



Deeping St. James

The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Issue No. 183

NOVEMBER 2018

AUTUMN JEWELS IN DOLE WOOD



Two specimens of the berries and fungi seen by the Natural History Group during their morning in Dole Wood earlier this month. For more detail see report on page. Photos: JO ASTLE

Committee Members 2018/2019

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

Programme of Speakers

2018

19 November **HAMBLETON BAKERY** Robert Hill will talk about Hambleton Bakery which produces top quality artisan bread.

17 December **“CHRISTMAS CRACKERS”** - a seasonal talk (although probably not quite what you might expect) with mince pies and wine during the interval and ending with music, jokes and carols. **Venue: CORONATION HALL, MARKET DEEPING.** Entry by **ticket only (£1), still available at the November meeting.**

2019

21 January **BEES AND BEEKEEPING** by Sue Jakeman

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.

U3A DIARIES 2019.



First batch sold out. Last Orders, Ladies and Gentlemen! (Phone now to avoid disappointment) Following some requests, I have relented and re-ordered – so I have in my possession 20 pristine U3A Diaries. I am reserving five of these which have been ordered, leaving 15 available.

If you would like to have “probably the best diary in the world”, please telephone me or take your chance at the next U3A meeting. **JUNE WHEATCROFT.**

Chairman’s Reflections



Haven’t we had some lovely weather over the past month? In particular, the clear blue skies have been beautiful, and have greatly enhanced the late Autumn leaf colour. Having said that, I seem to have managed to get soaking wet in sudden showers on several occasions, when I have been working outdoors, well away from any shelter!

It isn’t just me I’m sure; I think it is “an age thing”, but a lot of people I talk to seem to share the feeling that some days there is a malevolent force that tries to make tasks as difficult as possible. Take this week. I decided that at long last I would try and control the



Pyracantha that I had planted outside the back wall many years ago. It was intended to stop anyone climbing the back wall, but it has now taken over the back wall, and part of the public green space behind it! Suitably protected against the chill of the morning, and the forthcoming encounter with the spikey shrubs, I headed for the back gate. This, of course, took three times as long as it should have, because of another “age thing”; it was

necessary on the way to tie up an escaping Clematis, remove some weeds spotted hiding behind another shrub, and clean and refill the bird bath! When I reached the gate, and undid the lock and bolts, I discovered that the wood had swelled, and the gate was impossible to open. The only way to tackle this, I decided, was to shoulder-charge the gate from the other side. With much grumbling I carried a large tool-bag out of the front door, up the street, and around behind the back wall, only to find that I couldn’t even see the back gate. Risking life and limb, I cut a corridor through the Pyracantha to reveal the gate.

There then followed an embarrassing quarter of an hour, when the passing dog walkers were treated to the spectacle of an elderly banshee warrior plunging into the undergrowth at high speed, then hearing a loud thump accompanied by equally loud expressions of pain and frustration (a polite term for swearing!). When the gate yielded, it was taken off its hinges (more swearing at the rusty screws), so that about 6mm could be sawn off the edge. This proved very hard work, so more time was added, in order to find in the garage the electric saw that I knew I had purchased 20-odd years ago, never took out of the packaging, and not seen since! When found, it did a very good job, but just as I adjusted the support, to do the last couple of inches, the rotted joints gave way, and the bottom bar of the gate fell off! I do hope that nobody was in earshot!

I did eventually rebuild and re-hang the gate, and relocate the lock and bolts, finishing off in the dark, by the eerie light of a torch – good job it wasn’t Halloween, or the kids next door would have been spooked! Nothing seems to go smoothly these days! The Pyracantha still smothers the back wall, but I will tackle that when the bruising on my shoulder clears up.

Garth
Chairman

You are not alone Garth, you have just joined what I suspect is a Club with a very large membership. The advice I am constantly being given by a good friend when everything seems to go wrong is “keep calm”! Ann

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Gloria McClelland and rejoinder John Scholfield, Market Deeping, and Ruth Griffiths, Deeping St James



U3A CYCLING GROUP



October 19th saw a record number of seven cyclists set off from Market Deeping Bridge heading North to Langtoft where we were joined by an eighth member. Except for a headwind when travelling West on exposed roads, the weather was perfect for cycling. Turning left took us on through Greatford, Braceborough and Wilsford. Then across King Street and the A15 at Baston past the gravel pits and finally back to The Stage at Market Deeping for a well-earned lunch. A total of 16 miles was covered.

Thanks must go to Michael Peace for organising such an interesting and varied route as well as the lunch venue.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leader: JIM TORRANCE

U3A HISTORY GROUP

Our friend, Stephen Perry, returned with another of his fascinating and entertaining presentations "The Frederick Frank Story". Of course many members of the group remember the Franks butcher shops in Peterborough. This particular talk emerged from Stephen's research for a "Who Do You Think You Are" presentation in Peterborough which turned into a huge reunion for the family itself.



The story started with Frederick Frank's journey from Germany to England in 1871 at the age of only 14, there followed his marriage to Rose and the establishment of a number of successful shops. In 1914 it turned sour with "patriotic" riots in many parts of the country – the Franks' shop was attacked on August 6th, later their home too. Frederick was interned in an "aliens" camp in York in October 1914. Ironically his son Frank Charles would serve in the Middlesex Regiment!

There followed more details of the family rebuilding their business, including George William being sent on a train to Wisbech with a pig to start up a business. We have already booked Stephen for next year.

Our talk next month sees the return of Maureen James who will give a talk entitled "Christmas Customs and Folklore".

Report: ELIZABETH PARKINSON
Group Leaders: SANDRA JONES / ELIZABETH PARKINSON

U3A GARDENING 4 PETALS AND PRODUCE GROUP

Our October meeting was both enjoyable and educational as we considered the characteristics, culinary values, medicinal attributes and horticultural properties of a number of herbs including basil, borage, and comfrey. We now all have a better idea of how best to use our herbs and what to avoid!



Our next meeting is scheduled for 20th November when we will be putting together an interesting and exciting programme for 2019. There are already some very tempting ideas on the table so watch this space for future announcements. Visitors to the group are always welcome if you spot anything particular that takes your fancy!

Report JOHN MARSH
Group Leaders: PAM PENDRY / JOHN MARSH

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



On Thursday 25th October eight members of the Natural History Group were blessed with a warm, sunny morning for our visit to Dole Wood. Most of us, like other locals, have visited in springtime to see the wealth of bluebells but our quest this time was for fungi. The weather had been just too good however and there weren't enough damp spots for the fungi to have flourished yet, but we still spotted four varieties including bracket fungus and some rather fine Magpie Inkcap fungi. By way of compensation there were splendid colourful displays of fruits and berries including crab apple, sloe, hawthorn, rowan and rose hips and some vibrant spindle berries.

Norah was able to give us an update on the work to return the open meadow to woodland and show how successfully the oak trees have self-seeded. Birds were few and far between until a flock of fieldfare arrived, making their way down from cold northern climes for the winter. Our thanks go to Peter Edwards for organising such an enjoyable visit.

Our next meeting on November 22nd will be at Willow Tree Fen and will be led by Joy Longmuir. If you would like to join us for this walk at this local fenland reserve please contact -

Group Leaders: JO ASTLE / MARGARET BEARDSHAW

U3A "OVER THE GARDEN WALL" GROUP

We held a provisional planning meeting for 2019 this month at Waterside Garden Centre. This was well attended and it was nice to see interest from the members regarding suggestions for the forthcoming programme. There is no meeting in November.



Our next meeting is a Christmas Afternoon tea. This will be held at Waterside Garden Centre on Tuesday 18th December at 2.30 pm. We would like to invite members from other garden groups to join us. The cost is £9.99 and includes sandwiches, scone with cream and other cakes, together with tea or coffee.

If you have not booked your place please confirm with me by the end of November as numbers need to be notified.

Group leaders: MARGARET GRIFFITHS / JOSIE SMITH

U3A CRAFT GROUP 3

With Christmas coming we decided on a seasonal theme for this month, making Christmas trees by covering polystyrene cones with folded ribbon. Next month we will be planning next year's programme followed by lunch at Lilli's.



ANITA SETCHFIELD
Group Leader

U3A “BOOKWORMS” READING GROUP

“The Snow Child” by Eowyn Ivey

In the 1920’s, a middle-aged couple, Jack and Mabel still haunted by the loss of a child many years ago, move to Alaska to seek a new way of life. It is very tough physical labour for Jack and a lonely isolated life for Mabel but they are determined to succeed. Without the help of a neighbouring family and a mysterious visitor, they could not have pulled through but after many tribulations their dreams do come true, though not as they had expected.



This “fairy tale” is a brilliant first novel by the author, who is herself Alaskan, so she describes the awesome beauty of forests, mountains and snow with authority. Influenced by all fairy tales, she combines the natural and the supernatural perfectly. A different and enchanting book. Highly recommended.

Next meeting is at Hazel’s at 2pm on Monday, 26th November.

Report: NANCY TITMAN
Group Leader: ANN THORNTHWAITE

U3A ANTIQUES GROUP

For our October meeting two of our members, Pat and Josie, brought along quizzes for the afternoon. Josie was testing us with all questions relating to antiques etc, to which we all should have known the right answers! Some of us were good, some not so good, but Josie said we were all good and produced some little treats for us.



Pat then produced her box of Antique items for us to guess what they were and their use. Some of them looked like items of torture, others intriguing and difficult to identify. Thanks to both Pat and Josie we spent an interesting and amusing afternoon.

Our next meeting is on November 26th when we will be having a DVD with Eric Knowles on Mackintosh House.

Report IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leaders: IRENE BEEKEN / PAM PENDRY

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our October meeting was at Maurice's home and he gave us a very varied programme which contained something for everyone.



Beginning with a mystery item (guess who?) we heard 'String of Pearls'. The mystery solved, proved to be the Geoff Love orchestra. No one got it right! Louis Armstrong gave us 'What a Wonderful World' and Frankie Laine sang 'Georgia on my Mind'. A very different version of 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' came from Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, then Louis again with Duke Ellington and 'It Don't Mean a Thing'. Count Basie played 'Lady Be Good,'

We heard from an early Doris Day, then Humphrey Lyttelton, Diana Krall and then going way back - Paul Whiteman's Orchestra and 'Darktown Strutters Ball'. Count Basie and 'Jumping at the Woodside', Gerry Mulligan with 'All The Things You Are' the Modern Jazz Quartet with another version of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', Neal Hefti and 'Girl Talk'; 'I Wish I Knew' from the Billy Taylor Trio and 'Jazz Me Blues', Frank Teschemacher's Chigagoans! What a mouth full! Irving Fazola and Orchestra played 'Sweet Lorraine' followed by Ben Webster and 'Willow Weep For Me' then Shakatak with their dedication to Billie Holiday, 'Lady'. 'Swing House' from Stan Kenton, 'I Got Rhythm' the Hamburg Radio Dance Orchestra', Bobby Troup and 'Route 66'; Howard McGhee gave us 'Shades of Blue', Quincy Jones played 'Cast Your Fate to the Wind' and Night at the Palladium, fame playing 'Just You, Just Me,' with his quartet and 'Skin Deep' with Phil Seaman.

So much music to enjoy in one morning and all so enjoyable. Thank you Maurice. Next meeting at Peter Gray's home on 21st November.

Report: ANNE JONES
Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

U3A THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



For our November walk Geoff Fitzjohn took 27 walkers on a beautiful mild and sunny November day to the village of Nassington and The Black Horse pub. We headed off via the local cricket club field and took in parts of the village before arriving in open countryside giving widespread views over the surrounding area and before reaching the pleasant surroundings of Yarwell Lock (photo—David Scott), passing a field with several young alpacas romping about. The country park around the lock appears to get bigger every time we venture out to this area with both static and mobile homes and the renovation of Yarwell Mill. From here we continued through open fields using the Nene Way before arriving back at the Black Horse for a very good lunch. The walk was made more interesting by Geoff’s little snippets concerning the area and its residents from his childhood memories. Many thanks to Geoff for leading this walk and organising the lunch.

The next and final walk for the year on 13 December will be led by myself and David Scott and will be in the Carr Dyke, Thurlby and Bourne areas commencing from The Sugar Mill, Milestone Road, Bourne, Lincs. PE10 0ET. If you would like to attend this walk, could you please phone myself 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.

Group Leaders: GODFREY PARKES / DAVID SCOTT

U3A “WEEKENDERS” GROUP

Ann welcomed 33 members to the Oddfellows Hall on Saturday, 10th November. She told those going to the Christmas meal at the Oasis Restaurant, Waterside, on the 8th December that the starting time for the meal had been brought forward to 12.30 m. The Oddfellows Hall will be open for coffee that morning and anyone needing a lift to Waterside should come to the hall so that we can arrange lifts. Everyone is welcome that morning even if you don't need a lift!!



Marge finalised details for the visit to the Greyhound Stadium and Anita announced that she will be organising a fish and chip lunch at the Boundary in January details to follow later.

Report: BARBARA MCNICOL
Group Leaders: ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA MCNICOL

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

Eight members met at Juliette’s house on Monday 5th November.



As our initial was ‘X’ we decided to go with a topical theme, fire, fireworks and November. We all managed to find a poem from the poets Laurence Binyon, most famous for The Ode, ‘They shall grow not old’, Edward Thomas, Anna C Croft, M W Taylor, John Clare, and William Wordsworth. A lovely afternoon, thanks to Juliette for her warm hospitality.

Our next meeting is on TUESDAY 4th December at Susanne’s house when our theme will be Christmas or winter.

Report: ANGELA DORWARD
Group Leader: IRENE BEEKEN

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Nine of us met at The Prince of Wales Feathers, Castor. It was a fine and sunny day so no mud to contend with!! The walk was led by Ann Sutherland and was a circular route towards Water Newton along the river up to the weir and returning via Loves Hill, a walk of five mile + or—depending whose app was used. A good meal at the pub followed.

Our December walk will be led by Brian Thornthwaite from The Granary. Details to follow.

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



This month we had a lively meeting at Kay Parker's where we put together our programme of visits for 2019. We also held a joint celebration with a smashing birthday cake made by Kay. Last month it was Mike Bowers' 'big' birthday and it was actually Kay's birthday too on our meeting day this month so it was a treat to share it together.

Despite drizzly weather so that it wasn't possible to have a full tour, we were able to see what a lovely garden Kay has with plenty of colour and interest from shrubs and perennials in the borders, even this late in the year. Our thanks to Kay for hosting.

Next month we meet at the Ruddy Duck in Peakirk for our Christmas lunch!
Photo: DAVID SCOTT

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our Writing group met in November and each member had chosen a different topic to write about. We had descriptive pieces, amusing stories and several poems to listen to, and it all made for a thoroughly enjoyable morning. Next month is our Christmas meeting which will be followed by a bring and share lunch, as is our usual custom.



We still have space for one or two new members, so if you enjoy writing and would like to find out more, do come along to our next meeting and maybe stay for lunch!

JUDY ROBINSON
Group Leader

U3A FILM GROUP

As mentioned in the October Newsletter, this Film Group meeting will be the final showing for this group, as unfortunately no-one has volunteered to take over the organisation needed for this activity. The final DVD will be on Wednesday 28th November, 2 pm, at the Green School, Market Deeping.



The film is the musical "The Greatest Showman" starring Hugh Jackson as P.T. Barnum, who started from nothing and created the wonderful spectacle that was the beginning of Show Business - 'The Greatest Show on Earth'. Full of great tunes and telling his story, this is a fitting film to give an entertaining end to our monthly shows.

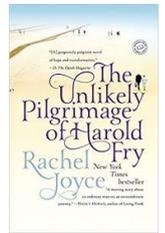
Many thanks to the members who have supported us over the past few years, and our loyal "Technical Team" without whom we could not have operated this group.

MAUREEN WHITTLE / RITA BROWN

This Group's first meeting was on 17 March 2014 and our thanks go to Maureen and Rita who have led this Group since then. What a pity it now has to fold because no one is interested in stepping in to help with the organisation needed. If anyone (or preferably two people) are willing to give it a try please contact the Group Co-ordinator or any member of the committee. ANN

U3A MONDAY READERS GROUP

This month we read *'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'* by Rachel Joyce.



When Harold Fry nips out one morning to post a letter, leaving his wife hoovering upstairs, he has little idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other, inspired by a chance meeting with a girl in a garage shop. He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking to save someone else's life. Unhappy in his marriage and guilt ridden over the death of his son, Harold is searching for a purpose and an absolution and finds them during a 600 mile walk to find a long lost friend, now dying in a hospice.

His journey is cleverly written to take the reader along with him in his wanderings. The people he meets and the places he sees are described in a way that helps them live for you, too, and the eventual end of his journey is never a forgone conclusion.

All but one member of our group enjoyed the story very much, taking different things from it along the way. The one who didn't finish it found the character of Harold unattractive. Never-the-less, we gave it five stars on the Library Goodreads page.

Our next meeting is on December 10th at the Library as usual and then on to The Bull for our Christmas dinner.

LIZ WATERLAND
Group Leader

THE "PACERS" WALKING GROUP



The Pacers met recently at Top Lodge, Fineshade Woods. These woods have become the traditional venue for our November walks amidst the vibrant seasonal colours. The threatened rain gave way to pleasant autumn sunshine as we made our way through the gently undulating forest paths.

After an enjoyable walk we tucked into toasted sandwiches and jacket potatoes at the Lodge Café. Report: MARGARET BREADSHAW

Group Leaders and Photo: LYNN & STEVE WHITE

U3A SCIENCE GROUP REPORT

A good number of members turned up for our October meeting not knowing the topic for the day, but Garth had prepared an excellent presentation on the GPS (global positioning system).



Whilst on holiday in Switzerland this year he had pondered on the distances recorded by the system, and was trying to claim more miles than his GPS reported, as the walks he did were mostly **up** as opposed to **along**, and wondered if the system took account of the change in altitude!

The first navigation system was developed by and for, the US military in 1960's, but with newer and better technology has been expanded and developed for general use. A number of countries, Russia, China, and the EU, have developed their own systems. Many facts came out of the presentation, provoking much discussion regarding longitude, latitude, altitude/elevation, size of the system, and launch process, to name but a few. The Satellites are in orbit at 12,500 miles high, originally about 9 but now 32, thus increasing the accuracy. Our phones and satnavs use a minimum of 4 to get a fix, with an accuracy of 5 metres, and there is nowhere to hide from them.

Thank you Garth; sorry you could not justify increasing your mileage count after all that discussion!

The programme for 2019 was discussed, and in answer to the question "would you like a "Christmas lunch in December or January", it was fixed for November 20th!! We will not be meeting in December – too many other lunches to attend!

Report: DAVID SCOTT

Group leaders: GARTH PERRY / DAVID SCOTT
U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP



The Weather Gods smiled on the Wanderers once again as eighteen of us set out under cloudless blue skies from The Wishing Well in Dyke village for our excursion to Fox Wood and beyond. Having crossed the A15 near Cawthorpe we were soon walking through the golden leaf strewn woodland trails in Fox Wood to emerge in bright sunshine in the open countryside south of Hanthorpe. The route then took us behind the houses to the A15 which we crossed at the outskirts of Morton village. A few stiles and some open farmland later we were back in Dyke with the olde worlde charms of The Wishing Well beckoning.

The lunch was excellent and we look forward to our final walk of the year on December 11th which will start from The Deeping Stage. Details to follow as usual.

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

This month the Group are meeting at The Black Horse (formerly known as The Baskerville), at Baston at 12.30 pm.



If you will be attending this lunch, please notify Tony Semple or Michael Griffiths, or add your name to the list at the meeting on Monday, 19th November.

U3A "STROLLERS" WALKING GROUP



Last month's stroll was a return to Rutland, for what was arguably the most enjoyable stroll of the year. Led by Geoff Fitzjohn, we met at the Wheatsheaf at Edith Weston, which is a village on the south shore of Rutland Water, to order our lunches. After driving a short distance to nearby North Luffenham, 12 Strollers set off on a bright sunny morning, towards South Luffenham.

Our route took us through part of the village and the off-road sections were relatively dry, as rain hadn't fallen for a few days. We dropped down the Chater valley, before gradually climbing to South Luffenham. There, we stopped at the village green in the centre of the village for a photo stop, before returning via a different route. After giving some inquisitive alpacas some attention, we left the village, climbing out of the valley and saw some pleasant vistas of surrounding villages.

Climbing up towards North Luffenham, which is shown on the photograph, some members' attention were drawn to war graves in the churchyard, very poignant with the impending Remembrance Day. We then returned to Edith Weston for our lunches. An excellent morning.

This month's stroll is being led by Searle Clark who will lead us on a stroll starting from the Famers Arms at Yaxley, meeting there at 10:15. Members of the group should contact him.

BOB DELLER
Group Leader

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

It seemed only fitting following Remembrance Day, that Family History focus their meeting on ancestors who had served in the First World War.

Members read treasured letters of their relatives experiences whilst serving in France and other places. Some included embroidered Greeting cards which were sent to loved ones back home. We also had identity cards and photos of soldiers in uniform, sadly some not named and only guessing it was Great Uncle George etc. A moving weekend remembering our fallen heroes, Danny Boyle's 'Faces in the Sand' and the documentary 'They Shall Not Grow Old'. Amazing.



At our December meeting we will be having one of Peg's Christmas Quizzes, mince pies and fun!
Report: JOSIE SMITH

Group Leader: JOSIE SMITH / JEAN BRENNAND

U3A CRAFT GROUP 2

Christmas cards started with Heather's designs this last month – thanks to her for bringing all materials. Meeting at 102 Church Street, Deeping St. James at 2pm on 19th November - look forward to seeing you there.



LIZ NOBLE
Group Leader

U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

Twenty eight members of Church Mice visited All Saints Church in Peterborough in November. This church was built at the end of the 19th century as Peterborough's population was expanding. In its 131 year history there have only been seven vicars, one of whom's widow was part of the group.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, tower and a Lady Chapel. With a high ceiling and large windows the church has an airy feel. Of note is the carved panelling behind the altar with scenes from the bible, pictures of saints and, interestingly, a carving of General Gordon, who died just before the building of the church.

The first vicar of the church was Canon Ball, succeeded by his son-in-law and between them they gave sixty years of service to the church. Canon Ball had only one leg, so there is an unusual bar in the pulpit to give him support in his (possibly long!) sermons.

The Lady Chapel is a delightful space with a beautiful icon of the Madonna and Child below the window.

The visit, conducted by the present vicar, was followed by an excellent tea.



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

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Sixteen members and friends visited Opperman Plants near Spalding. We were shown round by Mike Opperman who explained how the length of daylight and dark is manipulated in order to make plants flower at the required time.



Mike explained the secrets of propagation which basically are "warm bottoms" and "cold tops". In the propagation unit, the floor temperature is kept at 25 degrees C and water loss is kept to a minimum by means of polythene sheeting over the cuttings. This is removed as soon as the plants start to produce roots. Mike then explained the basics of tissue culture.

We walked approximately a quarter of a mile through various glass houses full of plants which originate from all over the globe. The Poinsettia house was particularly stunning with plants ready for the Christmas market. We learned what to look for when buying Poinsettias and how to care for them to keep them alive! Over-watering is, of course, one of the most likely faults with all house plants.

In one of the cooler glasshouses, we saw Cyclamen, Ferns and Christmas Cacti amongst others. In the last poly tunnel we were treated to a sea of Violas. Finally, we saw some of the ways plants are packed and potted for the big multiples. At the end of an extremely interesting tour and talk, we were allowed to buy Poinsettias.

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

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

November 14th saw the group gather at Anne Jones' house to listen to her programme entitled "*Some of My Favourite Music*". This was an eclectic selection of music ranging from the Early Music of Allegri with his setting of *Psalm 51* up to *Neptune* from *The Planets Suite* by Gustav Holst.



Starting with the first movement of Rachmaninov's second piano concerto, Anne's selection continued with the famous *Flower Duet* from *Lakmé*, Debussy's *Prelude a L'Après Midi d'un Faune* and the atmospheric *Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams.

Most unexpectedly, there was a hilarious performance of Rossini's duet written for two cats performed by Hinge and Bracket.

This was followed by George Butterworth's *Banks of Green Willow*, Deanna Durbin singing *The Last Rose of Summer* and a rather different version of *Come into the Garden Maude* before concluding with *Neptune*.

Thank you Anne for a lovely morning and for sharing with us some of the music which has given you such pleasure over the years. Next month's meeting will be Jessie's selection hosted by Ann on 12th December at 10:00 am.

Report: TERRY NOBLE
Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE
01778 342855 / 01778 346433



PLEASE DON'T FORGET
TICKETS STILL ON SALE THIS
MONTH FOR THE CHRISTMAS
MEETING – or contact Liz Noble