



Deeping St. James

Issue No.260 December 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: Mary and Paul Simmons, Deeping St James, Alastair and Carole Chambers Deeping St James, Brenda Gottelier, Market Deeping, William and Lynne Booker, Deeping St James, Thomas Baldwin, Deeping St James, Brian and Ann Cox, Maxey, Pam Chapman, Newborough, Kate Condor, Helpston, Ann Ashby, Market Deeping, Hazel and Andrew Foley, Deeping St James,



NEXT MEETING: 16 December.

December: An Invitation to our Christmas meeting 16 December 2024 at

The Coronation Hall, Market Deeping. (car parking is limited, please share cars where possible). **Doors open at 1.45pm.**

Please arrive promptly as our Christmas entertainment will start at 2pm, followed by wine/juice and mince pies at 2.45pm and finishing with a few carols from 3.15pm.

As usual entry by **ticket only** (price £3) email/phone Liz Noble to reserve yours. (Correct money please, many thanks.) Liznoble102@gmail.com or 01778 342855.

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 2025:

20 January: The Story of a Victorian Cemetery

Alan Peasgood will tell us all about it the history of a Victorian Cemetery.

17 February: James Webb Space Telescope

Keith Townsend will talk about replacing the Hubble Space Telescope with the JWST, which was launched in 2021 and is looking back towards the dawning of the Universe. He will show some of the remarkable images that have been received.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

As we approach the end of another year, I want to thank you all for your support of Deepings u3a, you all contribute in so many ways.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year as we look forward to our u3a activities in 2025!

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

Last chance for u3a Diary @ £4.50 each.

As we have to order our diaries in packs of 10 at a time to buy them at the discounted rate, we have space for five (5) more diaries only!!

Ring me by 16 December. if you want one of the last five:

June Wheatcroft: 01778 344916 or text me on mobile: 07724 555817, with your name and phone number.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Renewal reminder

To renew your membership for 2025 you do not need to complete a form. Just send the money by BACS or cheque with your membership number in the reference or back of cheque. If your contact details change at any time, please email me so the database can be updated. See the November Newsletter or website for contact details.

Many thanks,

David Perkins - Membership Secretary

Website reminder

The Deepings u3a new website address is: deepings.u3a.site.uk

If you have previously accessed the old site using links, favourites or bookmarks then these have been automatically re-routed to the new site. This provision will terminate at the end of the year so you will need to modify or generate new links etc.

David Perkins - Webmaster



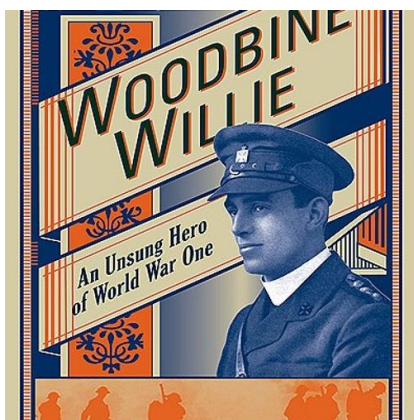
Christmas Tree Festival

We have put a u3a Christmas tree in the Priory Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival - open from 9-15 December. Why not drop in and have a look at the various types displayed?

HISTORY GROUP

Although winter had definitely arrived, a good number braved the cold to enjoy Ian Jones' talk on History themed Poems.

The first poem, "The Charge of The Light Brigade", which Ian introduced, was by Lincolnshire born Alfred Lord Tennyson, telling of the blunders made by the Generals at the Battle of Balaclava (1854) during the Crimean War.



Next Ian read the George Simms' poem "In the Workhouse". Simms was a big influence on London Society raising an awareness of the desperate plight of many in London during the Nineteenth Century.

working in the textile mills during the Industrial Revolution.

The final poem Ian read was "Old England", written by Reverend G A Studdert Kennedy, an Anglican priest who became known as "Woodbine Willie". He received the Military Cross for his bravery at The Front during World War One. Written from a soldier's point of view, it explains that the soldier was fighting for a 'new' England if he was fortunate to return home from the war.

Thank you, Ian for a super talk.

Lesley was given a small token of appreciation for 10 years as Speaker Finder.

Sandra distributed a list of the 2025 monthly talks.

Next month will be the Christmas Buffet at Deeping Sports and Social Club. Don't arrive before 12 noon!! The buffet will be served at 12.30pm.

Please note that January's meeting will be at the Deepings Sports and Social Club. The Green School will be closed in January because of building work.

The meeting time at the Sports Club will be the same as usual. 10 for 10.30. Refreshments will be available as normal.

**Report by Mary Burton
Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

CRAFT 2 GROUP



We revisited “prick and stitch” Christmas cards in November, with thanks to Kath who produced a snowflake design. We enjoyed doing the fairly simple, but still time-consuming design, especially as it was pre-pricked which is usually the most time-consuming bit.

The December meeting is usually a coffee and cake planning session which this year will be in the morning as the main meeting is the afternoon.



See you all at 10.30am on 16th December.

Group leader and report Liz Noble

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Twenty walkers gathered at The Granary near Orton Lakes. Due to flooding of the River Nene our walk leader Brian (Ribs) Thornthwaite decided to take a chance and go for it. We had been warned before that some of the route might need to be changed, especially if impassable. We took footpaths toward the

railway and didn't experience too much water.

At some points we managed to go round the water while others went through it.

Unfortunately, some walkers had walking shoes which were not waterproof.

Therefore, there were a few wet feet!!



At one point we reached the river and were unable to cross, due to depth and speed of water. Even I did not attempt to cross despite me being volunteered!! We skirted round and headed to Milton Ferry bridge, where the river was flowing pretty fast. Onward to the business park and then returning to The Granary via the Information Centre. Needless to say, a lot of mini lakes and water obstructions were encountered. The rain held off until the last mile.

The walk was about 4.5 miles.

A big thanks to Brian for leading the walk.

A thank you from me to all who have volunteered to lead a walk in 2025. We

always have good walk, fun and banter.



**Report: Steve Hanson
Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

STROLLERS GROUP

Our final stroll for the year started from The Wishing Well at Dyke, when 13 of us enjoyed the crisp late autumn sunshine heading towards Cawthorpe.

After crossing the A15, we walked down the lane to the pudding-bag hamlet and after passing through it, we turned back for a quick return to the Wishing Well for a meeting to discuss strolls in 2025.

It was fitting end, and ironic that it was probably the sunniest walk of the year, during which we once again managed a full complement of outings, without any cancellations.

At the meeting we reviewed the walks we've all enjoyed thanks to the handful of walk leaders, and set about the programme for next year.

We still have a month or two which are blank at this stage, but hopefully we will have another successful year. The programme with walk dates and allocated walk leaders will be circulated to members of the group shortly.

Grateful thanks to all who have helped to make this year a success, especially the walk leaders and best wishes to all for the Christmas period.



Report and Group Leader: Bob Deller

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our meeting on 13 November took place at Joy Elliman's house with a programme presented by Donald. The programme was based around a record producer and conductor by the name of Alfred Scholtz (b 1920). Scholz sometimes used his own name and sometimes made-up names. He also used the names of real people and groups for performances which were not theirs! Many of these performers are pseudonyms –perhaps the pseudonym being considered more marketable?

Despite this musical deception, all the performances were of the highest quality.

We heard a whole range of music from Vivaldi's *Spring* from *The Seasons* up to Bizet and Brahms.

However, we also heard performances by bona fide artists such as the Hungarian pianist Sylvia Čápková-Vizváry playing Mendelssohn and Chopin and the Croatian conductor Milan Horvat with Ravel's *Valses Nobles at Sentimentales*.

All these pieces, plus many more, gave a lovely morning's listening. Thank you, Joy and Donald for providing a most illuminating morning.

Our next meeting is at Frank Mills' house, 10am on 11 December.



Report and Group Leader: Terry Noble

POETRY GROUP

Hope Smiles on the Threshold of the New Year, Promising it will be Happier.

This is a story about four people, named, Everybody, Anybody, Somebody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it.

But Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody.

When Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



Written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, submitted by Irene Beeken

Report by Susanne Hoadley, group leader

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



In November, thirteen walkers met at the 16th Century Packhorse Inn, Northborough. The weather was kind: sunny, dry and cool, and thankfully no rain.

We began by heading south along Lincoln Road, with Northborough Castle to our left.

The Grade 1 listed [Northborough Manor House](#) is a fortified [manor house](#), originally built by Roger de Northborough, Bishop of Lichfield, between 1330 and 1340.

After a few yards we climbed a stile and walked through grass to the rear of the Manor heading east. The footpath emerged onto Church Street. Turning right, besides the road, we came upon number 42.

This is the cottage which was home to the English poet, John Clare, who resided here for 10 years from 1832. To honour his memory one of our walkers, Simon Byshe (an accomplished actor) recited for us a John Clare poem, entitled *Trespass*.

Further along the road we turned south along Paradise Lane which led us to the Maxey Cut. The Maxey Cut was created in 1954 to prevent any further flooding of the Maxey meadows. The excavation work removed 242,000 cubic yards of earth and was carried out by George Wimpey and Co.

Heading now west, alongside the Cut, we arrived at Nine Bridges. Crossing Lincoln Road, we continued west and had a choice of three pedestrian tunnels to take us, under Main Road.

Still heading west, we came upon Maxey Quarry conveyor belt. This sand and gravel quarry is operated by Tarmac Group and is ranked as the UK's largest supplier of construction and road building materials.

Now turning north, we headed alongside Gerrard's Carp Lake into Maxey.

At Maxey High Street we turned east and headed along Maxey Road. After a couple of hundred yards, we turned left onto a footpath heading north then turned right alongside Fox Covert Farmhouse, to emerge against the A15.

Crossing this, we walked along the old Lincoln Road, now the B1524, to emerge besides Cuckoo Grange, on Deeping Saint James Road. Cuckoo Grange house is built on the site of an old inn called the Cuckoo.

Crossing over, we walked along Lincoln Road to our destination, the Packhorse, where we were treated to an excellent lunch.

The walk distance was just under 6 miles.

Many thanks to June, Ruth and Yvonne for organising a very pleasant, enjoyable event.



Report by Richard Coulson – Walk Leader

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP



Lots of chat (in French, of course).

Group Leader: Mary Lawrence

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Speaker: Alan Brooke, Topic: Art and the River Thames

We welcomed Alan back on a very cold and frosty November morning. We had sixteen members in attendance. We were treated to a feast of paintings through the ages all reflecting the River Thames.

Some of the Artists were not well-known names so it was lovely to hear about the less famous or those that had simply 'gone out of fashion'.



The frozen River Thames by Abraham Hondius (pictured, left) There was an artist's impression of London, when it was no more than farm fields. There were paintings reflecting the industrial side of London and the festivities that took place on the frozen waters of the 17th Century. It was a very interesting morning.

Thanks were given to David for supporting us throughout the year.

Margaret gave details of the trip to Cambridge in July 2025 which will replace the monthly meeting.

There won't be a meeting in December but we will meet again in January 2025 when we will have our usual social get together. Members were asked to bring an item to eat and share.

Happy Christmas to you all from Art Appreciation.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



It was very good to see everyone at our final meeting of 2024.

We enjoyed a Christmas buffet lunch at Kay and Bob Parker's home in Langtoft. We had an excellent mix of festive foods, both savoury and sweet, and the opportunity to mingle and chat informally. Our sincere thanks to Kay and Bob for being such welcoming hosts. An excellent way to round off the year. We will now take an extended break until the beginning of February when we will once again doubtless be challenged, albeit in a very entertaining manner, by one of David's humorous quizzes. In the meantime, the Thursday gardeners would like to send all Deepings u3a members their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Report: Ann Pettitt

Joint Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

The Newsletter Editors wish you all a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to receiving all your reports in 2025.

Best Wishes

Sandra and Ruth



COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024/2025

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary
Group Co-ordinator
Gift Aid Secretary
Committee Member(s)

Margaret Beardshaw
Mary Martin
Stuart Wilson
David Perkins
June Wheatcroft
Anne Burton
Phil Jones

Non-Committee/Supporting roles

Speaker Arrangers

Gill Godden
Lynn Ayres
Sandra Jones
Ruth Griffiths
David Scott
Liz Noble

Newsletter Editors

Newsletter Distribution
Newsletter Distribution
Coordinator

David Perkins
David Scott

Webmaster
Media Equipment Co-ordinator/Asst. Webmaster

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