



**The Deepings Third Age Group**  
Reg. Charity No: 1166782  
**NEWSLETTER**  
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Issue No. 195

DECEMBER 2019

**LETS JOIN THE “PACERS” AND PARTY !**



This photo was ‘produced’ by Steve White, see report on page 3.

**Committee Members 2019/2020**

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

**Programme of Speaker.**

16 December **CHRISTMAS MEETING**—Seasonal Talk by Jill Collinge followed as usual by a mince pie and glass of wine before closing the meeting with a few Carols. This meeting will be held at the **Coronation Hall, Halfleet, Market Deeping**, and entry is by **ticket only**. See more details on page 2.

**2020**  
20 January **THE HISTORY OF THE DEEPINGS LIBRARY** by our own member LIZ WATERLAND. Liz will tell us about how the Deepings Library was set up at Wade House, its period as a traditional Council run library, the fight to save it from closure and its current and future successful operation.

17 February **PROUD TO BE A FARMER IN PETERBOROUGH** by Judith Jacobs.

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 is served until 10.20 and meetings begin at 10.30 am.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER**

Caroline Herron Deeping St James.



**Chairman’s Reflections.**

I know that I have said several times this year, but where has this year gone? Christmas is upon us! Mind you, we have had plenty of warning, with the shops starting the run-up at the end of September, but pressure has been increased by the receipt of my first card on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Even the Scouts have joined in, by bringing their last card collection forward to the 6<sup>th</sup> December! When I discovered this I had to make a hasty start on writing my own cards. Now, of course, the whole house has traces of glitter everywhere! How does that happen?



Flags will be flying at half mast over the Library, following the demise of the Apostrophe Protection Society! The founder of the society made a very politically incorrect statement when it folded, saying that “the general public are lazy and ignorant – the barbarians have won” – well, that’s put us all in our place hasn’t it! Just a quick fact for you, that I am sure you will be able to use in a quiz over Christmas – the French and Welsh languages have only ever used the apostrophe to indicate that parts of the word are missing (that’s = that is), and not to indicate possession (as in John’s hat). Do you remember that when influenza was first abbreviated, we used the apostrophe to indicate missing parts of the word, and showed it as ‘flu – why was the missing “in” more important than the missing “enza” I wonder?

Most of us were educated at a time when grammar was taught very thoroughly. You will probably have noticed that this has left me with an obsession about the use of the comma, for which I am frequently criticised! I get very annoyed sometimes when I am writing pieces on the computer, and a squiggly green line appears under a sentence, indicating that the computer considers that I have made a grammatical error. Try though I may, frequently I cannot spot the error, and convince myself that the computer is using different grammatical rules than I was taught!

Another news item that caught my eye this month, must have got Art & Craft groups all over the Country re-assessing their creations, with a view to making their fortunes. A well known artist (who?) has created a “work of art” consisting of a real banana taped to a board with silver tape, and has sold three of them, for £120,000 each. The work is entitled “Comedian” – I think I know who the joke is on! The “artwork” isn’t even unique, although the “artist” claims that the three bananas are all different. I have to admit to being a bit of a Philistine when it comes to modern art – I think a lot of it is a con.

There you go – I have finished my “Victor” rant for this month.



On behalf of myself and your Committee, we wish you Joy and Peace at Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**GARTH**  
Chairman

*Sorry—I did point out it was Christmas and asked our Chairman to write something cheerful but this was what he sent! As a matter of interest (or not!) I was taught you don’t use a comma before ‘and’. However, on a serious note, please be sure you read the two “Important Notices” on page 2. ANN*



and all good wishes for a happy and healthy 2020. Hope you have enjoyed my efforts to keep you informed and entertained throughout this year. Group Leaders please keep your reports coming in! ANN

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### December 2020 Planning!! (No Ann hasn't typed wrong date)

2020 is one of those rare years when the Deeping School Hall will be available to us, as school will have broken up by the date of our meeting, but that might pose a problem, as some of you will be on Grandchild watch, and others away with families. Because of how the calendar falls, our meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, which is much nearer Christmas than usual.

Llyall has two entertainers in his sights, and the stage facilities at the school are more suitable for this purpose than the Coronation Hall. However, the outlay on the meeting will be higher than usual, and so we need to gauge what the attendance is likely to be, and we will ask for a show of hands at this year's December meeting, on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Parking Appeal.

The Committee have received from the Deepings Community Trust, an appeal that we (the U3A), and other organisations, do not use the parking space at the Deepings Community Centre as a general car park. Parking at the Centre is quite restricted, and is intended for the use of people who are actually using the Centre, not for drivers to leave the car there all day, rather than pay £1 at the "Rainbow" long stay park.

Could Group Leaders who organise trips, and indeed all of us, please respect the intended use of the Centre's car parking facility.

**Thank you  
GARTH PERRY  
Chairman**



## GROUP NEWS

Sadly the Bookworms Group is folding. It has been going for many years and Anne Thornthwaite has been the Group leader for most of them. The committee would like to say how much we appreciate all your work in keeping the group running so successfully, and pass on our thanks.

Now sad news and good news, David Pendry is giving up leadership of the Photography Group. Over many years he has helped and taught many U3A members to enjoy photography. The committee would like to thank you for all the time and work you have put in running this group David. The good news is Pete Allen has agreed to be Group Contact for the time being and it is hoped that with the help of the members, the group can build on the success it has been under David's leadership. (He will still be with us as a member and to offer help and advice when it is needed!).

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and keep a lookout in the January Newsletter for news of some new groups.

Happy Christmas to you all.

SUSANNE HOADLEY  
Group Co-ordinator

### U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Thanks to Heather Bumfrey for preparing and showing us how to make a complicated folding card for Christmas or other occasions. Fun to do even with the folds.

Traditionally after the Christmas morning meeting we just have a chat and drink while we discuss some ideas for next year.....it doesn't always work, but worth a try and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December .

LIZ NOBLE  
Group Leader



### U3A CYCLING GROUP



Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> saw the group welcome a new member, David Blessett, for our monthly ride. The seven of us set out from the Bridge at Market Deeping for a 15 mile ride through West Deeping to Ashton and then on to Ufford. The weather was kind to us and the rain held off for all of the ride. The route was planned by Kevin (thank you Kevin) and he assured us that he had a special "Train Evading" system which seemed to work as we did not get stopped at the two level crossings we crossed. (that's a first).

The return from Ufford took us off road for a short time to the Woodcroft level crossing and back to the Bull via Etton and Maxey for refuelling. Whilst the views and colours of the countryside were lovely the main point was the high levels in all of the waterways that we passed. Obviously nowhere near as bad as elsewhere but noticeable. Everyone enjoyed the ride and we look forward to our next ride on the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

JIM TORRANCE  
Group Leader

### U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

#### *My Life in Photography' by Barry Devereux*



Today's talk and display was given by Barry Devereux who is a retired professional photographer who now lives in Crowland. His wife Jackie has visited us twice and is an accomplished Water Colour artist.

Barry was born in New Zealand, left school at 14 and had a variety of occupations until joining the New Zealand Airforce at age 18. He specialised in photography whilst doing his eight year service. He did a variety of genres ranging from reconnaissance, war and military, map making and photographing dignitaries, including our Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. He worked all over the world. He showed us slides of his involvement in industrial projects such as The Severn Bridge, South Wales Steel Works and Caterpillar machinery.

It was a fascinating talk. He demonstrated some of his camera exhibits and also brought examples of his stunning photographs.

Thank you Margaret for arranging the morning for us and to everyone who lent a hand. We are not meeting in December but will be having a light hearted planning meeting in January, with refreshments.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / YVONNE McCULLOCH

### U3A "BOOKWORMS" GROUP

*'The Venetian Game' by Philip Gwynne Jones*

Nathan Sutherland has an office in Venice where he works as a translator, he is also the Honorary British Consul and keeps a bad-tempered cat.



A stranger offered him a large sum of money to look after a small package for a specified time.

Nathan discovers that the package contains a small prayer book illustrated by Bellini. In trying to discover whether it is a masterpiece he is drawn into real danger and threats, meeting two elderly, aristocratic and very wealthy brothers, who hate each other and have played a deadly game of art theft for decades.

The author obviously loves Venice and portrays the ambience of the city well. He introduces us to the boats and canals, the many churches, and even more bars and has written an interesting and pleasant book with an unusual plot. Recommended, a good read.

Report: NANCY TITMAN

*(Thank you for all your reports over the years Nancy, I know many people have enjoyed reading them. Ann)*

### U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

December's visit for Church Mice was to St Michael and All Angels church in Uffington. This was our second visit to this fine church.



The church dates from the end of the 12th century, although there was an Anglo Saxon wooden church on the site before. From the outside the fine bell tower has notable flying buttresses added in the 17th century. Inside the nave has three Norman arches on each side leading to a quite lengthy chancel. Within the chancel there is a fine effigy of a knight opposite which is a monument to the Manners brothers, one of whom was esquire to Queen Mary. There are some fine stained glass windows dating back to Victorian times when the church was restored. The Bertie family has supported the church for the last few centuries and most of the additions have been funded by them. Notable in the nave are the very fine elaborately carved stone corbels and a fine chandelier.

We were entertained by a wide ranging witty talk from Michael Crowe and then provided with a fine tea and cakes.

Report: HENRY ROBERTS

Group Leaders: JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES

*The light on the day of the visit was too poor for photos so my thanks to Terry Noble for providing the above photo from Google. A*

### U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

The pacers met at The Waggon and Horses at Langtoft for our 2019 Christmas lunch. We were 25 in number (walkers and spouses). On offer was a carvery meal with choices of turkey, beef, pork or salmon, the pork and salmon being served to the table.



Lynn knitted us all a small Christmas hat containing a Ferrero Rocher for after our lunch. We all enjoyed the lunch accompanied by lively conversation helped by the odd tittle.

The Pacers would like to wish all U3A members a Merry Christmas and if anyone would like to join us for our 2020 walk programme they would be very welcome.

Next walk is February 5<sup>th</sup> details to follow. (January walk fell on New Years Day).

Group Leaders: LYNN & STEVE WHITE

### U3A HISTORY GROUP



This month's entertainment was provided by quiz 'persons', David, Mary and Sandra. Questions tested the memory, with Mary providing rounds called '1969' and 'answers beginning with B' (referring to the B for Brexit word). David's visual round related to places we have visited and when they took place. Sandra's questions were based on the talks we'd had during the year. The picture round was accompanied by a question about each photograph.

If nothing else was achieved, there was a great deal of laughter! About 40 intrepid quizzers had turned up and they were given chocolates as a reward for being such a good audience.

Lesley was thanked for her excellent speaker finding skills. Liz showed us her interesting new book relating to Church Music. (On sale at £8 for St Guthlac's Church). Barbara took the last orders for the Christmas lunch.

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the History Group in 2019. Just think, our next speaker, Terry McCarthy will be in January 2020!! And the electioneering will be over..... hopefully!!

Have a good Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Report: SANDRA JONES

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

### U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

For our November meeting we had a DVD. After a few technical hitches with the DVD player, our gallant heroes, Garth and Dave, managed to get things going for us and we were entertained to an afternoon at the wonderful 'Hermitage Palace' in St. Petersburg. Pam and I have been lucky in the past to have visited there and seen some of the treasures. We learned from the DVD that it would take six years to see all of the items that are there, and the DVD showed us some of the most interesting ones. We all enjoyed seeing them.



Our December meeting was our Christmas lunch held at the 'Red Lion' in Warmington, Sixteen members enjoyed a lovely Christmas Menu, and each others friendship and good company.

Our next meeting will be at the Catholic Church Hall on January 27th 2020, when we will be doing our planning for the following year. Please bring some good ideas along.

A Happy Christmas to all members of the Group, and to The Chairman and Committee and all members of the U3A and Happy Times for 2020.

Report: IRENE BEEKEN

Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

### U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Our meeting this month saw us heading to The Ruddy Duck in Peakirk for our Christmas lunch. It was the first time for

several years we all managed to attend so it was lovely to have everyone in this friendly group together.



After the meal, fun and games continued thanks to the warm hospitality of Roy and Ann Pettitt and I was so sorry to have missed out on this with another appointment to attend as everyone there tells me it was hugely entertaining.

We don't meet in January so our next meeting will be at David and Margaret Scott's at 10.30 on Thursday 6th February for our famous annual gardening quiz. Photos: DAVID SCOTT

LINDA HILL  
Group Leader

### U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

We got into Christmas mood this month preparing our arrangements for the festive season, and produced a variety of designs using fresh and artificial flowers with lots of evergreen foliage and baubles etc. We had a table ring, lantern design, a sleigh, and other attractive candle and table decorations. We then had a shared finger buffet to complete the year's sessions.



There will be no meeting in January so we meet again on February 6th when for the first time we will just use dried or artificial materials. We wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

PAT LUDLOW  
Group Leader

### U3A TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

Today was our last but one meet for the year (Christmas Eve is actually the last). Personally I like bowling and am forever trying to get a high score, but more than that I am happy to be bowling with a great bunch of people. Think I can say we get on very well together, Like today 11 of us were bowling and if we did not score so high we still had a laugh.



Google illustration

I would also like to say thank you to Chris for all she has done this year not forgetting the her mince pies and e-mails.

We would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. See you in 2020. Report: DAVE LUNN

Group Leaders: DAVE LUNN / CHRIS PATMAN

### U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP



This being the season to be jolly, our group met this month at Janis Hewett's house for our Christmas celebration.

Since we are of the generation brought up with the mantra of duty before pleasure, we began with our discussion of this month's book, *The Survivors* by Kate Furnivall. This is powerful story set in a post-war displaced persons' camp run by the British in Germany. Thrown together in this raw and tightly packed environment are all nations, whether erstwhile enemies or allies, and all generations, including the main characters, Klara and her young daughter, Alicja.

Survivors of the war, but at a price, they are now trying to survive the first years of the peace. Their past is ever present, and it is the story of their past that informs their present, what they must still do to survive and the relationships they make and break.

With two very powerful female leads, a very well crafted plot and well drawn characters, it was agreed that this was an satisfying and, ultimately hopeful read.

Following our discussion, we went on to our celebration meal, the theme of which was Lincolnshire. We all contributed, and dishes ranged from Lincolnshire sausage hotpot, with Lincolnshire vegetable accompaniments, to apple crumble with homemade blackberry sorbet, finishing off with plum bread and selection of wonderful Lincolnshire cheeses. To drink there were Hopshackle beers and elderflower cordials. With homemade crackers, some seasonal readings and a dish of Deeping fudge to take home, we had a feast fit to finish off another great Book Group year!

LIZ WATERLAND  
Group Leader

### U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Our walk was led by Brian Thornthwaite, starting from The Granary, Peterborough. T'was a cold, icy, sunny, crisp day. The car park was somewhat icy and fortunately nobody fell over.



We had been warned that there would be mud in places and were not therefore surprised when we found it. We walked towards the Sailing lake and then round to the railway line and bridge. Onwards towards Milton Ferry bridge, some mud encountered, which caused some walkers to divert to miss it. They found swampy conditions, so not sure what was achieved. Just before the bridge more mud and really no option but to go through it !!!

From there we used the new boardwalk by the river, which was great. (no mud). Then back via the bird hides and paths to the pub. A good lunch was had by all and Brian got his pud.

Thanks to all who have joined us in 2019 and a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year 2020. Next walk from The Bull, Deeping, details to follow.

STEVE HANSON  
Group Leader



### U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

For our Christmas meeting, we enjoyed a festive get together with nibbles and mulled wine. Our thanks to Liz for kindly organising the room and food, and to Peg for once again producing her Christmas quiz. As always not easy, but very entertaining with some amusing answers.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Group leaders: JOSIE SMITH / JEAN BRENNAND

## U3A QUILTING GROUP

We had the pleasure of going to the new fabric shop at Tallington for our December meeting. Carol kindly arranged a taster dabble day for us. Our thanks go to her for her effort.



Although small, the shop is run by two enthusiastic ladies; one being a sewing quarter demonstrator. Both have a wealth of expertise.

Today's session was to make a 10 inch square from scraps. The scraps made will be sewn together by the ladies to make a charity quilt for the Women's Refuge. Everyone enjoyed this session and have requested a return visit sometime in the future.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a productive New Year.

MARGARET GRIFFITHS  
Group Leader

## U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our December meeting was at the home of Ivy and Jim Pringle and Jim's title was 'THE HOFFNUNG FESTIVAL OF MUSIC 1988', all played by the Philharmonia Orchestra.



It was a delightful way to end the year, Jim's programme was very enjoyable and we listened to the humour and brilliance of Gerard Hoffnung, who sadly died aged only 34 years. Both a cartoonist and a musician, he once was a master at Stamford School.

The enjoyment began with four items including an announcement, a Hoffnung Festival Fanfare, composer and conductor Frank Renton of 'Trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music. Then we had 'A Grand, Grand Overture' composed by Malcolm Arnold, conductor: Michael Massey, with various unexpected noises, (vacuum Players,) accompanying. With a Concerto for Hosepipe and Orchestra following, one can begin to see where this was going. 'Quasimodo e Giulietta, Aria then 'Lochinvar' Sir Walter Scott's poem, the Concerto Popolare and 'The Concert Master' continued the theme, taking many liberties.

'Concerto d'amore' for violin and Orchestra led on to Haydn's 'Surprise' Symphony with additional surprises from Donald Swan. Bottle Players-Bamber Gascoigne, Emily Hoffnung, John Lill and Michael Mates, MP. would have surprised Haydn even more! Also featuring Children from the Fleet Primary School. The final offering was the 'Disconcerto for Piano and Orchestra, composed by Wilfred Josephs., A programme that made us all smile and enjoy Gerard Hoffnung's humour and brilliance.

Thank you Jim and Ivy for the tea and Ann for the Chocolate Birthday Cake!  
Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

## U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP

With November's wander around Elton having been cancelled due to a combination of heavy rain and a flooded footpath it was good to meet up again for our December outing. It was a local walk starting and ending at the Deeping Stage. Unfortunately the weather was again dismal but as the walk was mostly on paths we went ahead, suitably wrapped up against the elements, bravely splashing through puddles and squelching along the riverbank. At the halfway point we stopped off for a mince pie and a glass of port.



Returning to The Stage we had the Pensioners' Special— a traditional Christmas Lunch. Memorable!

Next year's programme is in the process of being assembled, with a few months that still require leaders. If you can offer a date please contact Barry and Hilary.

Group Leaders: BARRY & HILARY AKAM

## U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



Sixteen members of the group met at Jane's house to make Christmas arrangements. To add to the Christmas atmosphere, Julie kindly made mince pies to go with the coffee. Despite what seemed like organised chaos, members produced some lovely seasonal arrangements.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch at the Waggon and Horses, Langtoft, on 8th January, 2020, 12.30 for 1 pm.

Report: JANE COOKE  
Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE  
01778 345313 / 01775 631863



## U3A PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

You will have heard (and read in Susanne's report) that Dave Pendry has resigned as leader of this Group, having led it since June 2005. Pete Allen (01778 344788) has agreed to become "GROUP CONTACT" for the time being and several of us are working on ways to keep this group moving forward. The "Christmas" lunch is being held on 15th January when we hope to be in a position to give you further details. Anyone still wishing to attend that lunch should contact Pam Ready (01778 344587) immediately. ANN

## U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



Well I can't believe it, we've had more wet walks this year than for the whole of my time in the walking group and that's some 14 years!!! However, not to be down-hearted, for our final walk and lunch of the year, David Scott and myself led 18 members on a circular walk on a wet December Polling day from Market Deeping centre along the Stamford Road to the Granary before taking a left turn along the river bank to West Deeping. From here it was a quick hop over the first hump backed bridge before turning left once again over the meadow until Maxey Mill was reached. Plenty of water about at this junction with all the spin-offs from the main river. From here we deviated directly across the road taking in the Maxey Lakes, but only if one dared to look up instead of slipping over, before continuing our walk down Mill Lane, over the A15 and back down the old Maxey Road to come out on Lincoln Road from where it was just a short stroll back to the Town Centre for the warmth, dryness and pleasant lunch provided by The Bull. Many thanks to Dave for doing the bulk of the work on this walk.

Today's walk brings to a conclusion another successful year of walking across many varied locations. So, once again many thanks to you all for your kind support throughout the year. You should all have received a copy of the 2020 programme with the last e-mail. Best wishes to you all for the festive season and we look forward to seeing you again on our next walk as shown below.

For our first walk of 2020 on 9 January, Brian Littler will lead us on a walk around the Thurlby area commencing from The Sugar Mill, Milestone Road, Bourne PE10 0ET. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Brian by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible.

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES/DAVIDSCOTT