



Deeping St. James

Issue No.263

March 2025

The Deepings u3a **NEWSLETTER**

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk

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Deepings website](http://deepings.u3asite.uk)



Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: Karen and Richard Moore, Deeping St James, Maria King, Bourne, Jaqueline Kruse, Deeping Gate, Veronica Smith, Glington, Diane Davis (address unknown)

NEXT MEETING: 17 March

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:

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.

14 April: Fraud Prevention

A talk by Richard Kubon, the Regional Fraud Protection Officer, on how we can protect ourselves from fraud.

19 May: The wildlife, scenery and history of Antarctica.

Dave Pinion will share his experience of a trip to Antarctica.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

As a member of Deepings u3a and participating in some of our different interest groups, I look forward to the regular opportunities to meet with friends and participate in enjoyable activities. I know that I need to remind myself that such opportunities are no longer available to so many in troubled parts of the world. Thank you, as always, to Committee Members and Group Leaders. If you need to contact a Group Leader, details are available in the Newsletter.

I look forward to meeting many of you soon in our various groups.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

This month's lunch is booked for 23 March at 12.30 for 1pm at The Black Horse at Baston.

Please note that the group is currently full but if you'd like to join, get in touch with Helen or Enid to put your name on our waiting list.

Group leaders: Enid Withers, Helen Perkins

CHURCH MICE

Twenty six members of Church Mice visited St Peter and St Paul Church in Great Casterton.

The church sits beside the old Great North Road and has some Roman bricks in its walls, showing the ancestry of the village.

On a cold February day, the inside of the church was delightfully warm. The priest, Don McGarrigle, and two church wardens told us about and showed us the inside of the compact church. The chancel is short and has a 1930s altar and reredos with shields representing emblems of the crucifixion.

There are some medieval wall paintings showing the colour that may once have dominated the now bare, whitewashed walls. There is a square solid looking font from the 13th Century. The tower has a peal of six bells.

After looking round the church we moved to the fine church hall to have tea, cakes and conversation.

Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



On a cold, sunny morning 12 of us gathered at the huge new WELCOME sign in Ferry Meadows which in true eco style is actually a mammoth bug hotel.

We made our way around the main lake before branching off down a rather muddy path to the bird hide. What did we see? Absolutely nothing! Undaunted we rejoined the main path before stopping off at the viewing gallery which overlooks the low lying semi-flooded field over to the river. And what did we see? Absolutely lots with many different wildfowl enjoying feeding in the shallow pools.

Most notable were the wigeon with their magnificent chestnut brown heads, mottled grey wings and white bellies while right in front of us was a group of teal, our smallest duck in UK.

It was definitely our lucky morning with over 30 species of birds spotted by group members. The keen eyed among us, all three of them, were lucky enough to spot two kingfishers on a branch. Having circumnavigated the world (sorry, lake) it was time for a welcome hot coffee and a short planning meeting to

discuss future plans with a whole year of suggestions lined up. Not a bad morning's work, eh?

Report: Philip Astle

Group Leaders: Margaret Beardshaw and Jo Astle

ITALIAN GROUP



In February we enjoyed our annual Christmas/Spring lunch.

The Bluebell at Werrington did a very good Italian lunch for us.

We spoke a little Italian but very soon reverted to English!

A good time was had by all.

Report and Group Leader: Lynne Alcorn

POETS AND THEIR POETRY

February report

We gathered together on a blustery February afternoon, our theme was the letter W.

We began with *Girl from Mars tells of marvels*, by Briar Wood, a poem about Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman. Next, from Dorothy Wordsworth's journal... *Daffodils*.

We enjoyed *I Wanner Be Yours*, by John Cooper Clarke, and *Cave Girl*, written by Mae West when she was 15. *Words of Spring* another by Wordsworth, William this time, followed by a self-written poem, a take on that favourite *Daffodils*.

Next was a poem by Brian Bilston called *Refugees*, this clever poem can be read both ways. A deep poem called *In the Gold Room- A Harmony* by Oscar Wilde. Another poem worth reading several times, *White-Eyes*,

by Mary Oliver, had us all thinking about its meaning. Next, we had *I Wonder*, by Alan Watts, this lovely verse is featured in the Cunard advertisement. This was followed by a poem called *The Butterfly*, written by Daphne Wilson, who was a local writer.

We ended the afternoon with *Which of Us Wears The Trousers*, by Maria Jastrzebska and *Who's Had My Scissors?* By Pam Ayers. Another splendid poetry afternoon, hosted by Susanne.

March Report

A small but beautifully formed group of us enjoyed a lovely afternoon of poems. Our guide this month was XYZ.

W B Yeats featured twice, *He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven* and *When You Are Old*. Francis Brett Young, wrote the descriptive *Lochanilaun*. A lovely poem that caused much discussion was *Tears* by Zabel Assadour. *You Are The Mountain* by Lisa Zaran was next, she wrote many poems about her father, and also our next offering called *Go On*. The interesting poem *Meeting Point* by Louis MacNeice, was another that made us all think about the words. We ended the afternoon with *Zebra Question* by Shel Silverstein, who also wrote the 1969 Johnny Cash track "A Boy Named Sue".

A lovely afternoon hosted by Hilary.

Day breaks
And a split-yolk sun
Oozes on a lightly toasted
And buttered sky
Lemn Sissay

Reports and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

CRAFT 2 GROUP



In February, we met to tackle one of Maureen's card design cards. Thank you to her for all the fiddily preparation work she did before the meeting.

We used wax shading on the background which gave an excellent texture to show off the hanging flowers.

Maureen is glutton for punishment and is undertaking the March project too. Look forward to seeing you all on 17 March at 2pm.

Group leader and report Liz Noble

STROLLERS GROUP

Fifteen Strollers including two guests met at the Birchtree Cafe at Easton on the Hill on a lovely sunny morning.



On the first part of the walk we visited a pocket park with a profusion of snowdrops and paused to read the memorial dedicated to Polish servicemen who were based in and around the village.

Climbing up the hill, then down into Church Street, we paused to admire the lovely old houses with their Collyweston stone slate roofs.

Geoff, who was leading, had some information about this type of roofing and the unusual names given to the individual tiles (eg, Mopes, Mumfits, Batchelors) and John Burton was able to give us expert comment on the clever methods used.

We moved up towards the Church taking a right turn into a track called Park Lane, where we could admire the splendid views over Stamford. A short section of the Jurassic/Macmillan way returned us to the church where we passed an Ordnance Benchmark on the church. These were used by surveyors to establish a fixed height above sea level.

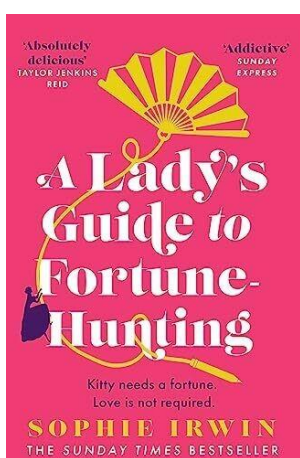
Continuing around the back of the village, past the allotments we had a look at the four-storey house where the Captain of the Lutine resided in the 1700s. The Lutine sank but the ship's bell was recovered and is the one sounded at the Lloyds insurance building in London when a vessel is lost.

We made our way back through the village admiring the many interesting houses and gardens and finished our walk at the Birchtree, where we were looked after very well.

Our walk in March will be in the Ferry Meadows area, led by Julie and Geoff Fitzjohn – details to follow.

Report: Geoff Fitzjohn
Group Leader: Bob Deller

DEEPINGS BOOKWORMS



A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting by Sophie Irwin received a big thumbs up from everyone. What can be more cheerful and life-enhancing than a romcom set in Regency times? Empire line dresses, flowing muslins and silks to accentuate form – and that was just the men!

Author Sophie Irwin has given *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen a very modern twist, bringing a breath of fresh air and contemporary energy into the genre. Kitty Talbot has four sisters and huge debts. Her remedy? To leave her beloved rural countryside and seek a rich husband during 'the season' in London.

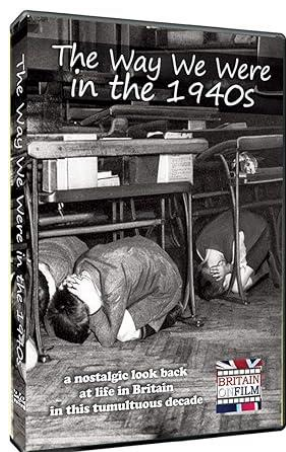
She plans her assault to ensnare her rich catch like a military campaign, but is thwarted throughout by Lord Radcliffe, who sees through her nefarious plans. But the two former frenemies begin to see each other's true qualities. And guess what – well, it is a Regency romcom! Lord Radcliffe pays off all Kitty's family debts, walls crack, finally tumble, and the two find love.

All in the group enjoyed the fast-paced plot, strongly drawn characters and witty dialogue, even if the manner of writing and characters' speech did not always fit the era. The novel portrayed the hard power of the males [rich, entitled] against the soft power of the females [keepers of family reputation, gossip]. Never underestimate the power of gossip!! Also, the horrors of the Napoleonic Wars [modern scholars estimate at least 5m died] while the idle rich enjoyed the dying embers of Georgian England. If only there was peace, and I had a title, a country estate and unlimited funds!!

Report and Group Leader: Tom Baldwin

HISTORY GROUP

This month, the topic was The Way We Were in the 1940s



We met back in the Green School. The new kitchen and upgraded toilets with extra changes in layout welcomed us back. It seems a long time now since the hall was a school.

The original speaker had cancelled so it was cinema time!

It was a morning of nostalgia, watching a DVD of life in the 40s which left us asking the question: 'What happened to make life so vastly different?'

It showed aspects of the 40s from evacuation through to prefabs, sporting events to our great manufacturing days.

It was all a bit rose-tinted but it reminded us that although we didn't have much, what we did have was appreciated.

Barbara told us about the planned trip to Ipswich in August and the need for at least 40 people to make it a viable option. She will take **non-refundable** deposits in March.

Sandra reiterated the fact that we need someone to volunteer to become a speaker finder and also reminded everyone that we are not getting any younger and volunteers are essential to keep groups functioning.

So, if you fancy being a speaker finder or taking on the annual trip in 2026 or even doing a talk next year, please let us know.

Thank you to everyone who helped today. Especially to those serving coffee, it was a challenge!

Next month the speaker is Toby Wood and he will be talking about Postcards. He has spoken to us before and he has been very entertaining. It will be at The Green School. 10.30 start. Coffee from 10am.

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

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our February meeting was at Phil Jones' house. Phil presented a most intriguing programme entitled Programme of Contrasting Items. This consisted of a number of relatively unknown items in various genres. The morning started with a hilarious spoof on Elgar's *Pomp & Circumstance No. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory)*, arranged and played on a 1960's style Moog synthesiser by Wendy Carlos.

It was followed by a breath-taking arrangement of Paganini's *Caprice No. 24* by the members of the Hungarian multi-talented Illényi family of musicians. The Illényi family also featured on two further items.

Then, Debussy's *Arabesque No. 1* was played by the 12 year old Aliza Teng.

Local interest was provided with two items by the Warrington Male Voice Choir – the local interest being that one of our group has a son who sings with this choir.

The Argentinian virtuoso cellist Sol Gabetta played a movement from the Saint-Seans' *Second Cello Concerto*. Organist Jonathan Scott played a rousing arrangement of Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries* on the recently restored JJ Bins organ of Rochdale Town Hall which demonstrated the immense volume of that instrument's heavy pedal reed stops.

One of our members who is an organist, asked: What is the difference between an organist and a terrorist? Answer, you can negotiate with a terrorist!

The morning ended with members of the Illényi family playing a highly virtuosic rendition of *Tiger Rag*.

Thank you, Phil for another of your most unusual and informative programmes. It was a most enjoyable morning.

Our next meeting will be at 10am on 12th March. Venue tba.

Report and Group Leader: Terry Noble

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

The day of our walk in February was dry and overcast with an initial temperature of 3°C, when 15 walkers (led



by the Magnificent 7) set out from the village of Folkingham. From the car park we crossed the A15 and turned left up a footpath that led us to the site where Folkingham Castle was once situated. The castle was originally built in the 11th Century as an earth and timber bailey fortress. In 1312, Henry de Beaumont changed it to a stone castle with an impressive moat. The castle was finally abandoned in the 16th Century.

In 1611, a prison was built on the site of the old castle. This building later became a House of Correction, built in 1808.

The Gaol could accommodate 70 prisoners, in solitary cells, until its closure in 1877. The prisoners who were left there were handcuffed between two chains and taken, on the train, to Southwell prison, near Nottingham. The building is now owned and hired out by the Landmark Trust and may be rented. Four nights cost from £456 – sleeps 4.

Crossing back over the A15, we walked a short distance up to Greenfields Lane, then turned left into pasture land and headed southwards following beside a stream, then up and over several fields.

After a few kilometres, we emerged onto a minor road at Laughton. Turning right, we followed the road for a short distance, heading west and arrived at Laughton Lodge. Here we crossed a stream and we now headed uphill, northwards, crossing a field occupied by two very large, inquisitive horses. Safely over the next stile, crossing a ploughed field, we continued northwards, back onto the ancient trackway, known as Greenfields Lane.

Folkingham Church now became visible. We were informed that the spire was once struck by lightning – *if anyone needs more information about this event, please contact Mr. Brian Littler for more details.*

As we descended back into Folkingham, our path led us to a ford, with a raised wooden platform to one side. This water was very handy to enable us to remove excess mud from our boots. Finally, the day's event was completed by an excellent fish and chip lunch at the New Inn.



We were pleased to have two new members join our group: Ming Ming Wall and Malcolm Roe – welcome and we hope you had an enjoyable day. The walk was just over five miles in length.

Report by Richard Coulson – Walk Leader

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

This month we visited the Wildflower Café in Deeping St James for a demonstration of Indian Printing. It was a very pleasant morning.

Twenty-two of us watched and then tried the technique. The owner, Susan was helped by her son who took the orders for coffee and cake.

Susan runs small group craft classes and gave out leaflets telling us what she has planned for the next few months. Some of our members already attend her classes.



Margaret having a go at printing



Coffee and cake



Kay showing one of Susan's painting examples

Next month Barbara is talking to us about Marie Braquemond. It will be the third in her trilogy of Female Painters. Venue Deeping Sports and Social. 10.30 start, coffee from 10am.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT



We have more than doubled the membership of our group and were delighted to welcome 20 of them in February.

We split the novices and refreshers into another room to give them a chance to let us know how they felt and what they expected. The older hands went into the larger room with seven computers and experimented with different genealogy software, together with the expertise of the computer owners!

The novices/refreshers joined in after a short while.

It certainly wasn't a quiet session but I understand it was beneficial for many. It gave a different approach for some, help in breaking down the brick-walls for others and for several making the important decision on how to record accurately all they have and will find. Proof of the findings is the key issue and not just what your Great Aunt told you or even written in the family bible!

Many thanks to those members who shared their computers and supported the newer members.

We still have some enthusiastic members hoping to join us in March for the first time and hope to give them some support, together with short explanations about some unusual finds some of the more experienced members have come across in their searches. Look forward to seeing you on Monday 10th March at 2pm at the Community Centre, Market Deeping.

Report and Acting Group Leader Liz Noble

CYCLING GROUP

After cancelling our January ride due to weather etc, four of us set off on a brightish but very cold morning for our first ride of 2025 on the morning of February 14th from the Bridge in Market Deeping.

We set off on Lincoln Road to Northborough and continued on through Northborough to Nine Bridges where we made a left turn and headed towards Peakirk. We proceeded through Peakirk towards Glinton and turned left onto Foxcovert Road.



We headed to Werrington over the Foxcovert Road railway bridge where we stopped for the obligatory photo and then followed the pathway parallel to the railway line to David's Lane. We then followed David's Lane back to the A15 roundabout and crossed onto Werrington Bridge Road.

We followed this for a short time and turned onto Meadow Road heading back towards Peakirk. At Peakirk, we turned onto Deeping Road towards Deeping St James continuing onto Peakirk Road before turning left onto

Church Street for our destination at the Packhorse in Northborough for a warm up and lunch.

A very nice, but cold, 12-mile ride to get us back into the swing of things. So, thanks to David for planning the route and look forward to seeing you all then.

Our next ride will be on 14th March at 10:30 from the Bridge in Market Deeping, so if anyone else fancies a leisurely cycle around the area, please feel free to come along and give it a go.

Report and Group Leader: Jim Torrance

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

On a fine, sunny day, 22 walkers met at The Moorhen to order food for lunch before our walk around the



seven lakes situated around Hampton Vale.

The walk was on footpaths, grass verges, and bridleways.

We visited several different lakes: Sunset Lake, Happy Hollows, Serpentine Lake, Allenvale Lake, Hampton Lake (the largest), James Pond which included a visit to view the 7 stone mock circle.

As we walked, we spotted lots of different birds.

Hampton Hargate began in 1997 with a plan to build more than 5,000 new homes. The aim was to build 500 a year on the former site of clay extraction for brick making dating back to Roman times. Since then, six more Hampton villages have been created, involving more than 30 different home builders and housing associations' building schemes, including around 900 units of affordable housing. It was interesting to see a different residential area and realise how the Hamptons have developed. On our return leg, we saw some fallow deer, then spotted signs warning us of adders basking in the grass (needless to say nobody ventured off the path!). While waiting for our food and looking out onto the lake, we spotted two Great Crested Grebes were doing their courting moves. A good meal was had by all. A big thank you to "The Magnificent Seven" for organising the walk.

**Report: Richard Coulson
Group Leader Steve Hanson**

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Eleven Thursday gardeners went rogue in March and met on the first Friday of the month!

We welcomed the start of some lovely Spring gardening weather with a tasty fish and chip lunch in the Eventus Café.

We look forward to our April meeting when Alistair will be our host. It's sure to be another interesting, fun occasion.

**Report: Ann Pettitt
Group Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024/2025

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Mary Martin
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Membership Secretary	David Perkins
Group Co-ordinator	June Wheatcroft
Gift Aid Secretary	Anne Burton
Committee Member(s)	Phil Jones

Non-Committee/Supporting roles

Speaker Arrangers	Gill Godden
	Lynn Ayres
Newsletter Editors	Sandra Jones
	Ruth Griffiths
Newsletter Distribution	David Scott
Newsletter Distribution	Liz Noble
Coordinator	
Webmaster	David Perkins
Media Equipment Co-ordinator/Asst. Webmaster	David Scott

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 4 APRIL 2025
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NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**