



Deeping St. James

Issue No.261 January 2025

# The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: [deepings.u3asite.uk](http://deepings.u3asite.uk)

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



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Liz Prissick, Market Deeping. Anne Messenger, Glington  
Leanda O'Grady-Marshall, Glington. Tina Hinks, Market Deeping.

**NEXT MEETING: 20 January**

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 FOR 2025:

### 20 January: The Story of a Victorian Cemetery

Alan Peasgood will tell us all about 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.

### 17 March: Development of the English Silver Spoon

Neil Callan will describe how and why spoons have changed through the ages. If any members would like to bring in any silver spoons they have, Neil can give information on the date and hallmark and a rough valuation.

## MARGARET'S MUSINGS

### Dear members

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2025 and to a New Year of u3a activities. In our groups we can explore new topics, enjoy visits and welcoming visiting speakers, get out and about in the countryside and meet together for Sunday lunches.

All our activities rely on members willing to lead. This is not an onerous task and I do encourage members to consider helping with the running of groups, or even to come up with new ideas for groups, for which they would be happy to share the organisation. Committee members are on hand to support you.

I have received a query regarding setting up a "Ukelele Group"; please let me know if you would be interested, either to share leading or, at this early stage, to participate and learn a new skill.

A reminder, if you haven't yet paid, that subscriptions are now due for another year of enjoyable u3a activities.

I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meeting.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

## RENEWAL REMINDER

A big thank you to all the members who renewed their membership by 31st December. If you haven't renewed yet then please do so as soon as possible. by making a BACS payment or sending/delivering a cheque

to me. Don't forget to put your membership number in the Reference or on the back of the cheque and a J suffix if you are paying for more than one person from a joint account. We will also be taking cheques at the monthly meeting on 20th January.

If you have not renewed by 31st January, your membership will have lapsed and you will not be able to attend monthly or group meetings until you rejoin.

**David Perkins, Membership Secretary**

### **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP**

The Sunday lunch is at the Black Horse Baston on 26<sup>th</sup> January 12.30 for 1 o'clock.

If you would like to come, please contact either Enid on 01778342936 or Helen on 01778345674 or email [helen.perkins500@gmail.com](mailto:helen.perkins500@gmail.com) by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Group leaders: Enid Withers, Helen Perkins**

### **CHURCH MICE**

December's visit for Church Mice was to two churches, St Faith of Aquitaine at Wilsthorpe and St Thomas of Canterbury at Greatford. Both of the churches are in the Uffington group of seven churches looked after by just one priest. In contrast St Guthlac's Church in Market Deeping has a priest to itself.



It was a bitterly cold December day when 17 members of Church Mice entered the church at Wilsthorpe and were greeted with a very welcome

hot drink and mince pie.

Churches are notorious for being cold in winter, particularly on non-service days. St Faith's church is one of few churches in our area from the early 18th century. The churchwarden gave us an interesting talk on the church, mentioning the fine stone figure of a 13th century knight with his legs crossed, denoting he had been in the crusades.

We then moved on to Greatford. The church is famous for its link with Dr Francis Willis who treated King George III during his illness and 'curing' him of his madness.

We had a very interesting talk from Julian about the church that dates back to the 11th century. There is a remarkable 14th century font, taken from an abandoned church. The church was well worth a good look round, after which we were treated to tea and cakes.



**Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts**

### **CRAFT 2 GROUP**



We had our usual "coffee and cake/planning session" on the morning of 16th December and celebrated two of our member's special birthdays – Anita and Avril – which was very enjoyable, so much so we didn't quite get much planning done!

I hope all members had a good Christmas period too and of course look forward to a happy 2025. See you all at 2pm on 20th January.

**Group leader and report Liz Noble**

## HISTORY GROUP



Here are two photos from the History Group lunch which took place on December 18th.

There were a few absentees due to illness but we had over 30 enjoy the festive get together. Sonia from The Junction provided the buffet which was very good. We would like members' views on the event as it is always good to know what to think about for 2025.

The group meet again in January at The Sports and Social Club. The speaker is Mike Parsons who is talking about The River Thames. It will as usual be the third Wednesday in the month.

Barbara will soon be liaising with Sharon Hall regarding the August trip to Ipswich and The Broads.

Time will fly by again!!

Hazel and David are our poster couple again this year.

At least John and Godfrey haven't got chairs to put away this month.

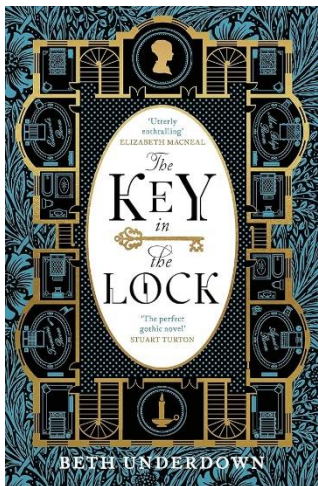
A big thank you to everyone who contributes each month to make the History Group run so well.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2025.



**Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones**

## MONDAY READERS



This month's meeting, being the first of the new year, began with sorting out our dues to the Lincolnshire Library service, which provides all our books through the year for a very reasonable £40!

Once the finances were out of the way, we shared some of the books we were currently reading before going on to discuss this month's book. This was *The Key in the Lock* by Beth Underdown. Set in the periods before, during and after the first world war, this was the story of a woman trapped in many ways by the gender and social expectations of her time in a marriage to an invalid. She loses their only son in the war, but an ambiguous telegram from the war office stating that he was 'killed', rather than 'killed in action' leads to suspicions that he put himself deliberately in the line of fire in order to commit suicide. The effort to clear his name of dishonour leads her to involvement with a lover from the past, two mysterious deaths and a house destroyed by fire.

The book was agreed by virtually all of us to be enjoyable and intriguing, with an interesting cast of characters and plot. The period, with its social prejudices, attitudes to women, and expectations of men, was very well written. Some found the multi time periods rather confusing but, on the whole, we would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well-crafted historical mystery story with a touch of the gothic!

**Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

## MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Eleven walkers took up the challenge of the atrocious weather – rain, snow, high winds, more rain... until we started off from The Stage at 10am. Then no snow, no rain but not blazing sunshine either! Well, it is January!



Undeterred, we made our way from Deeping to Maxey, via Suttons Lane, using hard footpaths and roadways to avoid the mud as much as possible. Work on the pipeline continues for another year!



In Maxey village, we came across a brilliant multicoloured signpost including a finger pointing to the "naughty step" We all knew who that was for!

Stopping for a short break, we read an Interesting welcome notice at Maxey Church, all encompassing, worth a look.

After just the one muddy field, we arrived back in Deeping right on schedule, to be joined by Ann T and Marge for an excellent lunch provided by The Stage.

Thanks for the report by Norah Littler and photos from Richard Coulson.

**Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

## LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

### December report

Our meeting on 11 December took place at Terry Noble's house. This time the programme was different – we each brought along a piece of music (not necessarily on a Christmas theme) which gave a varied and potpourri flavour to the morning's listening.

We started with a moving performance of part of Schubert's posthumous *Octet D.803*.

Two sea shanties *Brightly Beams* and *Pull for Shore* sung by Port Isaac's Fishermen's Friends provided a nautical flavour, and a classic Welsh tune *Myfanwy* was sung in Welsh.

Adolphe Adam's classic Christmas aria *Oh Holy Night* was given a different and refreshing interpretation by the Brass Band of Battle Creek and seasonal Christmas favourites *I'll be home for Christmas* and *When you wish upon a star* were sung by Alfie Boe and Michael Ball.

Evoking memories of bygone Christmas hits, Brenda Lee's *Rockin' around the Christmas Tree* (someone mentioned that she is still around and now aged 80) and Boney M's *Mary's Boy Child*.

Our "little grey cells" were taxed on hearing Mariah Carey's *All I want for Christmas*, followed by the same tune in the style of six classical composers. The object was to identify the six composers.

Our next meeting is at Terry Noble's house, 10am on 8 January.

### January report

We started off the New Year at Terry Noble's house. As 20th January 2025 marks the inauguration of the 47th President of the United States, Terry's programme centred on the music of America - irrespective of people's views on the next presidential incumbent!

The high energy *Flourishes and Galop* by Morton Gould started the morning's listening followed by Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* plus *Bethena Waltz* and *Maple Leaf Rag* by Scott Joplin. Taken from the musical by Leonard Bernstein, *West Side Story*, the number *America* proved to be another high energy piece.

We then heard extracts from Walter Piston's *Incredible Flutist Suite* (no – I haven't misspelt the title. It is exactly how the piece is titled). *Appalachian Spring* by Aaron Copland was instantly recognisable from inclusion of the shaker tune *Lord of the Dance*. A virtuoso performance of Concert on National Airs (*Star Spangled Banner, Yankee Doodle and Hail Columbia*) then followed.

The morning ended with George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

We concluded that American music is identifiable as a genre in its own right and markedly noticeably different to European music.

Our next meeting will be at 10am on 12th February at Phil Jones's house.

**Report and Group Leader: Terry Noble**

### WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



Twelve members and one guest sat down for our post-Christmas lunch at the Waggon and Horses in Langtoft. We had all pre-ordered our main courses and it had to be said very little went back to the kitchen afterwards! The desserts were equally delicious. The pub was very busy and the staff including Jan's granddaughter did a fine job! Our next meeting will be on 12th February at Jane's house in the hope of seeing snowdrops, aconites etc.!

**Report: Jane Cooke**

**Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke**

### POETRY GROUP

We met on a very chilly but sunny January afternoon, to do our favourite thing, poetry.

Starting with *Winter Poem* by Nikki Giovanni, the first line is: Once a snowflake fell. Very apt.

The beautiful poem *The Kindness of Trees* by Jackie Kay was next. Then a very dramatic piece about three Presidents 1845 to 1857 called *To The States*.

On a lighter note, we had *Vespers* by A.A Milne. Then *The Flattered Flying Fish*, by E. V. Rieu. *Saturday Night At The Bethlehem Arms*, by Gareth Owen was next.

One of our favourite poets John Clare who wrote *The Winter's Spring* was next. We then had an epic poem by Maximilian Voloshin called *To Those Who Come After*. Lastly two poems by Wendy Cope, *Valentine* and *Variation* on a Lennon and McCartney Song.

Thanks to our host Juliet for the lovely cakes, tea and biscuits. A lovely time was had by all.

Meet me by the morning  
On the corner of night  
Where mist rises  
And hope's in sight  
Lemn Sissay

**Report by Susanne Hoadley, group leader**

### THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

#### December report

The last walk for 2024 saw 12 walkers meet at the Crab & Winkle, Werrington, for a walk to be led by Claire and Simon Bysshe. It was a very dull and overcast morning but hey-ho it's December in England!



Crossing David's Lane, we headed north-west along David's Close and after a short distance cut left, crossing over the railway lines, and joining Lincoln Road. This led us to Werrington Parkway, where we immediately crossed the A15 over the pedestrian bridge walkway. Heading towards Glinton we turned into the recreation ground and headed down Rectory Lane to Glinton Church. Simon, where Claire informed us about the church's history and its unusual gargoyle.

From here we headed north, past Balcony House, onto North Fen Road. Where Brook Drain and South Drain met, we were asked to turn around and look at Glington Church's Needle Spire, just visible in the mist. Simon, a follower of the John Clare story, recited one of Clares poems, entitled Glington Spire. After our applause we walked along Mile Drove, onto Peakirk Road/Deeping Road.

Entering Peakirk, we headed into St. Pegas Church to view the medieval wall paintings. Continuing along the roadside, towards Glington, we eventually turned left down Foxcovert Lane. After crossing the railway lines, and reading the information board regarding the Werrington mineral springs, we turned right and walked along the pretty lane, beside the rail track. This brought us back onto David's Close and then to our destination.

With Claire and Simon living in Glington and being involved in many local societies throughout the walk we were all treated to numerous snippets of information.

Simon and Claire had originally booked the walk from Kings Cliffe but, due to poor ground conditions, decided on this walk at the last minute. The Crab & Winkle provided us with an excellent, reasonably priced, lunch and were very kind in accepting our late booking.

Many thanks to Claire and Simon for organising a very pleasant, interesting event.

## January report

This month's walk, the first one of 2025, was arranged and led by Brian and Norah Littler.



The morning was clear, bright, dry and very sunny with a morning temperature of minus 2 degrees centigrade.

12 hardy walkers met at the Horse Inn, Thurlby.

We began by heading west, up to Thurlby, along High Street. At Thurlby Methodist Church we turned right onto Chapel Lane, alongside Lawrence Park. Zigzagging through the houses we emerged onto Northorpe, then made our way onto Wood Lane. Half way along we were halted for Brian's information giving talk.

The lane followed the path of the extinct railway line linking Essendine to Sleaford.

Carrying on, we arrived onto the A151, Raymond May's Way. Raymond Mays, was born and spent most of his life in

Bourne. He was the co-founded of the motor racing outfits English Racing Automobiles (ERA) and British Racing Motors (BRM), on land now occupied by Delaine Buses.

After the houses, we emerged onto Jubilee Green then Wellhead Park, Bourne. Plenty of iced-over areas in the park, not quite thick enough to skate on today.

Leaving the park, we crossed the main road, A15, South Road and once more zigzagged through the houses to emerge onto South Road, across from the Tesco store. Now heading south, we followed the path of the Car Dyke waterway. On reaching Long Drove, besides St. Firmin's Church, we turned right to meet the A15 Main Road and our destination, The Horsehoe.

We can all highly recommend the food and service provided by this establishment – top marks.

Today we were accompanied by a new member to our group, Ann Ashby – welcome and we hope you had an enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Brian and Nora.



**Report by Richard Coulson – Walk Leader**

## GOOD FOOD GROUP

It was good to catch up after Christmas and New Year for our first meal of the New Year on 6<sup>th</sup> January at David and Anne's. The theme was "low calorie" or using up left-overs! We started with Ian's parsnip and apple soup followed by Anne's "very healthy chilli veg" dish.

Sheila and Paul provided the main course, turkey, ham and leek filo pie accompanied by a Fattoush salad. Desserts were a low-calorie sticky toffee pudding (yes there is such a thing) and a vegan chocolate ice cream. The meal was accompanied by good conversation and wines; rounded off with coffee and baklava.

**Report by: Dave Gaskell**

**Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk**

## **CYCLING GROUP**

On a very cool and drizzly morning, four of us set off on our final ride of the year.

We initially cycled along Lincoln Road to Mill Road and then through Maxey to the Church. Here we crossed High Street onto Maxey Road and continued, after considerable hold up at the level crossing, via Church Lane into the centre of Helpston.



We then took Woodgate Lane going out of the village and turned right onto Broad Wheel Road and on to King Street. We continued on King Street over the level crossings (again a delay) and into West Deeping.

At the junction of King Street and Stamford Road we crossed over and continued on King Street to Stowe Road, where we turned right towards Langtoft. In Langtoft we crossed the Bourne Road and travelled along East End to New Road which we took to Meadow Road, where we turned right to join the Peterborough Road.

We continued on Peterborough Road to Market Deeping, along Halfleet and Church Street. We then carried on via Lincoln Road, Old Lincoln Road and Lincoln Road once again to the Packhorse in Northborough for a warm up, dry-off and

lunch.

Altogether a rather wet 14-mile ride, made worth it by a good lunch in the Packhorse. Many thanks to Mike for planning the route.

Our next Ride will be Friday 14 February 2025 (Valentine's Day??) as it was decided to forgo January's Ride.

**Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

## **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

Webmaster

Media Equipment Co-ordinator/Asst. Webmaster

David Perkins  
David Scott

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 7 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**SEND TO:**  
**[NEWSEditor@DEEPINGSU3A.COM](mailto:NEWSEditor@DEEPINGSU3A.COM)**