

Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

[Visit our U3A](#)
[Deepings Web site](#)



Market Deeping

Issue No. 180

AUGUST 2018

SCIENCE GROUP VISIT BELL FOUNDRY



A full report of this visit is on page two. The centre bell in this pic is 'Great Paul', the largest bell in the British Isles and was cast at the Loughborough Foundry on 23 November 1881 as 10.30 pm. It left Loughborough for London on 11th May 1882 to be hoisted into position in the upper part of the north west tower of St. Paul's Cathedral. The cost of the bell and installation was around £3,000 with the bell being rung on Easter Sunday that year for the first time. The bell has been 'refurbished' and will shortly be returned to St. Paul's Cathedral.

Photos: DAVID SCOTT/ANN HOLMES

Chairman's Reflections



A plant appeared in my front garden this month, and as it appeared completely impervious to the heatwave and my neglect, I assumed that it was a weed. It has a flower



like an elaborate dandelion, which opens before I get up, and closes before midday. When the flowering is over it forms a striking "bud", which lays dormant, until the day that it suddenly explodes into a three inch diameter "dandelion clock". Not surprisingly, I assumed it was of the dandelion family, but our resident naturalist, Brian Littler, put me on the right track, by saying it could be "goats beard". So I now know that it is a member of the sunflower group, within the daisy family, named *Tragopogon* or wild salsify, and there are actually nurseries that grow and sell them, and even sell the seeds at about £35 per 100 grams. I think I will keep it, as it is quite striking (and care free!), and I have even collected seed, to grow some more. I think I ought to charge my neighbours if any come up in their front gardens!!

When our speaker at the July meeting mentioned a native bird called the Hobby, it reminded me to share a piece of obscure information with you. It's the type of fact that you would think was bound to appear in a quiz, but never does! The Latin name of the Hobby is *Falco subbuteo*. When the inventor of the well known table football game, in which you "flicked" the little figures to move them, was refused permission to register the name of the game as Hobby, guess what he decided to call it! No! Not Falco!

I am writing this ramble as I am desperately trying to get sorted out to go on holiday tomorrow, so inspiration is not coming easily, but I do have a serious subject to finish with.

We are now into a new membership and financial year, and moving towards our AGM in October. We have a good team of people on the Committee, and I am not aware that we are about to face a mass resignation, but at this time of year I become very conscious of the fact that many of the Committee have served in various positions for many years, and that we don't have succession plans in place, in preparation for the time when they might appreciate a quieter life! It would be good for the health of the Committee and our U3A if a couple of our newer and younger members were to be nominated, perhaps as Ordinary Committee Members, to begin to "learn the ropes". There are several essential jobs outside the Committee to which the same concerns apply, so if you would like to participate in the running of our U3A and Groups, then please approach any member of the Committee.

That's it – I am now in the position of having packed, and it seems that everyone that I talk to says something like "You've packed all your pills, haven't you"? Of course I have, but then doubt sets in, and the zips on the case have to be opened again, and a hand thrust into the depths of the contents, just to check. I shall be glad to get on the road, then all I have to do is wonder, halfway down the A1, whether or not I locked the front door and set the alarm!

Best wishes

Garth
Chairman

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
Lyaal Seale	Speaker Finder
Kath Allen	
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

Programme of Speakers

- 2018**
- 20 August **STORIES WITH STRINGS** by Acoustic duo Fool's Gold followed by buffet lunch. This meeting is at **DEEPINGS ACADEMY MAIN HALL**, normal £1 entrance fee for meeting followed by ticket only Buffet.
- 17 September **BARROW TO BAGHDAD AND BACK**—Philip Caine Talks about incidents in his working life in several countries which inspired him to write his adventure/thriller novels,
- 15 October **SAFER DRIVING AND STAYING SAFER ON THE ROADS** by Ashley Behan

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.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joan and David McCormack, Nina Owen Market Deeping, Jean Brown Deeping St James, Rosa Coia Peterborough, Betty Hoppe Bourne and Marianne Rowcliffe, Bourne who rejoins us.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for 2018/19

Thank you to those members that have renewed their membership and hopefully I have sorted all the queries and you all have your new badges for 2018/19. I am still around 50 non-renewals and would remind them that this will be their last Newsletter unless they renew!

If there are any queries, or you didn't get your badge then please contact me by email or phone.

One extra reminder, your membership number is inside the badge and we do advise you write your emergency contact name and number inside too. If you have any specialist health conditions (diabetes, heart condition etc) it is also a good place to write those too. – we hope it isn't required, but it could prove very useful. It does assume you wear your badge to U3A events!

LIZ NOBLE

Membership Secretary



U3A CYCLING GROUP

Friday 20th July was the day we first had rain after a long period of drought. However, the gods were good to us as the rain held off until we had all arrived back at our homes. Six of us set off from the Coach House and made our way via Suttons Lane and Peakirk through to Werrington. Then across the railway and along Fox Covert Road. Instead of turning right to Peakirk or left to Glington we took to a footpath leading us to North Fen Road.



It was here that we came across the phenomena of snails seemingly climbing trees! One of our number thought that because the tree was related to the Maple family and the snails were attracted by the sap – perhaps someone in the Natural History Group could offer an explanation?

Finally we ended up at the Pack Horse in Werrington where we all partook of their Bucket Speciality dishes before returning home and missing the rain. Thanks must go to Fred Skipper for organising such an interesting route.

Report: TERRY NOBLE

Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE

GROUP NEWS

U3A SCIENCE GROUP.



Fifteen members travelled to Loughborough via The Greyhound Inn Hostelry where we enjoyed a light lunch before proceeding to the Museum for 1pm. We met at the Museum which consisted of a collection of memorabilia showing the history of the foundry (c1839), the largest Bell foundry in the world. There were a number of artefacts to interact with, fascinating 'bits' of bells and other associated parts together with written recorded details of the Foundry's history.

We then met our guide John Mulvey who showed us a short film record of the Foundry before leading the group off for a guided tour of the factory complex. He instructed us on all of the processes that we viewed and that were needed for the restoration of older bells and the finishing of newly cast ones. We saw in action the lathe work, tuning, fettling and mould making. He gave us information on the installation requirements for Bells into towers, a Carillon of bells and the arts of Bell ringing. The factory looked very much like a part of history itself with some very old reliable fittings and equipment.

Returning to the Museum we were shown to an additional area with more historical information. One interactive item caught the attention of a number of persons who tried striking a tune with a mallet on an array of numbered bells (fortunately a supplied 'music sheet' of the correct number sequence to produce a tune was provided. Not altogether a successful rendition though). It was a fascinating and enjoyable visit ably guided by John Mulvey.

To finish a successful day off, on our return journey we stopped off at Gates Nursey to enjoy a very pleasant afternoon tea with cakes. Very many thanks to Lyall for planning and arranging a very successful visit.

Photo on right shows a Carillon of Bells.



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

For more information visit The John Taylor Bell Foundry and Museum - <http://taylorbills.co.uk/>

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

This Group did not meet in July but meetings will resume in August at the home of Phil Jones. Please let him know if you will be attending.



U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

For our July meeting several members made their way to Oakham for a visit to the Museum. This is a very large building and when we entered the first room there was a wonderful exhibition of quilted items on display including a very bright and colourful jacket and a waistcoat.



Most of the items were lovely bedspreads—also very colourful. So much work had gone into making these with the small pieces of material that was used and the tiny stitching, it must have taken years to make some of them. There was a notice on one saying that it had been rescued from covering a tractor!!

Moving from there into the next area, which was also very large, a collection of agriculture items, tractors, carts, wagons and implements, were on display. There was a display of rural life with a kitchen and range and all kinds of domestic items, showing how people lived and worked in Victorian times. Outside was a large yard with more items, and the gardens.

Crime and Punishment played a large part in Oakham history and visitors to the Museum can see the 'New Drop Gallows', with not a very long drop, and we were told they didn't always work!! There are such a lot of interesting things we enjoyed seeing before adjourning to the Hotel next door for refreshment. Thank-you to the members that came.

We have NO meeting in August. Our next one is at the Catholic Church on September 25th, usual time. Report: IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

Due to August being a busy time for our members with holidays and babysitting, we organised an open walk around Ferry Meadows. Seven of us walked approximately four miles around the paths and along the riverside. We avoided the field that contained a herd of cows and one very large bull, not all of us felt comfortable with cattle. We ended the walk at the Lakeside Café and had a very enjoyable lunch.



The next walk of our group will be led by Geoff Whittle and starts from The Bluebell at Helpston.

LYNN & STEVE WHITE
Group Leaders

U3A HISTORY GROUP

There was a very good response to Geoff Whittle's talk this month which was entitled **"Balloons, Blimps and Air Ships"**. The theme sounded very scientific but turned out to be extremely interesting, highly educational and very entertaining.



Geoff had put together a clever computer Power Point presentation using video clips and slides. The information shared was too vast for this report but the history of flight began in China in very early times, Chinese Lanterns being used to fly over the enemy, hoping to scare them into submission. It progressed to Hot Air Balloons, Blimps and finally Airships. It was amazing how many of the latter flew safely for a number of years until fatalities occurred and airliners replaced them.

Some of the pioneers of flight put themselves in great danger in order to prove that they could become airborne. The later airships were luxurious. You could even smoke on board even though there was a great deal of hydrogen gas above you in the top of the envelope.

Quiz question: Who was N.S. Norway better known as? Answers on a postcard to Geoff!! **!BOOM BOOM!**

Thank you Geoff and also thank you to our speaker finder Lesley for her hard work again this year. We have been fortunate to have had really very good presenters.

Next month is our trip to Oxfordshire and September is a musical memories morning where you have the chance to recall some of the music 'Of the 50s'. Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A "OVER THE GARDEN WALL GARDENING GROUP

Our July meeting was at St Ives and 800 year old Manor House and Gardens at Hemingford Grey. It was a lovely day, not raining or too hot for a change for our visit. We spent time in the lovely old market town of St Ives where we had coffee then a lunch before proceeding to the Manor House and Gardens.



We were amazed at how green the Manor's four acre garden was considering the drought conditions. We were not expecting such beautiful displays in the borders that were still lush and full of colour.

Our visit concluded with a look round the Manor House. This house was built in the 1130's and is one of the oldest continually inhabited houses in Britain. It had undergone many changes throughout its life. Diane Boston who showed us round actually lives in the property. She was charming and informative. The building was made famous as the 'house of the novel Green Knowe' by the author Lucy Boston, in a series of children's books. These are now regarded as classics. The attic of the house was the base of the stories.

During WW II the property was used for R and R by the airmen from a nearby air base. The room they used remains the same today complete with old car seats and mattresses used for seating and the wind up gramophone and records. For the quilt lovers, Lucy Boston's quilts were a lovely bonus. A fascinating visit.

Our next meeting: Leicester Botanical Gardens Oadby. Leicester. Bus leaves Rainbow Long Stay Carpark at 9.30am. If you haven't already done so, please confirm with Maggie that you wish to come.

Group leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS / JOSIE SMITH

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Nine members of the Natural History Group visited Barnack Hills and Holes on Thursday, 26th July. Norah and Liz led the group and our thanks to Norah for this report and photos.



Could this be the future for the Hills and Holes at Barnack? Maybe not just yet.

Temperatures soared as we made our way along the paths and through the parched grasses.

Yellowhammers singing and plenty of flowers to be admired. There were a good number of butterflies about, though not very obliging. They tend to clear off when you try to get close enough to identify them. I believe the two stars of the day were, Chalk Hill Blue and Brown Argus. Thanks to Joy and her ID sheet.



Our next visit is on Thursday 23rd August is to Frampton Marsh Nature Reserve. If you would like to join us for this visit and would like more details please email Jo on astle66@btinternet.com

Report: NORAH LITTLER

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

We had a last minute change to this month's meeting as the poor Head Gardener at Ponden Hall was, in his own words, 'too ashamed of the garden', to have us visit after the extreme heat and drought.

In the event it gave us a great opportunity to meet at Barbara Workman's where a Morning Glory from a batch given to the group by member Kay Parker was in full bloom and pots gave real interest and colour despite the adverse gardening conditions of late. We were also able to hold a small celebration for Chris and Chas Ferguson's Golden Wedding. Chris was one of the founding members of the gardening group, having been group leader and a real support and stalwart over the years. We would all like to wish them a lovely anniversary. With lunch provided by Barbara and another of Liz Noble's wonderful celebratory cakes we had a very enjoyable meeting.



Our next meeting is at 10 am on Thursday 6th September at Margaret and David Scott's.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

The last venue our group had for bowling was Hunstanton. Not to be outdone with that, six of us decided they wanted to go to the Hollywood Bowl, so we duly gathered our effects and mapped out the way to go and off we went to Bretton.



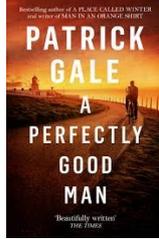
Yes, the Hollywood bowl in Bretton! It has just had a big face lift inside and out. New carpets, new tables, even new balls which makes us bowl a little bit better. The lanes are the same, you cannot change them, but it looks good. A good show by everyone and enjoyable.

Group Leaders: DAVID LUNN / CHRIS PATMAN

U3A "BOOKWORMS" READING GROUP

'A perfectly good man' by Patrick Gale

Barnaby Johnson is a gentle sensitive man who had a disruptive upbringing. At the age of 29 he is the vicar of Pendeen a parish near Penzance, married to Dorothy a farmer's daughter and with a six year old child Carrie. He is the perfect incumbent whose goodness and unselfishness shines through his good deeds and though they often backfire he continues to understand and forgive.



Thirty years later he is sent for by Lenny, a troubled young man paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair after an accident on the rugby field. This brings him to the attention of the Police who are investigating several family secrets and Barnaby's fallibility.

The author tells the story by a series of sections, each describing the life of one of the characters at a critical point which brings the plot together.

An excellent book for Group discussions as it touched on so many problems of the permissive society, religion, drugs, gender, race, adoption and infidelity. Highly recommended by the Bookworms.

The next meeting is at Ann's home on 27th August 2018 at 2.00 pm.

Report: NANCY TITMAN
Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Well it had to happen didn't it? After a glorious two months of summer sun our September walk took place on the day the weather broke and as a result a large part of the walk was undertaken in a light rain with a much fresher temperature. Still not too worry as Bruce Zenthon led the group on a nice local leisurely walk after our recent travels.

This was from the Packhorse at Northborough through the village over the Peakirk road until the River Welland was reached. Here we had our meeting with the three friendly horses that roam the river bank as we climbed the stile but they eventually let us over!! Continuing along the riverbank as far as Deeping Gate we then made our way via the footpath on Deeping St James Road and back to the old Lincoln Road and hence to the Packhorse for lunch and it was still raining. Many thanks to Bruce for organising the walk and arranging the lunch.

The next walk on 13 September will be led by Steve and Lynn White and will around the Helpston area commencing from The Blue Bell Inn, 10 Woodgate, Helpston PE6 7ED. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Steve by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, on 01778 349339 or e-mail steveandlynn91@gmail.com and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch. Photo: DAVID SCOTT

GODFREY PARKES
Group Leader

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Full house this month and Heather produced instructions for an interesting folding card which we all tackled. Thank you to her for arranging it.



We have decided to have a month off in August as it is the buffet day after the general meeting on our craft day, but look forward to seeing you all at September meeting.

LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE GROUP



Our July meeting took us to the glorious garden of Jean and Don Foster. Although we are all suffering from the effects of the drought, Jean's garden looked splendid. We were given a very interesting lot of hard work largely undertaken by our hosts, starting from scratch virtually. Afterwards, we were treated to delicious refreshments on the patio.

We were very fortunate to be able to visit this garden, because Jean and Don are hoping to move soon and start afresh in a different location. We wish them well in their search for a new home and garden. Report: EDDIE ADAMS

Group Leaders: PAM PENDRY / JOHN MARSH

U3A POETRY GROUP

Our August meeting was at Angela's home. With the temperature still very high she managed to keep us comfortable with plenty of cold and hot drinks and a lovely home made cake.



After our July break, we were all ready with our selections of poetry. We had reached the letter 'U' and poets with that initial were very hard to find. We had two, - John Hoyer Updike, an American poet. His poem 'In Extremis' about his toes was very funny, as also was John Updike's 'The Sometime Sportsman greets the Spring' from another member who also kept the humorous side of things going with that and 'The Librarian' from Flanders and Swann. Louis Utermeyer, another American poet, wrote over a hundred books and was awarded a gold medal by the Poetry Society of America. One of his poems was 'Rainbow's End'.

In Members Favourite Poems, Lord Tennyson featured in many, Mary Howitt, William Wordsworth, Walter de la Mare, and Seamus Heaney. Altogether a most enjoyable afternoon.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

In our July meeting we tried experimenting with leaf manipulation and made arrangements using just foliage. It helped us focus on the variety of colour, textures and forms of the leaves and we produced some long lasting arrangements. We also were treated to a slide show from Valerie and Janet who visited the magnificent Flower Festival in Ely Cathedral with in June. The pictures were inspirational.



After a break in August we will meet again on 6th September when we will use covered tubes for individual flowers as part of our arrangements. Please contact me if you think you would like to join the group as we know have space for one or two new members.

PAT LUDLOW

U3A “STROLLER’S” WALKING GROUP

Phew! What a scorcher. A handful of Strollers met at Bourne for July’s stroll. Starting from Mill Drove on the northern outskirts of the town, we set off alongside the A15 before turning left towards Cawthorpe. Walking down the lane towards the village we could feel the heat of the sun on our backs. In the village itself there was some respite from overhanging trees and some Cirrus clouds which possibly took some sting out of it.



Passing through the village we went up a track and veered off to the northern edge of Bourne Wood. As we entered the wood there was some relief and we enjoyed the woodland flora for about half an hour. Leaving the wood we were again at the mercy of the sun, but the heliophiles amongst us were in ecstasy, although most of us were musing was it really only five months ago that we faced biting cold winds as a prelude to the Beast from the East. Returning through Cawthorpe and back to Mill Drove, we set off for lunch at the Sugar Mill.

This month’s stroll will be at Orton Mere in Peterborough, meeting about 10:15 at The Ramblewood Inn at Orton Longueville, which is just off the Oundle Road. Any members of the group wishing to take part should contact me as walk leader, details below.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

Our book this month was one that most of us found unsettling! *Elizabeth is Missing* by Emma Healey is the story of Maud, an elderly lady with dementia who knows there is something wrong in her life but cannot understand what, nor can she make others understand it either.



Maud, the narrator-heroine, has just discovered the remains of a compact mirror she recognises from 70 years ago in her friend's garden. This is a tantalising glimpse of the twin mysteries to come. What happened 70 years ago and why has Maud forgotten it? And what has happened to Maud's friend from the garden, Elizabeth, who has, according to a note in her pocket which says, 'Elizabeth is missing', disappeared. Maud's sister, Sukey went missing, too, long ago. If only Maud could remember but she cannot remember to drink her tea, what chance has she of finding out?

This is a remarkable imagining of a deteriorating mind, the reactions of family and friends, combined with a clever mystery story.

The book led to a fascinating discussion about our own experience of family members or friends with dementia, and our own fears and feelings when we found ourselves wondering, 'What did I come upstairs for?' Humorous, as well as intriguing, we would highly recommend this book as a story – and as an insight into living with dementia.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our writing group was rather depleted for the August meeting, but we still had an entertaining morning listening to various stories and other pieces of writing. Julie wasn't able to be with us but sent the good news that she had got third place in the South Kesteven Writing Competition that she entered in the spring. Well done Julie! More details next month on this.



We still have space for one or two new members. Our group is very informal and we just enjoy writing and listening to each others' efforts, trying to improve as we do so. With autumn approaching and less suitable weather for outdoor pursuits, why not give us a try?!

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP



Our August meeting was at Terry and Liz Noble's home and 'Humour in Music' was the subject. Lots of fun in this programme beginning with 'There's a Hole in my Bucket...' by Harry Belafonte and Odetta Holmes, (no relation to Ann.)

'Figaro Overture' was given different treatment by Take Five and 'Eine Kleine Bricht Moonlicht Nicht Musik' played by McMozart, was something Mozart would not have been pleased about and we think Jim Pringle wasn't either!!! 'The Unbegun Symphony' by P.D.Q. Bach, don't ask.

The Mastersingers sang a very clever version of 'The Highway Code' after which we heard three pieces by Haydn. Two from the 94 (Surprise) Symphony and one from the Quartet No. 30, (The Joke). Rainer Hersch @Windows Wlatz,' was played by the Philharmonia Orchestra, then Mozart's Ein Musilalischer Spa 13 (A Musical Joke,) K522 (Presto). An old favourite followed with Flanders and Swan's 'Horn Concerto', then Beethoven's 'Spring Sonata,' with David Oistrakh (violin) and Lev Oborin, piano.

The morning ended with Hoffnung and 'The Oxford Union', 'Tourist Guide', 'The Bricklayer', 'Tyrolean Landlords' and 'Life begins at 38' - a monologue by a very clever and funny man, who sadly did not reach the age of 38, which was our loss.

What a treat Terry gave us, something a little unusual, but very enjoyable, so thank you Terry, and Liz too, for the refreshments. The next meeting: Jim Pringle's home on September 26th. Please let him know if you will NOT be attending.

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

U3A “CHURCH MICE” GROUP

The Church Mice group's visit in August was to St Andrew's Church in Rippingale.



The church's tower with six bells stands well above the village. Inside there are parallel chancel and nave separated by six arcades unusually running the full length of the church. The tower end of the nave is high with a high arch to the tower. The church dates from the mid 13th century with additions in the 15th and 16th centuries. There is some notable Victorian stained glass, but the main interest inside is a collection of stone effigies dating back to the 13th century. There is a crusader knight, a husband flanked by his two wives and a rare example of an effigy of a deacon with a book open on his chest (top right of pic.). Of peculiar interest is an early 20th century body brush, used to stroke the feet to calm those who were dying!

Twenty five members concluded the interesting visit with a fine tea.

Report; HENRY ROBERTS Photo: LYALL SEALE
Group Leaders: JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

'The Ruddy Duck', Peakirk, is the venue for this month's Lunch. Timing as usual—12.30 for 1.00 pm.



Please let Tony Semple or Michael Griffin know if you will be attending, or add your name to Tony's list at Monday's meeting.