



Deeping St. James

Issue No.257 September 2024

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk

[Click here to visit our
Deepings website](http://deepings.u3asite.uk)



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Sue Osborne from Deeping St James and Wendy Asher from Northborough

NEXT MEETING: 16 September. 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:

16 September: From bus pass to student card

Dorothy Wood will tell us about her life changing journey.

21 October: Moulton Mill

Alan Lambert will give us all the details about the restoration and history of Moulton Mill.

18 November: A man who is paid to talk to himself

Chris Bylett will explain how he manages this.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Hello members and welcome back to the Newsletter after the August break. Some of our groups also took a break in August, so we will be looking forward to getting together again for our many activities. Members have enjoyed group outings; I enjoyed the History Group's visit to the Black Country Living Museum, where I think we all found the Canal experience was brilliant.

The Committee has had a good response regarding plans for the Activities/Open Day in November; Group Leaders please get in touch with the Secretary if you haven't yet done so.

Now we have exciting news! The new website is up and running –deepings.u3asite.uk – so access it for all the information you need about our groups and activities and pass on details to potential new members.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

A MESSAGE FOR OUR WEBMASTER

On Tuesday 20 August, the Deepings u3a got a new website. You can find it by entering deepings.u3asite.uk in your browser.

It might not appear in search engines for a while and although the old address will redirect to the new site for a few months please bookmark, or make the new address your favourite.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next Sunday Lunch has been booked at the Blue Bell Glinton on 22 September, 12.30 for 1pm
Phone Helen on 01778 345674 or Enid 01778 342936 if you'd like to attend.

Report: Helen Perkins

Group Leaders: Helen Perkins and Enid Withers

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

August report



On a very pleasant day for a walk, fourteen walkers met at the Stamford Post for a scenic walk, through the town centre of Stamford and then out, across the Meadows. With little recent rainfall, the walk was relatively easy and dry underfoot and we were rewarded with views across Stamford from the hills. The journey back followed the river. After the walk, we had an enjoyable lunch at the Wetherspoons, Stamford Post.

September report

We met at The George, Whittlesey to do a reverse walk of one we did previously. For some reason it seems



strange doing a reverse walk!!!

Sixteen of us set off on a humid, cloudy day, debating whether it would rain or not.

The walk took us along footpaths, tracks and roads. Passing beside McCains we told by Brian D, about their history and factories in Whittlesey and Scarborough. There was also a mention of the other prominent business in that area: the Brickworks (London



Brick).

A brickworker tried a Lower Oxford Clay and found that it needed no additives and needed much less fuel to burn and bake. This gave Fletton brickmakers a massive advantage over others. 15 million bricks a day were being produced at the height of business.

Further along, on the Green Wheel path, we came across a WW2 Pillbox and Brian T gave information about their history.

A caterpillar was spotted and turned out to be that of a Goat Moth. Apparently, it smelt of goat (didn't get close enough), also it is also very toxic and can bite!!

Returning to The George, as we were hot from the walk we decided to sit outside to eat and drink. Alas it started to rain so a hasty retreat was made indoors, but a good meal was had by all.

Report and Group Leader: Steve Hanson

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our May meeting took place at Anne Jones' house. The programme was titled as *Pieces by Numbers* – featuring one, then two and so on up to forty individual performers or singers.

Starting with a Bach transcription for solo violin, an hilarious arrangement of *The Flight of the Bumble Bee* for two double basses, then on with trio, quartet and quintet – Schubert’s well known *Trout Quintet*.

Missing out six and seven, Mendelssohn’s *Octet* and Louis *Spohr’s Nonet* providing a whole range of listening textures.

We heard two pieces for thirteen individual wind players – Mozart’s *Gran Partita (K361)* and Richard Strauss’ *Serenade for Thirteen Winds* – written when the composer was aged only 17.

We then progressed up to the monumental *Forty Part Motet (Spem in Alium)* by Thomas Tallis. As suggested by its name, this piece is written for forty individual singers.

Our next meeting will be at 10am on 11 September – watch this space for the venue.

Report and Group Leader: Terry Noble

GOOD FOOD GROUP

August report

As usual on the first Monday of the month we had our monthly repast. This time we were at David and Anne’s for a summer barbecue – fortunately the weather was kind as we had a nice warm but cloudy day.

The starters/nibbles were tomato bruschettas, mackerel and soft cheese on cheese thins and softened onion, sweet chilli pea “invention” in a pastry case.

We then moved to the main course with a range of barbecued meats (not a beef burger or sausage in sight). That was accompanied by a mixed salad leaves and tabbouleh and a watermelon, cucumber, red onion and feta with basil and mint salad. All this was washed down with a mixture of red and white wine plus a non-alcoholic lager for the designated driver.

To finish we had a delightful summer pudding accompanied by Greek yogurt.

It was good to catch up with everyone and we are all looking forward to next month’s meal when we tackle some of Jamie Oliver’s recipes!

September report

With the weather still mild, we had our September lunch outdoors. Our theme was Jamie Oliver recipes.

We started with a super soup of leeks, potatoes and kale, accompanied by toast spread with a mint, parsley, parmesan mixture. We then had a selection of starters: sticky chicken wings, a filo flan of broccoli, courgette, spring onions and cheese, and baked feta and tomatoes. Our main course was sausage and apple bake. We had two puddings: chocolate cherry mouse and no-bake chocolate orange cheesecake - delicious!

Our next lunch is on 14 October and our theme is locally sourced food. Please contact me or Hilary if you'd like to join us.

Report by Sheila McGurk

Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Our Family History Group meeting for July had a catch-up of Family History subject items that are due to start in July.

On BBC “*Who Do You Think You Are*” follows list of celebs(??) telling us about their family history. It’s made to look so easy without showing the countless hours of research needed to confirm details and hours spent in archives or over the internet.

Then “*Long Lost Family*” a new series starts on ITV or catch up on ITVX with the many off shoots.

Podcasts are also available, such as “*Find My Past*” and a new podcast “*Was Justice Served*” with Jen Baldwin from Find My Past and David Wilson telling us the stories from the old newspapers and documents available.

We then followed up with our subject for the month of “*Rogues and Criminals*”. We all have a “black sheep of the family” in some way or other and you have to remember life was not as it is today. Stealing an item from a washing line or bread or food to stay alive had terrible consequences. We heard many different stories of relatives who had to pay the price for their actions. Such as a mother who took her tiny baby into prison for six weeks in Ireland, a young man who became a bigamist in the 1930, or what about a Detective who the

family story said was the Detective who arrested Dr Crippen?

Find my Past and Ancestry have many files and Registers on line and using the keyword "Criminal" found 160 different items with Ancestry.

Do you want to learn more about how you can research your Family History? Come along and join us and see how it can be done. You don't have to have lots of knowledge just lots of enthusiasm to find those relatives. New members always welcome.

Report and Group Leader: Jean Brennand

STROLLERS GROUP

Since the last newsletter, the group has been blessed with two walks of differing character and each one



under favourable weather conditions. Both were supported by a good turnout of Strollers.

The first of those two walks, back in July, coincided with the belated arrival of summer, as Stuart led us on a walk starting from the Willowbrook Farm at Helpston Heath, taking us into Castor Heathlands, an ancient woodland, with some areas of heathland.

During the walk we were bemused by an isolated field gate, which led into nowhere and I recall encountering this on a previous Strollers' walk quite a few years ago. The morning finished off with lunch at the Granary.

Our August outing was a return to Rutland, when we met at the Exeter Arms in Barrowden, for a stroll around this

picturesque village before venturing on a circular route across pasture down towards the River Welland, which we crossed, as we entered Wakerley in Northamptonshire.

Our return saw us cross more pasture and back into Barrowden and walking along several village streets before visiting the church and back to the Exeter Arms for lunch.

Our photograph shows some members of the group standing by the duck pond in Barrowden, with the Exeter Arms as a backdrop.

The next walk will take place on Friday 27 September when Geoff will be our leader for the morning.

Reports and Group Leader: Bob Deller

POETRY GROUP

Our theme of the letter R produced another wonderful afternoon full of amazing poems. We started with *Rainforest* by Judith Wright and *Handbag* by Ruth Fainlight which made for lots of conversation. We laughed with *Eletelephony* by Laura E. Richards. The lovely *The Nymphs Reply to the Shepherd* by Sir Walter Raleigh was next. We listened to Liz Lochhead reading her poem *My Rival's House*.

Followed by a short but quite beautiful love poem by Edna Clarke Hall. Peggy Rolland wrote a poem called *A Taste For Honey* which is about a bicycle. Another love poem by Kathleen Raine. *Reflections on a gift of watermelon pickle* received from a friend called Felicity by the American poet John Tobias was next. We were on *The Rolling English Road* with G K Chesterton. And finally *Remember* by Christina Rossetti – interestingly this lovely poem had different meanings for members of the group. Angie was our host and kept us fed and watered with her tasty cake, thank you Angie.

My Sister Laura by Spike Milligan
My sister Laura's bigger than me
And lifts me up quite easily.
I can't lift her, I've tried and tried;
She must have something heavy inside.

Report by Susanne Hoadley, group leader

CYCLING GROUP

July report

On a pretty good day for weather, six of us left Market Deeping for our monthly bike ride on the 12 July.



Leaving Market Deeping, we went along Lincoln Road and turned down Sutton's Lane noticing the dramatic change to the garden of one of the bungalows (somewhere around 11 Suttton's Lane). We then crossed Deeping St James Road onto Peakirk Road and carried on into Peakirk.

Here we turned left onto Thorney Road and shortly after turned right onto Meadow Road which we followed to the end and turned right onto Werrington Bridge Road and then left onto Bridgehill Road.

We followed Bridgehill Road to its junction with Newborough Road and there turned left to proceed through Newborough.

Crossing the Thorney Road onto Willow Bank. We continued on

Willow bank to turn left at the end to join Corporation Bank, stopping here for our photo.

We continued along Corporation Bank, through the cattle, back to Thorney Road, across the level crossing and back into Peakirk, retracing our outward journey along Deeping Road and Peakirk Road to turn left onto Church Street, into Northborough and finally to the Packhorse for our welcome lunch.

A very enjoyable 14-mile ride and our thanks to Brad for planning the route. Our next ride will be on 9 August and hope to see everyone there again.

August report

The 9th of August saw five of us set off on our monthly ride from the Bridge in Market Deeping.

We left Deeping via Church Street and Halfleet to the roundabout at the BP Garage and then onto Langtoft.

Here we turned left and after cycling through the village along West End and Stowe Road, we crossed King Street and continued on Stowe Road to Greatford Road. At Greatford, we turned left onto Main Street and then right onto Carlby Road and then, after leaving Greatford, turned right towards Braceborough.



Beam me up, Scottie

We carried on through Braceborough and over the East Glen River to Wilsthorpe after stopping for our photo at the church, (sunlight giving off a spooky effect), we continued through the lovely tranquil village across the River Glen on Wilsthorpe Lane and onto Baston Road which we then followed to join King Street. We continued all the way down King Street, past Stowe Road, and joined the Stamford Road at West Deeping. From here we stuck out for home and our lunch at the Bull in Market Deeping.

Our thanks to Dave for a very enjoyable 13-mile ride and good lunch at the Bull. September's Ride will be on the Friday 13th September (oops hope no one is superstitious), look forward to seeing everyone then.

Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We had an excellent visit to Norwich, along with Church Mice. It was organized by Margaret and went without a hitch. Even the weather stayed dry.



We started off with coffee at The Maid's Head Hotel. The hotel was founded over 800 years ago and was just across the road from Norwich Cathedral. Guided tours had been arranged for noon and they lasted 90 minutes and were extremely detailed. The Cathedral is magnificent, and has to be seen to be appreciated in its full glory. There was an art exhibition dedicated to Edith Cavell, entitled *The Passion of Edith Cavell*.

Everyone appreciated a leisurely lunch and free time to explore the city. Thank you, Margaret.

Where are we going in 2025?

The next Art Appreciation Group is on the third Tuesday in September. It is a talk about Thomas Gainsborough to be given by Sandra and will look at two ways of learning about famous artists! Coffee from 10am.



Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

On Wednesday, 10 July, six members visited Angie's garden in Eastgate. As always, the garden was looking lovely with lots of colour despite the best efforts of the slugs, the unpredictable weather and the flooding in January.

A tour of the garden was followed by refreshments (lovely chocolate cake!) and lots of talking. Many thanks to Angie for stepping in at the last minute.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

MONDAY READERS GROUP

August report

This month was a special one for our group, when we decided to treat ourselves to a 'summer social' by booking a brunch at Eventus to follow our usual meeting at the library.



We began at the library, with a discussion about our book this month, which was *The Language of Birds* by Jill Dawson. This is a retelling in fictionalised form of the events surrounding the murder of the family's nanny, Sandra, by Lord Lucan in 1974.

There has been, as the author says, many books, articles and programmes about Lord Lucan himself, what happened to him, was he guilty? But the family, and especially the nanny, at the heart of the tragedy has been largely neglected.

We all agreed that this was an interesting book, if undemanding, but opinions were divided as to the legitimacy of taking a true story and giving the individuals involved fictional names, and inventing other characters and events. Some of us would have preferred a straightforward biography of the people and events.

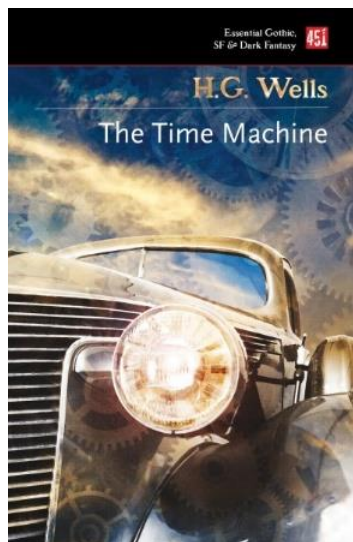
However, the period and attitudes of the times, especially towards women were very well drawn and the story well told.

After our literary hour, we repaired to Eventus for a very nice brunch, with tea or coffee, croissants, cheese muffins, yoghurt and granola, and Danish pastries. Several doggie bags went home with us, too! It all made for a very pleasant morning. Thanks go to Linda Bates for organising the meal.

September report

This month we had an extra special meeting when Anne celebrated her umpteenth (with a zero) birthday with us! We had cake and Bucks Fizz to enliven our discussions and of course sang Happy Birthday.

We did get round to discussing our book for the month, which was H.G. Wells's *The Time Machine*. Eliane, our member who chose this one for us felt that she would like to revisit a classic for a change from more modern novels, and this provoked some interesting discussion on the contrast in the style of writing from the period (it was written in 1895) and the present day. It was also interesting to think about how far Wells's vision had, or had not, come true.



The Time Machine is one of the earliest works of science fiction. It's about a Victorian scientist who invents a time machine and travels to the year 802,701, where he discovers that humanity has degenerated into two races: the Eloi and the Morlocks. The book is considered a classic fable and a scientific parable that inverts the 19th century belief in evolution as progress. The division of humanity into two classes, the fey and unthinking Eloi, and the bestial subterranean Morlocks beg the question, is this good and evil? Or are they both equally degenerate? And are there parallels between the trolls of the internet, rioters and corruption, and those who ignore all unpleasantness of today to bury themselves in kittens on Facebook? Few of us said they had actively enjoyed reading the book, but all found it interesting and thought provoking – although none of us could think why the publisher of our library copies had chosen a 1930s car for the cover!



Report by Liz Waterland
Group Leader: Liz Waterland

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

July report



Twelve walkers today. We met at the 17th Century Blue Ball Inn at Braunston-in-Rutland, which claims to be the oldest inn in Rutland.

The weather outlook was miserable and the forecast was to be overcast with periods of light rain.

We began by heading south west to enter the church yard of the 12th Century All Saints Church.

Against the west end church wall is a strange carved stone figure. Its original purpose and age are unknown and for many years it was buried face down and used as a doorstep for the church before being rediscovered and re-erected in the 1920s. The 3ft high smiling stone carved figure is thought to represent a grotesque female form.

The figure is locally referred to as "The Braunston Goddess".

From the church we walked across a meadow and crossed the river Gwash over a brand-new bridge. Now uphill, the grass in the meadows was long and wet and very soon boots, socks and trouser bottoms absorbed the water (somehow it seemed to be my fault?). At the top of the ridge we entered and walked through a wildlife protected area of Bushy Wood/Fox Covert, which eventually led us onto a limestone track-way. We now headed south east along this track-way and upon reaching Prior's Coppice we turned due south onto the Leighfield Way. Downhill now, again through long, wet grass, (my fault again) we emerged at Leigh Lodge.

Sharp left here, we now headed north, uphill, where the Macmillan Way became the Leighfield Way. This part was on dry tarmac (less complaints) to emerge onto a minor road at Hibbitts Lodge. Turning left here we had a short walk downhill along this road before turning right onto a footpath heading towards Waterdown. The fields either-side of this footpath contained many alpacas. There were mature and young ones, brown, white, black and a variety of different colours.

Heading now due west we walked through meadows besides the river Gwash, back to our destination for an excellent, well-presented lunch.

August report

A perfect morning for a summer stroll. Ten walkers (only) today met at the Horseshoe Inn at Thurlby.

We set off down the side of the inn on Church Street and after a short while turned left onto a trackway



running alongside the Car Dyke. The Car Dyke can be traced for 56 miles between Peterborough and Lincoln, linking the river Nene and the river Witham. It is believed to have been built in Roman times, but its intended purpose is still not clear.

Our path, alongside the Car Dyke, took us to the outskirts of Bourne town.

Heading now west, through Bourne, we crossed the A15 (South Road) and walked over the pretty stone bridge into Wellhead Park. Now heading south we walked through the park and alongside the extensive

housing development to meet the Bourne bypass known as Raymond Mays Way. Crossing the road we entered countryside and followed a pathway heading towards Northorpe Lodge and then onto Wood Lane. This led us through Thurlby, where we turned left onto Main Street and walked down hill to join the A15, and the Horseshoe, our destination.

A typical British summer rainfall began just as we arrived at the Horseshoe Inn, where we were all treated to an excellent lunch. The 'icing on the cake' was that we all received a 20% discount on each meal and then also given another 20% voucher to use again, another time.

Thanks to Brian and Helen Driscoll, for arranging and leading a very enjoyable day out.

Report and Group Leader: Richard Coulson

CRAFT 2 GROUP



A full house again for our celebration afternoon tea in July – three of us have a nought on the end of our birthdays this year, not Heather, but she and I share a birthday so it was celebrations all round.

We were made very welcome at Eventus who even took the photos!

Back to normality in September, although as I write this not sure what! Christmas perhaps? I suspect one of our group will have made a start. See you all on 16 September at 2pm

Group leader and report Liz Noble

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

August report

What a treat our August meeting turned out to be!



Ten of us visited Eddie and Chris Adams' beautiful garden in splendid, unbroken sunshine after the relief of early morning rain.

Following a warm welcome and refreshments we were treated to a tour of the large, tranquil back garden where there was much to interest and admire. A greenhouse full of peppers, tomatoes ripening on a cane frame, multiple island beds packed with a variety of herbaceous plants and colour spilling from seasonal pots and baskets in seating and focal areas.

The wildlife also sparked much comment. Plenty of bees, butterflies and dragonflies making the most of the sunshine and a considerable number and variety of birds enjoying the food provided. However, the unwelcome guest – a muntjac deer given to feasting on roses, tulips and other prize blooms- was wise enough not to put in an appearance! Our thanks go to Eddie and Chris for their generous hospitality. Our next meeting, to which we look forward, will be a visit to Rod and Penny Gall's garden in Peakirk.

September report

Thankfully the rain was held at bay for our September visit to Rod and Penny Gall's lovely garden in Peakirk.



Rod gave us a most interesting, illustrated garden tour with photographs showing how different the garden was in 1990 when they moved in, how a neighbour with a tractor had kindly cleared a lot of unwanted trees and shrubs and how the garden had gradually developed from there.

We admired the dahlias with their pop of autumnal colour and could tell how lovely the hollyhocks, lavender and

cosmos had recently been. We admired the hosta circle and the lovely open views to the back of the garden; a great viewpoint for wonderful sunsets. Marauding wildlife was a feature once more. Not muntjac this time but an over active badger! The newts in the pond and the bees, still very evident on the lavender, were very appreciated however.

Penny had lovely refreshments for us after our tour when we were also able to look at a splendid album of garden photographs showing changes through the years and seasons. Our thanks go to Rod and Penny for a most enjoyable, relaxed and informative visit.

Our October meeting will see us return to the Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Peterborough when we look forward to another interesting, seasonal garden talk.



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

HISTORY GROUP

July report.

We welcomed Brian Thornthwaite to our July meeting, to talk about the 'Ark Royal (91)'. Brian's presentation was fascinating. Whilst focusing on the 'Ark Royal' that was of significance during the Second World War, he first explained the history of the vessels that have borne the iconic name. The first ship bore the name 'Ark', having been ordered in 1586 by the 32-year-old Sir Walter Raleigh, but following the convention of the time, the owner's name was added and so it became 'Ark Raleigh'. Queen Elizabeth 1 purchased the ship the following year, which was then renamed the 'Ark Royal' and was the flagship of the English Fleet which defeated the Spanish Armada.



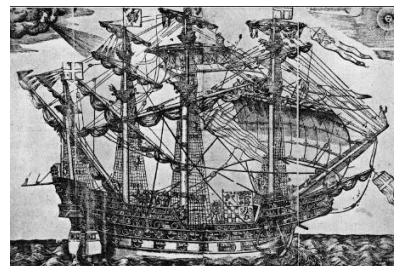
The first 'Ark Royal'. The ship's badge -showing an Ark and a Crown.

The second 'Ark Royal' was built in 1914 and converted into a seaplane carrier from a merchant ship during WW1. It continued as a training ship until 1944, having been renamed HMS Pegasus.

The third vessel was an aircraft carrier, built at the

Birkenhead shipyard by Cammell Laird, completed in 1938 and incorporating the latest available technology, which was to play a significant role in the sinking of the vessel. It was considered a 'lucky ship'. The 'Ark Royal' saw action off Norway; in the hunts for the Graf Spee and Bismarck and with Malta convoys.

The ship was torpedoed in 1941 off Gibraltar and sank with the loss of only one life. The torpedo knocked out the electrical system and so messages had to be conveyed by personnel running between stations on the damaged ship or semaphore between vessels; modern technology had failed when most needed.



Brian's display of the model, the Aircraft Carrier and three of the planes that flew from her – the Fairey Swordfish; the Blackburn Skua; the Fairey Fulmar. The Blackburn Roc was the fourth plane used on the vessel.

The fourth 'Ark Royal' was launched from the Cammell Laird shipyard in 1950. Just before this event,

a stunning image was captured by the Liverpool based photographer, Edward Chambré Hardman, whose absorbing story could provide another interesting talk!

'The Ghost Ship', or 'Birth of the Ark Royal'.

It is unsurprising that Brian's pride in all things Merseyside was so evident in his enthusiastic presentation and his interest in the subject was influenced by his childhood environment!

The final ship to bear the iconic name was launched in 1981 on the Tyne and was deployed during the Bosnian war and the 2003 Invasion of Iraq. It was decommissioned following the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review and sold for scrap to a Turkish company, leaving Portsmouth in 2013.

Brain has been a regular contributor to the History Group and thanks were given for his hard work and willingness to step in at short notice in the past, ensuring the group has continued to flourish.



Report by Lesley Evans

August report

'Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to Dudley'

Thank you to Barbara. The visit went very smoothly and was extremely enjoyable. There was even a baby surprise for her at the end of the day! Congratulations!

Here are some photos from the day. The canal journey was very interesting. Choir Practice was also novel!



Waiting for the boat ride when hard hats were required.



Watching the Cavern screen. Incredible!



Lesley and Mary looking for bargains at the CO-OP while Ann is waiting for her lift in the CO-OP van!



Above, Four Candles (Two Ronnies)



Making pills in the olden days.

In September we are back at The Green School when Dr. Martyn Thomas will be talking about Women in Medicine. Reminder: 10am for 10.30 on the third Wednesday of the month.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

PACERS GROUP

August report



Twelve Pacers this month which was a very pleasing number for August. Nice weather, not too hot with a breeze – ideal.

We met at the Ruddy Duck in Peakirk to order our lunch and use the facilities.

We walked for about four miles, with me (Geoff) leading, along various footpaths beside fields reaching South Drain. We then walked to a bridge before turning sharp right. The bridge, where we took the mandatory photo, is apparently known as John Clare Bridge as this is where he met his young lady when he lived in Northborough and she came from a different village – whether this is true or not who knows. We saw three egrets and one heron and that was the extent of our wildlife viewing.

We reached the Maxey cut and walked to Nine Bridges, being accosted by numerous dogs, before turning towards Ginton and then taking a number of footpaths back to Peakirk.

The Ruddy Duck served a very enjoyable meal. The last time we were here in mid 2021 things were very different. We had our own room in order to be socially distanced from everyone – it is now hard to believe all this sort of thing actually happened.

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 between four and five miles.

September report

Fifteen Pacers this month, plus two more for lunch, walked around the lovely old village of Kings Cliffe, with David and Margery in charge.

The Cross Keys pub was not open so we used the Cross Keys café next door which served jackets, sandwiches, omelettes, all day breakfasts, etc. Although the pub was closed the toilets were open!

Weather was kind to us again – not too hot or cold and the wind seemed to have dropped.

We walked to the old railway track which goes beside the village. The line was closed as part of the Beeching cuts in 1966 for passengers and two years later for freight. It is now a pleasant walk going over the road and ending at a massive deserted bridge – the Victorians knew how to build things to last.

Wandered over fields, past sheep, and went past the small museum. Only open on one day a month (fourth Sunday of the month) but very interesting, From 1600 for a couple of hundred years the main industry was wood turning – and spoons were a major item, Hence the village was known as ‘the wooden spoon village’, or so they say.

We walked past Craig Revel Horwood’s huge house but we missed Kylie Minogue who supposedly had been in the village recently.

Not a long walk but full of interest. A lot of the houses have blue stickers on their windows saying who lived there in 1911 and their occupation. A number of comments about ladies listed as ‘private means’!

We arrived back at the Cross Keys Café well in time for lunch and liquid refreshment.



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 between four and five miles.

Next walk on Wednesday 2 October will be led by Geoff and Julie - 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: 11 OCTOBER 2024
SEND TO:
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