



Deeping St. James

Issue No.255

June 2024

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

Welcome

**New members: None this month**

**NEXT MEETING: 17 June.** Unless otherwise stated, all monthly meetings are at the Methodist Church, Deeping St James. Doors open at 9.30am. Coffee is served until 10.20 and the meetings begin at 10.30.

#### PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS:

**17 June: Behind the scenes in the salesroom**

David Fletcher talks about his work as a valuer.

**15 July: The East Anglian Air Ambulance**

A representative from EAAA tells us all about their work.

**August: No meeting**

**16 September: From bus pass to student card**

Dorothy Wood will tell us about her journey.

#### MARGARET'S MUSINGS

**Dear members**

In my Musings this month I want to express appreciation to our Speaker Finders. Gill and Lynn have engaged such an interesting series of talks for the monthly general meetings. There is always a title for the talk, but that may not be the whole story; last month's Chelsea Flower Show billing surprised us with a fascinating explanation of the allergic properties of plants, delivered with a sprinkling of anecdotes!

I look forward to meeting many of you at our June meeting.

**Best wishes**

**Margaret**

**Chair, The Deepings u3a**

#### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next meeting of the Deeping u3a Luncheon Club is at the Black Horse baston on 23 June at 12.30 for 1 o'clock.

Ring Enid withers on 01778347794 or Helen Perkins on 01778345674 or email [helen.perkins500@gmail.com](mailto:helen.perkins500@gmail.com)

I will be away from 16 June until 26 June. If somebody has a spare seat in their car to pick up Noreen could you give me a ring.

**Report: Helen Perkins**

**Group Leaders: Helen Perkins and Enid Withers**

#### SCIENCE GROUP

This month's meeting was a talk about the life and work of Marie Curie. As well as discovering polonium and radium and winning two Nobel prizes (in Physics and Chemistry) did you know that she ran mobile X ray units near the front in the First World War, had an affair with a married man and had a duel fought over her?

Next month's meeting will be on 18 June and the talk will be about magnetism.

**Report by Gill Godden  
Group Leaders: David Scott and Garth Perry**

### **CHURCH MICE**

Just 14 members of Church Mice visited St Mary and St Nicolas parish church in Spalding. We had two extremely interesting talks, firstly by the vicar, John Bennett and then by Roger Smith. The vicar told us about the start of the church in 1284, built by the Benedictine Priory, which was destroyed in Henry VIII's reign. The church has had many additions in the 14th and 15th centuries and again in the 19th century by Sir George Gilbert Scott. The additions in the 20th century include four modern stained-glass windows to join with the Victorian windows. Roger then showed us slides of the outside of the church, saving us all from going out into the rain. He, and we, were fascinated by all the different roof lines - no two seemed to be on the same level. While listening to Roger we enjoyed tea/coffee with biscuits.

June's visit is to St Andrew's church at West Deeping.

**Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

### **MONDAY WALKING GROUP**

A group of 14 met at the Montague Arms, Barnwell, pre ordered lunch and used the ablutions.



It was a warm, humid day with several of us taking off some of their clothing layers quite early into the walk.

Leaving the car park and passing the Village Hall, we proceeded along the road until reaching the footpath.

The footpaths were well marked, although some had longish grass and had obviously not been used often. Other paths were deeply rutted by tractor tyres made when it was wet. These had dried out making

walking difficult in places, but surprisingly nobody twisted an ankle.

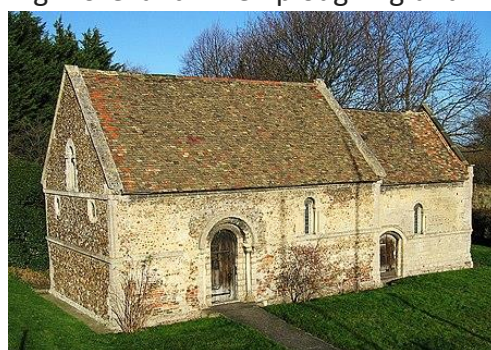
Farmers had predominately kept the footpaths, with the odd few pinching more land when ploughing and harrowing.

Doing a loop, the walk was mostly on footpaths with a few roads. Towards the end, we came across a small Chapel. This was The Leper Chapel, also known as the Leper Chapel of St Mary Magdalene. It dates from about 1125.

Returning to the pub we had a very good meal and drink.

A big thank you to David and Linda Perkins for the walk. As usual there were differences on the length of the walk, the average being 6.3 miles.

Details of the July walk to be announced nearer the time.



**Reports and Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

### **GOOD FOOD GROUP**

The Foodies May meeting had an Italian Theme and with seven of us sitting for lunch – that's seven courses(!) We started with (home grown) Asparagus baked with Parmesan, and followed that with Bean and Pasta Soup. The three 'mains' comprised an Aubergine, Tomato and Parmesan bake, Sausages in Tomato sauce, and Gnocchi and sauce, (all helped along with Pesto flavoured Ciabatta if required).

Puds comprised Semi-Fredo and a Sicilian Ricotta Cake. Despite the Italian theme (Prosecco, Passerina, and Montepulciano d'Abruzzo wines), the pudding wine was Spanish!

We might have been able to squeeze in an 8th (and 9th?) course so, if you want to join us, do make contact. Our next meeting is on 1 July at Cynthia's and it's planned to be a Garden Party.

**Report by: Hilary Akam**  
**Group Leader: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk**

### **FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

Our subject for the May meeting was a "Chat with Stephen Perry, Local Historian and Author".

Stephen has had an interest in local history since boyhood. He was born and educated in Peterborough where he lived for 50 years before moving to Crowland for the last 20 years. An interest in local history led to him being a founder member of Peterborough Local History Society. He has published numerous booklets and leaflets on many aspects of Peterborough life including Peterborough Hospitals and the Frank family of Butchers with accompanying photographs.

Talks followed both locally and nationally before a move to Crowland and a decision to end his Peterborough research. He showed us directories, map and newspapers that were used and how newspapers have a treasure of local information in them about people and their lives.

He decided he was not going to do the same in Crowland but after meeting locals and being offered many collections of old photographs from families he could not resist. One hardback book, two soft backs and thirty leaflets later, Crowland now has a fascinating collection of photographs to view of life before electric, gas and mains water came to the town. Notable locals and the history of the streets they lived in have also been researched and leaflets published, available in the local Library.

Stephen's chat showed us how we can extend our understanding of our families, their lives and surroundings.

**Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennan**

### **JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND APPRECIATION GROUP**

Our May programme was devised by Terry Noble and was entitled: '**Something a bit different ...**'

We did certainly listen to something 'different', beginning with *The Cromwell Suite* from the 6Pac Jazz Sextet and their three items: *Walking Home*, *Victoria*, and *Parrot Soup*. This was followed by Paul Barton on the piano playing *Mr. Bach goes to Town* by Alex Templeton. A familiar figure, Clarinetist, Benny Goodman, gave us his Jazz offering of *King Porter Stomp* and then, from his classical repertoire, Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto, Adagio*, recorded in 1938 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, conductor, Charles Munch.

Shostakovich, yes it was he, with his four pieces from *Jazz Suite No.2*, played by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dmitry Yablonsky. Definitely different!

Charleston City All Stars/New Orleans Jazz Band came next followed by Lefe'bure-Wely's *Sortie in E Flat* with David Sanger at the Organ of Exeter College, Oxford and then we heard Tim Kliphuis and *The Grappelli Tribute*. Grappelli would have been pleased.

The last concert from The Modern Jazz Quartet on 25 November 1974 gave us *Confirmation* and *Tunisia*, followed by *Tribute to Duke Ellington* played by the Boston Pops Orchestra. After which our 'different' morning ended with Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto, 3<sup>rd</sup> movement*, in a clever arrangement by The Classic Buskers, (formerly The Cambridge Buskers.)

Something 'different,' was certainly in evidence this morning but enjoyable, definitely!

Thanks, Terry for giving us an interesting programme. Liz provided the excellent refreshments, as usual.

Our June meeting is at the home of Phil Jones.

**Report: Anne Jones**  
**Group Leaders: Phil Jones/Anne Jones**

## POETRY GROUP

### May report

Our group of poetry lovers met the challenge of our theme, the letter O, with their usual flair. We began with John O'Donohue *This is the time to be slow* and *The Joy of reading*. Brian Bilston delighted us with *On searching for a book of stamps*. Then, *On the Death of Harold Wilson* by Mary Wilson, a very beautiful poem. Next was George Mackay Brown, a clever poem called *Our Pier: Orkney*, followed by the thought provoking *Lillies* by Mary Oliver and finishing with *Cathedral Builders* by John Ormond. One of our group was unable to attend but sent this poem:

*Ode To Sensuous Woman* by Hugh Maclean

Come, my love, and let me cover thee with bananas, sponge cake, sherry, cream and Angelica and Trifle with thy affections.

Many thanks to Angie who spoils us all with chocolate cake and tea.

### June report

Our "theme" this afternoon was the letter P. We started with *Poets need not*, by Liz Lochhead. This was followed by *My Sunset Garden*, by Althea Randolph, selected as a memory of a recently lost friend. *Sometimes*, by Sheenagh Pugh, gave us all hope. *A Dream Within A Dream* by, Edgar Allan Poe was quite thought-provoking. *One Perfect Rose*, by Dorothy Parker made us laugh, as did *The Mirror* by Sylvia Plath. *The Lost Lagoon*, by E. Pauline Johnson, was beautifully descriptive. Another one for discussion and thought was *The Prophet- On Love*, by Kahoolawe Gibran. Another most enjoyable afternoon with refreshments kindly supplied by Catherine.

Report by Susanne Hoadley, group leader

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Following a rather shaky start and rather hurried refreshments, Little Glenn, who trained as a ballet dancer (and wasn't that little), gave us a really interesting talk and tour of Molecey's Mill, from top to bottom. There were 21 of us so it was quite a feat to get us in to each room. Gradually we spaced out and the most able of the group managed to stairs to view the fantastic bedrooms and living areas.

Everywhere is themed and the artwork on show is magnificent. The décor is so coordinated, and every little detail seems to be appropriate to each room.

Below are some photographs from the really enjoyable morning.

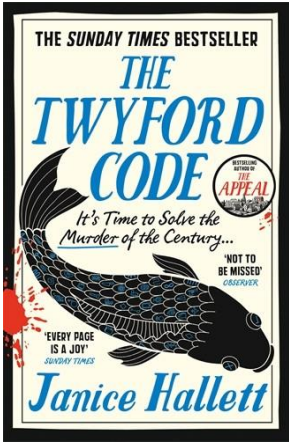


Above the photos show the coffee on arrival, Glenn talking about one of the downstairs rooms and then talking about one of the pretty bedrooms. The fourth is the bedroom that is dedicated to cruising and is the bridal suite.

Next month we have Alan Brooke who is talking about *The Seaside in Paintings*.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

## MONDAY READERS GROUP



This month's book, *The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallett, was definitely a 'Marmite' book that divided opinion. Many of the group found it annoying or difficult to read and it was definitely impossible to follow in audiobook. Others, however, enjoyed the story of ex-prisoner Steve Smith and his attempts to unravel the puzzling code set by Edith Twyford; a children's author reminiscent of Enid Blyton.

Views ranged from 'preposterous' to 'interesting'. The story elicited a lively and humorous discussion and the more we talked about the structure, the themes of social justice, and the ingenuity of plotting, the more members felt it had perhaps offered something not immediately apparent on first reading. The group did come to the conclusion that the story might have been too clever for its own good – or possibly for us as readers – because of its unreliable narrator and most members felt they probably wouldn't tackle another book by the same author.

Our next book is *The Bedlam Stacks* by Natasha Pulley and we hope more of us enjoy it than we did *The Twyford Code*!

**Report by Linda Hill  
Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

## CRAFT 2 GROUP

### Report for April and May



Thank you to Pam for hosting and leading the April session and sorry I missed the deadline for newsletter. All looked good.

Kath planned another "easy" (she said) for May and thank her for that! It was good to take part again and we all had another attempt at "stamping" which a few of us shy away from – too easy to smudge them!

Here are some of them.



Look forward to seeing you on Monday 17 June at 2pm as usual.

**Group leader and report Liz Noble**

## THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

Ten attended our June meeting at the Langtoft home of Bob and Kay



Parker. It was particularly pleasing to welcome back Margaret and Liz after their recent surgery. We hope Marjorie is soon feeling better and that Gill shortly receives a date for her operation. The main focus of our discussions was the finalising of the menu for our July summer lunch. It promises to be delicious. Now we are

keeping our fingers crossed for some nice weather so that we can eat al fresco without wearing fleeces!

The sun came out at the end of our menu planning so that we were able to venture out and admire Kay and Bob's beautiful garden. At the side of the bungalow there were healthy looking fruit trees and vegetables. To the front and rear attractive borders were filled with a variety of shrubs interspersed with colourful perennials and annuals. The insects were busy and a friendly robin seemed interested in what we were doing.



**Photo: Ann Pettitt, Report: Ann Pettitt  
Joint Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt**

## HISTORY GROUP



Stuart Orme returned to The Green School (why is it called The Green School?) for his annual visit to Deepings History Group. We were entertained and educated in the Romans' version of 'YOUR LIFE IN THEIR HANDS'. Stuart had so many facts and figures at the tips of his fingers that it would be impossible to record them in a few paragraphs. The most memorable fact was that if you were a civilian doctor, you probably knew very little about medicine but if you were a military

doctor the treatment given to soldiers was second to none and probably it was the best military medical care on the battlefield and beyond until The American Civil War or even up to WW1.

Much of the advice given to patients in Roman times still stands today. Prevention of tooth decay, good diet, exercise, decent water supplies and good hygiene were all the legacies left by the Romans. It was shame that we had to go through a period (s) in history when all of these were neglected or forgotten. Included in this report is a photo showing many of the medical instruments that Stuart brought along and that are the precursors of those used today.



Thank you to everyone who helped today and a reminder that August trip balance is due. Next month the title of the talk is 'So You Think You Are Odd?' Sandra is the speaker.

**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## PACERS GROUP

Eight for the walk and nine for lunch this month. New venue, for us at least, the Cock Inn at Werrington. Plenty of parking space but they could not open for us to pre-order so we made our choices from the menu and posted them through the letter box – and it worked. But of course no facilities available beforehand. Weather dry and windy but not hot which is pretty well the story so far this year – unless it is wet as well! We crossed the road, down the underpass and on to the giant footbridge that crosses the railway. Why is such a massive structure needed solely for pedestrians?

Then into a very dark looking footpath that went round the side of a large industrial complex – with absolutely



no name on it anywhere. One of the group said it was a data storage facility for Lloyds bank but there was nobody about to ask. The path went through the wood and then beside some fields, finishing up on the road just outside Marholm and then a further footpath to the right brought us out to the road next to a beautifully carved wooden seat – see the photo.

Along the main road, past the Crematorium and the Ice Rink, and to the next bridge which comes out at Walton. Continued to the next underpass and up the road to the pub.

Very good value food at the Cock Inn. The ‘golden’ menu (that’s us old people) was £7.50 for two courses, and the portions were not tiny by any means.

New members are always welcome, please contact one of us if you fancy a not too hard walk on the first Wednesday of the month. We usually walk around 4 miles.

The next walk on Wednesday 3rd July will be led by Steve and Lynn - details as usual by email.

**Report: Geoff Whittle**

**Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw**

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023/2024

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Mary Martin
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Gift Aid Secretary	Anne Burton
Membership Sec.	David Perkins
Group Co-ordination	June Wheatcroft
Team:	Phil Jones

### Non-Committee members

Newsletter Editors	Sandra Jones/ Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution / Webmaster	David Scott
Speaker Finders	Gill Godden/ Lynn Ayres

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 5 JULY 2024**  
**SEND TO:**  
**NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**