



Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 174

FEBRUARY 2018

AND WE'VE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE COLD...



... but we have warm homes, not so this poor fellow who probably has to "hide his head under his wing, poor thing". To learn more about our wild life and perhaps how to help them, see details of the talk sponsored by our Natural History Group on page 2. Thanks to DAVE PENDRY for the photograph.

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**
- 19 February **PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL** Past, Present and Future by Stuart Orme.
- 19 March **BURGHLEY HOUSE ESTATE** by David Pennell
- 16 April **BOMBER COMMAND AND THE INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE** by Paul Robinson.

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

Pat Lamonte, Peterborough; Helen Perkins Maxey; Malcolm and Jill Holley, Sue and Roy Stephenson, Market Deeping and Val and Brian Barber, Deeping St James



CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS



I knew that our newsletter was well regarded in journalistic circles, but I didn't expect the rant about the pervasive qualities of glitter to spark off a reaction in the National Press! The subject was taken up in a full page article in the Daily Mail, warning that it is polluting the environment, as well as harming our eyes and skin, and causing problems around the world. The problem is that it is made of a layer of coloured plastic bonded to a layer of aluminium to form a sheet, which is then cut into tiny shapes. It is not recyclable, as the layers cannot be separated, and they clog the recycling machinery, and caused truck loads of recycling to be rejected, and thrown into landfill.

Glitter has been detected in the seas and marine life, and even tap water. It can therefore be ingested in food, and can be breathed into the lower parts of our lungs. Another problem is that it has sharp edges, and has caused serious damage not only in lungs, but when rubbed or blown into eyes, which is why cosmetic grade glitter has the edges rounded off! So there you are, glitter is yet another man-made threat to our own, and our planet's, wellbeing – and we just thought it was harmless, if annoying, bling!

That's enough doom and gloom. The darkness was lifted for me by the report of yet another group of worthy "experts", who had spent years of time and effort, investigating some obscure subject, probably at the expense, directly or indirectly, of us taxpayers! This particular group had been investigating how male woodpeckers attracted the female of the species. It turned out that the faster and louder that the male birds could peck and tap on the trees, the more attracted were the females. But there was a drawback, as it seems that the faster and heavier the impact with the trees, the more damage these male woodpeckers were doing to their brain! As a result, their brains were so addled by the repeated impact, that when they attracted a female, they couldn't remember why they had wanted to attract them in the first place!

January and February are such dull, uninteresting months, but there are signs of better things to come. The shops are bathed in vibrant colours, with acres of shelf space given over to Valentine's Day merchandise and Easter Eggs (see – Baa Humbug sentiments aren't just for Christmas!). But Mother Nature is coming to our rescue. Walking on Thursday it was good to see the snowdrops and daffodils bursting into life, to join the primroses and primulas that don't seem to have had a rest this winter. There was evidence too that the bluebells were not going to be far behind – Spring is on the way!

Best wishes
Garth
Chairman

GROUP NEWS

Keep fit this summer with a summer only Lawn Bowls group. Please see the sign up sheet at the next meeting, or give me a call or email if you can't get to the meeting.



Spanish conversation or indeed any other language. If you are interested in starting a new group, see the sign up sheet at the next meeting.

SUSANNE HOADLEY
Groups co-ordinator

OPEN MEETING

Following the success of their Open Meeting featuring a talk about **Hedgehogs** last March, our **Natural History Group** are this year sponsoring an illustrated talk on **Farming and Wildlife** by Nicholas Watts from Vine House Farm, Deeping St Nicholas.



Nicholas Watts has always been interested in wildlife and is known nationally for his work. Vine House Farm in Deeping Fen is alive with wildlife, especially farmland birds. There are many conservation measures which he has put in place that has enabled some of these bird species to increase. Thirty years ago he had stopped filling in dykes as he realised that they were habitats for wildlife. "I like to see a lot of birds about and so I try and run our farm so that

we do have a lot of birds about; it makes it a lot more of an enjoyable place to be for me and my family." He was made an MBE for his services to farming and conservation in Lincolnshire.

This meeting (which is open to anyone interested, whether a member of the U3A or not) will be held on **22nd February at the Priory Hall at 10.00 am. Tickets are £5 a ticket** including light refreshments with proceeds going to local wildlife groups and the work Nicholas does for conservation.

Further information from Jo Astle

U3A 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP

January report:

Ann welcomed 31 members, including one new member, to the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday 13th of January for our first meeting of 2018. She thanked Linda and Shirley for organising a most successful and enjoyable Christmas Lunch at Toft House Hotel in December. She also thanked Anne Jones for organising the trip to Downtown in December which everyone enjoyed. She thanked Anita in advance for organising a lunch at the Boundary for the 24th January. We discussed visits and outings for the next few months – further details to follow.



February report:

Ann welcomed 27 members to the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday, 10 February. She thanked Anita for organising the fish and chip lunch at the Boundary which everyone enjoyed.

Ann is organising a meal at Thai on the Square for April – further details next meeting which will be on March 10th.

Report: BARBARA MCNICOL

Group Leaders: ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Our walk started from Milton Golf Club on a cold, bright and frosty morning. This was led by Lesley Evans, assisted by myself. There was plenty of mud, but the walk was enjoyable. We went across several fields (footpaths) towards Ailsworth, down the road heading for the river.



Knowing from the reece that the river was flooded and impassable, we diverted towards Castor by way of an old Roman site. Onwards then to the railway and Loves Hill and finally back to base for a really good lunch. The walk was 5.9 miles.

Our next walk will be from the Ruddy Duck at Peakirk and will be led by Yvonne and Murdoch.

STEVE HANSON

Group Leader 01778 344234 / 07591162196

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The February Sunday Lunch will be on the 25th February at Toft Country House Hotel. As usual, if you would like to attend this lunch, please let Tony Semple or Michael Griffith know. Alternatively add your name to Tony's list at the monthly meeting on Monday.



U3A CYCLING GROUP



Our first ride of 2018 was on a cold, windy and sunny day. From Deeping we travelled to Glington and over the road bridge to Werrington. After finding our way through Werrington Centre we continued to Newborough and part of the Green Wheel route along The Wash to Peakirk. Leaving Peakirk we cycled to Northborough for lunch. The route was about 15 miles.

Anyone with a roadworthy cycle is welcome to join us for our February ride on Friday 16th.

FRED SKIPPER

Group Leader

U3A HISTORY GROUP

A big audience eagerly awaited another talk by Stuart Orme at our monthly meeting and we were certainly not disappointed.



As in previous talks, Stuart brought his usual enthusiasm and knowledge to tell us about Flag Fen in Peterborough and Must Farm in Whittlesey. These linked sites are probably the most significant Bronze Age settlements in Northern Europe. Discovered at the Must Farm site is a lakeside village of seven roundhouses on stilts built around 1000-800 BC. These were destroyed by fire within a year of construction.

A reminder : Please bring ideas of your memories of a significant piece of music from the 40's and 50's to the February meeting in preparation for September's meeting. Report: MARY BURTON

Following Stuart Orme's talk a member of the History Group sent us the following web site address which refers to evening lectures starting on 22 February for six weeks :<https://vivacity.org/what/son/heritage/flag-fen-archaeology-lectures/>

Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE GROUP

Following a taxing and entertaining quiz at our January meeting, February will find us discussing the challenges of February gardening and looking forward to March and getting the garden in order for the spring.



At our March meeting member Vicki Matthews will be telling us about her life as a botanist, a meeting we are all very much looking forward to and none of us will want to miss! New members are always welcome but please have a word with either of the group leaders before turning up.

Group Leaders PAM PENDRY / JOHN MARSH

U3A LEARN PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

For those who receive our Newsletter by email, a reminder that the Deepings Camera Group Exhibition is at the Community Centre, Douglas Road this weekend—Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th February. Free admission.



Deepings U3A Photography Group will meet on Wednesday, 21st February, 2.30 p.m. at RC Church. Dave Pendry talking about "Before Digital". New Group Leader still needed! ANN

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



On a cloudy and cool morning Garth Perry led 21 walkers on another new walk for the group. Commencing from the Whichcote Arms at Osbournby the walk left the village down West Street and headed towards the small village of Dembleby. Leaving this village we then crossed the A52 and up the main hill on the walk, the top of which provided very good views across this area of Lincolnshire. Continuing onwards we then reached the edge of Newton village followed by Newton Gorse before re-crossing the A52 and completing the circular walk back to the Whichcote Arms for a very nice hot meal. Many thanks to Garth for organising the walk and arranging the lunch.

The next walk on 8 March will be led by Steve Hanson and will around the Little Bytham area commencing from The Willoughby Arms, Station Road, Little Bytham NG33 4RA. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone Steve by the Tuesday evening preceding the walk, if possible, and also indicating whether you will be staying for lunch. Photo: DAVID SCOTT

GODFREY PARKES
Group Leader

U3A "OVER THE GARDEN WALL" GARDENING GROUP

Our February meeting was held at Waterside Garden Centre. It was a well attended meeting. The 2018 programme was given out and details of visits finalised. We have a busy year ahead with many nice gardening venues on the agenda. We welcomed three new members. My thanks go to those who agreed to be responsible for planned visits. Your help is invaluable.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 27th at Cliff and Joan's NGS Spring garden at 21 Chapel Street, Hackney PE19 0UL. We will meet there at 10.30 am. Garden entry £3.00. Tea/coffee with biscuits £2.00. Remember to wrap up warm!

Group leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS/JOSIE SMITH

U3A POETS AND THEIR POETRY GROUP

Our letter for this month was 'P' and the members all found a very good selection of Poems to choose from, we had, Kathryn Pierpoint, Sheena Pugh, Alexander Pope, Marge Piercy, Edgar Allan Poe, Boris Pasternak, amongst them. Our thanks go to Anne for hosting this meeting and making us so welcome.



Next month we have the letter 'Q' and all members will be notified by e-mail regarding when and where we meet for that meeting.

We were all very pleased to hear of Cathryn's recovery from her spell in hospital, and wish her good progress.

IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

We tackled some folding cards in the form of boxes from Heather (thank you) in January and a week later enjoyed our belated Christmas lunch. More folding cards this month, courtesy of Barbara Baylis, thank you to her. Look forward to seeing you all on 19 February 2018, 2pm.



LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

On a very cold February morning we all met at Pam's home.



Pam had compiled a film show of photos she had taken of flowers and plants during visits to Australia, New Zealand, Italy etc. as well as England and some members gardens.

We were transported to warmer days and hopefully our gardens will soon be looking a bit more colourful. This was a lovely meeting with excellent photography and was really enjoyed by everyone.

Report JEAN FOSTER
Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Nine of the group gathered at Deeping Lakes on a beautiful bright sunny morning. Very welcome after all the high winds and rain lately.

We enjoyed a gentle stroll through the reserve stopping at the main bird hide, hoping for a glimpse of the Long Eared Owls and the elusive Scaup. Joy spotted the Scaup but it stayed a long way off. Sadly no Owls to be seen. We did see more than forty bird species though. So it was worth the trip.

Report: NORAH LITTLER Photo: JO ASTLE
Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

It has been a quiet start to the year, as we met for a meal in January, so it will be good to get back in harness, and consider some science. And what better way to start the year, than to sit back and be treated to one of Keith Townsend's superb presentations, this time on "Seasonal Skies".



Due to the very good response to this event, our normal venue is not big enough, so we will be meeting in the Lionel Beck room at the Community Centre, at 2pm on Tuesday 20th February.

Group Leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT

U3A CRAFT GROUP 3

Due to illness, only a few members had completed their patchwork bags, which had given them a few problems.

Next month we will be making knitted Easter Chicks.

ANITA SETCHFIELD
Group Leader



U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Twelve members met at David and Margaret's for our first 2018 meeting. It was a bright and sunny but very cold day.

After the normal new year banter the annual program was finalised and the annual Quiz carried out. The questions were supposedly easy – not so. But created some usual repartee.

We had a brief circuit of the garden; it was still very cold and windy. There was a good selection of spring colour about including snowdrops, hellebores, crocus, pansies and dwarf iris.

Report and photograph: DAVID SCOTT
Group Leader: LINDA HILL

(Notice the wine in the photograph? I'm wondering if this is how David sees Margaret and himself in a few years time! A)

U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

A gloriously sunny and dry but cold morning greeted the Pacers on our walk around Burghley Park and Stamford led by John Smith. Fifteen of us set off from Wetherspoons across The Meadows up towards the Bottle Lodges and the walk continued on mainly hard surfaces and short grass to the Lion Bridge and on to Burghley House, returning along Queen Elizabeth's Avenue where we came across a small group undergoing a boot camp exercise. We also saw the deer huddled together and a red kite.



Exiting the Park at Barnack Road we crossed over the Albert Bridge, up to Broad Street and then through All Saints Churchyard where a new sundial informs us that Stamford is 14 minutes in time west of the Greenwich Meridian which has to be added to the sundial reading to get the correct time. We completed the walk along St Peters Street and the steep Kings Mill Road where those staying for lunch returned to Wetherspoons.

Report: JOHN SMITH

Group Leaders: STEVE AND LYN WHITE

U3A FILM GROUP

The next Film Group will meet on Wednesday 28th February, 2 - 4 pm, at the new venue, the Green School, Market Deeping.



The DVD is "The Way We Were" a timeless, classic romance starring Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand. They live through an era of foreign war and McCarthyism as America prospers throughout many challenges. Hope to see you there!

MAUREEN WHITTLE / RITA BROWN

U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP



Our Group met for the first time this year at the beginning of February, with a snowdrop theme. This needed imagination as they cannot be put into Oasis as they are too delicate. It was great to see this first sign of Spring used in so many ways. Most of us managed to do a second arrangement of our choice as there was time.

Snowdrops are now carpeting many woodland areas and gardens and look magnificent in their natural environment. Snowdrop week at Easton Walled Gardens is 17th to 25th February 11am to 4pm, or Anglesey Abbey and are both well worth visiting, (charges apply), not forgetting Uffington church yard near Stamford. Spring is on the way.

The next meeting is on 1st March when we plan to use spring flowers but also an upright piece of natural material such as a piece of wood, twigs or bark giving a vertical emphasis. It should ideally be displayed on a base board if possible.

PAT LUDLOW
Group Leader

U3A MONDAY READING GROUP



This month there was no Library book for us to discuss, because of the Christmas break, and so we had a very interesting morning talking about the books we had borrowed from each other instead.

There was a broad selection of authors, genres and opinions, which made for a varied morning and a difficult one to sum up as there are thirteen in the group and so thirteen different books!

The biggest genre was crime, as might be expected as, according to the library service, it is the most popular type of book in the Deepings, and it was interesting to see how many variations on the 'whodunit' there were. (One or two were first novels by the particular author so the consideration was to decide if we would read their next one.) However, there was a wide range of other books, from a biography of Beethoven to two novels based around racial problems. These were *Cry the Beloved County* (South Africa during apartheid) and *Go Set a Watchman* (the previously written but later published prequel to *To Kill a Mocking Bird*) and they inspired some interesting comparisons.

An enjoyable and varied morning with much to talk about!

Next month we will have our regular set of books from the Library again and so we will be discussing *Walking Home* by Simon Armitage. We will meet on 12th March at 10.00 in the library as usual.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please try to remember to send all reports for inclusion in the Newsletter to deepingsu3anews@gmail.com The address without the "s" on deeping will eventually be closed and your report could be lost. ANN

U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP



Our first stroll of the year was greeted by a bright sunny morning with hardly a cloud to speak of in the sky. Starting from the Royal Oak at Duddington just off the Stamford to Corby road, 11 Strollers set off through the village towards the church, where some of the group ventured inside.

As we left the village we stopped at the point where the former A47 crossed the River Welland, close to the old village mill. This was a convenient point for a group photograph. This bridge marked the boundary of Northamptonshire and Rutland and we continued our way towards the quiet village of Tixover.

As we passed through this small village we noted a metal sign attached to a telegraph pole, with 'Church Key' inscribed on it. This sign pointed towards a house nearby. We continued towards the church which is about half a mile from the village, with one member of the group suggesting this was presumably a 'plague' village.

Our stroll today was a linear walk so we tracked back to Duddington where we stopped at the Royal Oak for lunch. As we ate our lunch, we wondered what had happened to the sky which now had cloud cover, so we thought that lady luck had joined us this morning.

Our next stroll will be on Monday 26 February when we will take in Glington and the northern part of Werrington, starting from the Blue Bell at Glington. Any member of the group wishing to take part should contact the walk leaders, Anne and John Burton. .

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A QUILTING GROUP

This month we cut out and made a scizzors case under the guidance of our tutor Pauline. Whilst undertaking this task we learned one of the many basic techniques needed to make many projects that are on the agenda in the near future.



Pauline then went on to demonstrated the measuring, cutting out and sewing techniques for making a Grommet Bag. The majority of the group will be making one over the next few sessions. Our next meeting: Tuesday 13th March. 10am-1pm Deeping Community Centre.

Group leader: **MARGARET GRIFFITHS**

CLASSIC AND KIT CAR GROUP

Learn, Laugh and Live! For our first meeting of 2018 we met for coffee, refreshments and a Quiz in the Barn Garden Centre Restaurant near Werrington. Many thanks to Carol for compiling our motoring brain teaser and congratulations to the 'Famous Five' table, the team with the highest score.



On Wednesday 28th February 11.30am in a new venue, Peterborough Milton Golf Club, we'll be outlining our programme for the year. Please contact me if you'd like more information.

JOHN BURTON
Group Leader

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

At our February meeting, members brought along old school reports and memorabilia from their schooldays. We went on to talk about "Our Ancestors and Primary Education".



When Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 education was still mainly for the privileged. Robert Raikes started a system of education based in Churches, the Sunday School and by 1831 most children went to lessons in this way. By 1880 the law said that all children aged 5 - 10 must go to primary school so every child would receive at least a basic education. Classes very often comprised of one room with as many as 100 pupils and one teacher.

The 1944 Education Act guaranteed free education for every child in England and Wales. It also divided schools into primaries and secondaries and aimed to raise the school leaving age to 15 and as soon possible to 16.

Many thanks to Jean, Ann and Alex for an interesting meeting.

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

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

Five members of Church Mice used Shrove Tuesday to visit St Stephen's church in the quiet village of Etton.



With only 50 houses and a population just over 100 the village has a fine 13th century church. Outside the porch a child's coffin and an old font, planted with flowers, welcome visitors. A lozenge on the door post might very well have held a relic in the past. Looking up to the steeple one can see an unusual fertility symbol of a woman on her back.

With a broad base and an elongated chancel the inside of the church is light and simply furnished. Some medieval coffins are on the north wall and some attractive Victorian tiles in the chancel. Outside again there are unusually some coffins lids on top of the cemetery wall, and the outline of a door, originally leading to a chancel, now demolished, on the north wall. There is also a Devil's Door, reputedly left open at baptisms for the devil to leave.

After a very interesting talk by the churchwarden, Anne Curwen, members enjoyed an excellent tea. Report: **HENRY ROBERTS**

Group Leaders: **JIM PRINGLE / SANDRA JONES**

U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



The weather was cold and dull with a stiff wind blowing across the fens but undaunted, the intrepid Wanderers, ably led by Geoff Fitzjohn and Steve Fisk, set off on their February walk. The route took us from Paradise Lane in Northborough along the Maxey Cut to the river Welland. From there we followed the muddy path up the south bank of the Welland to Deeping Gate, pausing only to feed a couple of frisky horses. Then back to the Bluebell in Glington and an excellent and welcome lunch.

The March walk will be in Spalding: details in due course.

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Brief but succinct. (Anne Jones' words)

'ASPECTS of LOVE' was Terry Noble's programme today - well it is Valentine's Day and it was a lovely selection.

Beginning with the Boston Pops Orchestra, we heard 'Moonlight Serenade' and 'In The Mood'. Mozart followed with two operatic arias, 'La ci darem la mano' from Don Giovanni, then 'Papageno/ Papagena' from the Magic Flute, a tale about a gentleman bird catcher meeting a female bird catcher, proving that there is nothing new under the sun as these were possibly the first 'Tweeters!'

Stephen Grappelli played two love songs. Then Five Live, (some of the former Swingle Singers) sang 'My Funny Valentine' of course and Strauss and Harry Connick Jr. sang 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' followed by 'I only Have Eyes For You'.

Stabat Mater Doloros/Cujus Anime also performed two pieces, then Elgar's 'Salut d'Amour' (Op.12) was played by Nigel Kennedy. The morning ended with 'Scheherazade' by Rimsky Korsakov. Lovely music for a cold day. Thanks to Liz and Terry for their hospitality. Next meeting at Ann Holmes' home.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE/JIM PRINGLE



U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

This month we were presented with the challenge of Peruvian food and found out that Peruvian gastronomy is widely regarded by food lovers of the world. Peruvian staples such as beans, quinoa and potatoes have fused with culinary influences from all over the world. Potatoes originated in Peru of which they have 4000 varieties.



We usually find a recipe, cook it and bring it along to our shared lunch. Amazingly this usually ends up with a suitable selection of courses. But not this time! We had two starters, three soups and no dessert! However, this led to discussion comparing the three soups especially as two of them had the same name.

We had an intricately assembled starter which included avocado, much used in Peru. Empanadas of ham and cheese, spiced chicken legs with green sauce (unusual and delicious), tacu tacu and potatoes in bright yellow Huanciana sauce. We all overcame the obstacle of not having ingredients native to Peru, such as Aji Amarillo, the Peruvian yellow chilli, and found suitable substitutes. The eight of us all agreed the flavours were a bit different and delicious.

Report: SHEILA MCGURK

Group Leader KATHLEEN TANNER



This box relates to nothing. It was taken by David Scott during Monday's walk and I was to include it somewhere. It is being used as a village library. A.



These two beautiful photographs of the Welland at Deeping were provided by Dave Pendry in response to my phone call asking for a 'frosty' picture for the front page. As you will have seen, I chose his Heron but unusually I have some space left this month so am able to use these as well. Although not taken this winter, I thought you would like to see them. Likewise the Snowdrop photographs below, taken by David Scott, and only arrived in the nick of time for me to include them.

