his mother, Victoria was the first born daughter of Victoria and Albert. He was at Queen Victoria's bedside when she died and attended her funeral. He is said to have encouraged the events that led to the First World War and was later forced to abdicate. He died in exile in the Netherlands in 1941.

Kay brought some amusing quips into her talk and ended with a rather splendid photograph of the current President of the United States in disguise as the Kaiser!!! Thank you Kay, it was a very interesting talk. Congratulations on the pronunciation of all those foreign names too!!

Jim Winstone will be talking about 'The Making of the Fens' at our April meeting. Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONE / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our March meeting was at the home of Peter and Eileen Grey. Peter entitled his programme 'Some of my' Favourite Vinyls,'



The morning, which was far from Springlike, got off to a great start with Manhattan Transfer and 'Four Brothers' and continued with 'Tuxedo Junction' and 'Chanson D'amour'. Neil Diamond and a selection from his film 'The Jazz Singer' followed and three items from the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, the 'Command Performance' album came next. 'A Taste of Honey,' 'Tijuana Taxi,' and 'Spanish Flea' were old hits of Herb Alpert after which Jimmy Smith played 'I'll Close My Eyes' and 'Satin Doll'. These were from his album, 'Organ Grinder Swing'. Great music!

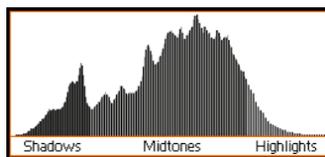
Our members always give us something different and Peter then showed a DVD of Duke Ellington's 'Swinging At His Best'. This included 'Flamingo', 'Sophisticated Lady', 'Mood Indigo' and 'The Hawk Talks' which featured a terrific drum solo by Louis Bellson. The film finished with 'Duke's Place' in which he introduced members of his Band. A really enjoyable morning Peter that cheered us all and gave us the opportunity to enjoy your 'vinyls' too! Thanks to Eileen for the coffee/tea and biscuits.

Our April meeting is at the home of Barbara and Peter Baylis with a programme devised by Geoff. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

U3A LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

On Wednesday 21st March, members were shown a DVD called 'Chasing the Light' by a professional photographer David Newton. David was up very early looking to take brilliant landscapes. He showed how to get the right elements using the light available. Just before dawn and when the sun comes up, and being in the right place at the right time.



I often remind my members to use the histogram on their cameras. I was so pleased when he kept on reminding us all to use the histogram, rather than looking at the taken subject on the camera screen. Now all the members have to do is get up early and practice what they learnt.

DAVE PENDRY
Group Leader

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Ten members of the Natural History Group visited the Bay Tree Owl Centre.



It began with a talk from Mark about recent developments at the Centre and the wide range of birds from owls and falcons to kookaburra and secretary bird. We also heard about the highly successful breeding programme and the how and why of training the birds to fly in display and he illustrated this by flying four very different birds including a Siberian Eagle Owl who flew over our heads showing the beautiful stretch of its wings and a Redlegged Seriema who was getting used to people and tried to dispose of a rubber snake as it would a live one in the wild. We then took time to visit the aviary and to see some of the animals who also live there.

The centre now has an outdoor flying arena and the indoor area is being transformed into a butterfly house specifically for native species. Altogether a fascinating and interesting visit!

Our next visit is a walk in Burghley Park, looking at the trees and the history of the avenues of trees and the surrounding area, led by Joy. Please contact Margaret or Jo if you would like to join us.

Report: JO ASTLE

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A UKULELE GROUP

This Group are slowly extending their repertoire to currently about five songs. We are still looking for new members at any level of musicality but especially if you can sing. Although it isn't necessary it helps with the rhythm of the song. At the moment most of us haven't learnt to play and sing at the same time!



Don't forget that learning to play a musical instrument is one of the best things for mental health (although my cats don't agree). We are not looking to perform in public, it's all about learning a new skill and having a bit of fun. If this has got you thinking give me a ring.

MALCOLM HOADLEY

Group Leader

U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

For our March meeting Dave Pendry gave us a presentation of the History of the Telephone. We saw photographs of telephones from 1885 to the present day. Dave also brought in telephones from the 1940's for members to view. The talk was very informative on the manufacturers, inventors and workings of the telephone.



Would any members who were not at the meeting but wish to come to Woburn Abbey on June 25th, please let us know as soon as possible as seats are going fast.

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A CRAFT GROUP 3

This month we all enjoyed painting small flower pots, the results turned out very colourful and all different.



ANITA
SETCHFIELD
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

As the heavy snow prevented us from meeting last month, it was lovely to get together at Gill Rolandson's home this month. We missed a couple of our members for various reasons and wish those who have been poorly a speedy recovery.



After some highly important business of confirming where we would like to eat next month and for our Christmas meal, we enjoyed some very pleasant gardening talk before exploring Gills garden in the warm spring sunshine where primroses and hellebores were looking particularly good and the rhubarb was well under way.

Next month we are off to Elgood's gardens in Wisbech at the slightly later start time of 10.30 and will be enjoying lunch out afterwards.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP

Last month's stroll was a local affair, with a start from The Goat on Spalding Road in Frognall.

Setting off, we went a short distance alongside the old main road, before turning off towards the village itself. Passing through this quiet, pleasant village we took the footpath alongside the former Rose public house, towards some fields where we traversed a broad area of pasture, alongside some fields, which were showing signs of spring, with crops emerging from their winter slumber.



Crossing Broadgate Lane, we strolled down Hereward Way, past the home of Liz, one of our newer members, to reach the footpath leading towards Deeping St. James Priory Church. As we were on course for an early return to The Goat, the group agreed to extending the walk down Eastgate. We returned along Back Lane and turned off along tracks adjacent to fields, which were dry, having not been rained on for a few days. This was a pleasant surprise after what seems like endless weeks of persistent wet weather. Returning to The Goat, we were joined by a few other group members making a total of 19, for a pleasant lunch.

This month's stroll is another local affair, with a start from The Stage in the Market Place, Market Deeping. This will take place on Monday 23 April, meeting about 10:15. Members of the group wishing to take part should contact me a few days before.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A POETS AND THEIR POETRY GROUP

With the letter 'R' for our April meeting there was a good choice of Poets this month. They were mainly of English nationality, namely Christina Rossetti, Henry and Derek Reade, Kathleen Reede, and Kathleen Raine. From the USA we had Edwin Arlington Robinson, and Theodore Roethke. Together with the poetry and their biographies we passed a very interesting afternoon.

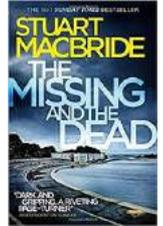


We welcomed a new member Eva. Thanks to Kathleen for hosting the meeting and making us so welcome. Members will be notified of the time and place of our next meeting.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A "BOOKWORMS" READING GROUP

'The Missing and the Dead' by Stuart Macbride



Sgt. Logan McRae and his police colleagues at MacDuff, a quiet coastal town in Scotland, are kept busy on routine work when the body of a six year old girl is found at the disused swimming pool and an urgent investigation begins. Logan often takes chances which get him in trouble with his superiors but prove to be very useful.

There are many twists and turns in the story, much surveillance, frustration and danger before many villains were apprehended and the mystery of the little girl's death is finally solved.

A best selling "Who dun it" this book is written in an easy colloquial style. The characters are stereotypes of the genre – laid back wise cracking or ambitious small minded and vindictive. Logan is the good guy, follows his hunches, solves the crime but gets little credit for it. Report: NANCY TITMAN

Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE GROUP

An augmented attendance meant that it was almost standing room only for a most fascinating talk by group member Vicky Matthews who kept us spellbound with her account of her life as a botanist.



From a career choice of a life in advertising or becoming a botanist Vicky convinced us all that she had, indeed, made the right choice! Travelling the world, meeting a host of interesting people, being constantly "shadowed" during an extended stay in Russia, writing and editing a number of learned tomes and a knowledge of plants which could only be the envy of many a gardening group member. All this, and more, went to demonstrated how much we don't know about those around us! Thank you Vicky, we will never see you in the same light again!

Group Leaders: PAM PENDRY / JOHN MARSH

U3A QUILTING GROUP

Our April meeting was a demonstration by Pauline on how to make triangular squares the easy way. Guidance was also given on the insertion of Grommets to complete bags for those who needed it.



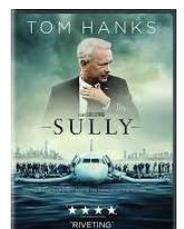
The next project was set: A two tone table centre. Pauline demonstrated cutting techniques and the basic sewing together of the fabric so that everyone could get the table centre ready for the next stage of the process.

There will be a visit arranged to 'Gather and Sew' at Bourne for inspiration and looking at fabrics, accessories and ideas from their range. I will contact the members to confirm a date. The next meeting at Deeping Community Centre: Tuesday 8th May. Subs will be due.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader

U3A FILM GROUP

The next Film Club meeting will be at the Green School at 2 pm on Wednesday 25 April. The DVD will be the true story of "Sully" starring Tom Hanks as the American pilot who saved the lives of his passengers by his skill in landing his plane successfully in the river to avoid a crash landing. Hope to see you there.



Group Leader: MAUREEN WHITTLE / RITA BROWN

U3A “PACERS” WALKING GROUP



Despite the torrential rain of the previous week and a none-too-promising forecast for the day ten ‘Pacers’ braved the elements on Wednesday, 4th April.

Setting off from Yarwell the route to Nassington took us through woodland where the paths had become very muddy but undaunted we hopped from one side of the track to the other searching for firmer ground! The ford at Nassington was now a small lake but fortunately the path around it was above water level.

At Nassington we should have joined the Nene Way and followed it along the river to Yarwell Mill but the Nene was in flood and the path impassable but not to be beaten we set off along the road to Yarwell. The amount of water crashing into the lock gates at the mill was a sight to behold, the waves it was generating turning the lock into rapids. From the mill we were able to follow field paths back into Yarwell village. We had all enjoyed the adventure and were ready for the delicious lunch awaiting us at the Angel.

The next walk will be on May 2nd led by David and Marge from Greatford – further details to follow. Report: BARBARA McNICOL

Group leaders: LYNN & STEVE WHITE

(Hope you all spot yourself in Steve’s picture. He has done a good job but I think he forgot how small it would appear in the Newsletter! A)

U3A “CHURCH MICE” GROUP

The spire of St Denis at Silk Willoughby stood out invitingly from the mist as 28 members of Church Mice visited in April.

The 14th century church surprises with its high nave and chancel. It was well worth a visit as there are many features to admire: the beautiful Arts and Crafts stained glass east window, the 21st century stained glass window in the south aisle, the very well preserved Norman font, predating the church, the barely discernible medieval wall paintings, the Jacobean pulpit, the beautifully carved wooden eagle lectern and the three medieval roof bosses on display. The porch with its pre-17th century door and wall graffiti is also notable.



The churchwarden gave the group an interesting talk about the history of the village, back into Roman times with plenty of historical artefacts.

The visit was followed by an excellent tea in the pub next door.

Report: HENRY ROBERTS

Group Leaders: JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

U3A SCIENCE GROUP Official report:

At our March meeting, we had a “show and tell” session, during which some of our members shared a wide variety of science related topics with us. This resulted in an interesting, informative, and amusing meeting. Thank you to all who contributed.

The next meeting, will be held on Tuesday 17th April, at The Institute, in Church Street, Deeping St. James, at 2pm. Details of the content have not been finalised.

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

Now for the **unofficial report** and in the interests of maintaining harmony within the Group (and good journalism) I shall not reveal my source and no it wasn’t David Scott!



If, like me, you wonder what on earth our Chairman and Treasurer were doing, this is the explanation I was given: ‘This was supposed to lead to an explanation that ‘Topology’ is an ‘ology’ that leads to knowledge of, for example, how to remove your bra without removing your blouse!’ Garth hasn’t been on top form for a couple of weeks so I hope he has recovered his sense of humour. If not you may find you have a new editor for the Newsletter next month!! ANN

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We reviewed some aida patterns in an attempt to use of some of joint stocks of wool we are holding. We plan to do beadwork this month and decided on colours and designs to try.



I look forward to seeing you all on 16th April 2018, 2pm at 102 Church Street, Deeping St. James.

LIZ NOBLE

Group Leader

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

We did not pick a very good day for our visit to Rasells Nurseries at Little Bytham. It was wet, misty and very cold! However we did buy some good quality plants and as we had booked a table in The Tea House we soon warmed up and enjoyed our lunch.



We are hopeful that the weather will improve in May for our visit to The Moat at Newton. Report: JEAN FOSTER

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Twenty two of us met at The Millstone at Barnack on a dull and cloudy morning. The forecast was not good so we were dressed accordingly.

The walk took us from Barnack out on the road towards Uffington. On reaching the level crossing we followed the footpath along the side of the railway towards the outskirts of Bainton. There was a train spotter with camera etc , don't know how much he saw but it's not a well used line !!! We had intermittent rain during the walk, but as usual we are prepared for all weathers.

Onwards then into Ufford (where the verges were covered in daffodils as per photo) and a loop back to Barnack. The walk was mixed road, verge, footpaths, muddy areas and two stiles. Seventeen of us stayed for a very good lunch at The Millstone where we were well looked after. Thanks to the pub for opening on a Monday for us.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



A walk on the wet side. Never mind April showers - after 48 hours of continuous rain, the day arrived for our April wander. Undeterred and equipped with wellie boots and walking poles 11 walkers left the William Cecil and set off over the very soggy Meadows in Stamford for Easton on the Hill. We squelched, slithered and slide our way under the A1 and up hill to the quintessential stone village grateful for some solid footpaths when we arrived.

We returned via Wothorpe woods passing Lord Burghley's son's former residence, Wothorpe Towers, and proceeded down the Old Great North Road back into Stamford. A very well earned lunch was enjoyed at the Bull and Swan and we all agreed that, despite the conditions, we felt invigorated, righteous and tired! Next month's wander is already planned but please bring some sunshine with you.

Report: LIZ GILBANK
Group Leaders: HILARY & BARRY AKAM

APOLOGIES IN YOU HAVE A COPY WITH PAGE TWO
PRINTED UPSIDE DOWN. MY MISTAKE. ANN

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP



Our April meeting was at the home of Kath and Phil Jones. Phil gave us a very eclectic programme which began with 'Tattoo' by Mike Oldfield. A very clever arrangement of 'And The Same To You' was played by Dudley Moore.

Miles Karadaglic gave us 'Blackbird' a Lennon and McCartney song and a very different version of 'A Ticket To Ride' sung by Cathy Berberian was a surprise! The Orchestra of Enlightenment played several pieces beginning with J S Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, (Allegro), both 5 and 3, followed by Mike Oldfield's second offering 'Portsmouth'.

Peter Dawson sang 'The Song of the Flea' words provided by Phil, but we did not sing along! Franz Schubert's popular 'Trout,' was played by Anne Gastinel, 'Fanfare For the Common Man from Aaron Copeland, Leonard Bernstein conducting the New York Philharmonic. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra played the 'Poet and Peasant overture' by Franz Von Suppe and the popular violinist, YO Yo Mar gave us 'Humoresque No.7 in G Flat Major.

The amazing talent of guitarist, Steve Howe was evident in his playing of 'The Clap' and the morning ended with another unusual piece, 'Uncle Meat' from Frank Zappa and The Ensemble Modern - a German Orchestra, proving that they do have a sense of humour! It was a program full of surprises and our members added to our enjoyment with their knowledge regarding various items heard. Thank you Phil for a most entertaining morning and thanks to Kath for the excellent refreshments. Our next meeting is at the home of Jim Pringle.

Report: ANNE JONES
Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

GARDENING "OVER THE GARDEN WALL" GROUP

Our March meeting was at Swines Meadow Farm Nursery. Colin the plants man gave a talk on Perennials. His extensive knowledge of the plants shown, mainly grown on the premises was shared with the group. Members were invited to ask questions regarding the best plants, different soils and positions in the garden. The Nursery, like many of us had found the bitter cold winds of late had resulted in plants being damaged. Our thanks go to Janice Wilson for organising the morning



Our next meeting is a visit to Barnsdale Gardens. Please contact Sue Dinenage if you are going.

Group leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS / JOSIE SMITH

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

On a misty and overcast April morning Lesley Evans led a smaller group of 14 members on a walk in another new area for the group, this being at Holme Fen and through the nature reserve which forms part of the Great Fen project. The walk was mainly on good grassy paths both through and around the edge of the reserve which enabled us to encounter many interesting features along the route. One such feature being the Holme Posts that mark Britain's lowest point nine feet below sea level. The history behind this is that in 1852 a post was rammed into the peat until its top was flush with the ground. Today that post stands 13 feet tall, a measure of how far the dried out land has shrunk around it. On completion of the walk the group retired to the Admiral Wells at Holme for a very good lunch. This is also a walk that would be very useful to do in the summer when all the trees are in foliage and one can see how well the project is proceeding. Many thanks to Lesley for organising an extremely interesting walk and arranging the lunch.

The next walk on 10 May will be led by Godfrey Parkes and David Scott and will be Kings Cliffe and Blatherwycke Lake commencing from The Cross Keys, 2 West Street, Kings Cliffe, Peterborough PE8 6XA. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Godfrey by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, on 01778 343769 or e-mail godfreyparkes@aol.com and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch.

GODFREY PARKES - Group Leader
(See pics. taken by Steve Hanson over page)

