



Deeping St. James

Issue No.266

June 2025

The Deepings u3a **NEWSLETTER**

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members: John Saxton from Orton Waterville, Peterborough.

NEXT MEETING: 16 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 FOR 2025:

16 June: Masters of Mirth the Sequel

Having visited us in December 2017, Mike Storr will present his second talk looking at some more characters from the music hall.

21 July: Lincolnshire – A Naturalist’s paradise

Stephen Lovell will give a talk about the amazingly diverse range of living creatures that Lincolnshire has within its boundaries at various times of the year.

August: NO MEETING

15 September: Mary’s Meals

Jane Wright gives a presentation that tells the story of the charity’s humble beginnings in a shed in Scotland to being a global charity feeding over 2.4 million children in some of the world’s poorest countries.

MARGARET’S MUSINGS

Dear members

As the summer sporting season gets under way, the weather is up to its usual trick of threatening “rain stopped play”. But, hang on a minute, there’s a drought warning – so it must be the wrong sort of rain. I hope the weather will be fine in daytime for our walking groups, followed by overnight steady rain for the gardeners and allotment holders among us.

A few members manned a stand at the recent Wellbeing Day at the Deepings Medical Centre, generating interest in our activities.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The Sunday Lunch is at the Horse Shoe Thurlby on 22nd June.

Please do not turn up until 12.45 for 1pm meal, as we can't have the table until then.

As we have to pre-order the meal at least one week beforehand, I will send the menu to you all nearer the time.

Group leaders: Enid Withers, Helen Perkins

CRAFT 2 GROUP



We met at our new Group Leader's house this month and Maureen had us all doing some folding to create flowers and the card.

Thank you to both for your hospitality and showing us the different card.

It is holiday time and several of the group are away in June so the meeting will be at 102 Church Street, DSJ at 2pm Monday 16 June.

Report Liz Noble

Group leader Pam Ready

PACERS WALKING



Nine of us set off from the newly refurbished Cuckoo at Alwalton for our walk in May.

We followed this pretty village down to the river Nene and across the fields to Castor Mill which is undergoing its own drastic renovations.

From here, we followed Mill Road and cut across the Landy Green Way back to the river, crossed the railway line and skirted back through Nene Park to Alwalton.

There was a slight miscommunication with the Cuckoo about pre-ordering but, in the end, we had a superb lunch. Note to other walking groups, if you would like to pre order on the day please contact the Manager, Leah, directly. Definitely worth the visit.

U3a members, particularly, gardeners, may be interested to know about the Open Garden event I am organising in aid of Cancer Research UK on Saturday 21 June at St Guthlac's Church, Market Deeping. (See separate email attachment)

Report by Marge Armstrong

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

WEDNESDAY GARDENING

On Wednesday, 14th May, twelve members of the Group visited David and Jill Cowcill's garden in Glington. David took us round and talked to us about some of the interesting trees in the garden and how he has learned to propagate by means of grafting.

The garden is approximately three quarters of an acre and there is an extensive vegetable and soft fruit garden. The weather was very kind to us and we were able to enjoy tea and cake on the patio in the sunshine. Furthermore, we were delighted to welcome three new members to the Group. Our next meeting will be a visit to Fenleigh near Parson Drove. Details will be sent out in due course.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Our walk in June started from Waterside Garden Centre on a pleasantly warm and sunny day. There were 14 walkers and 17 for lunch.



It was a lovely 6.2 mile walk, starting with a very short walk alongside the A15 and we then turned left via a public footpath towards Obthorpe.

Then through the farm towards Braceborough, across several fields and country lanes, going past Braceborough Hall Care Home, making our way back towards Wilsthorpe over two stiles.

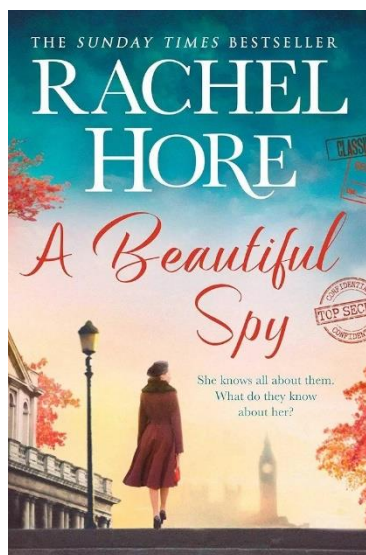
We paid a quick visit into St. Faith of Aquitaine church in Wilsthorpe which is one of the smallest churches in South Lincolnshire.

Finally, we made our way back along King Street to Waterside Garden Centre where we had a very enjoyable lunch.

**Report by: Helen Driscoll
Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

BOOKWORMS

A Beautiful Spy by Rachel Hore



Minnie Gray is expected to follow the conventional expectations of a conservative, well-educated and middle-class young lady during Britain's interwar years: meet a pleasant young man, marry him, have children. But Minnie wants more—to make a difference.

While working as a secretary, she is recruited by the government to spy on a communist group and report back on their actions. She gains their trust, but is increasingly aware of the dangers inherent in her double life.

The book explores brilliantly Minnie's growing isolation from her close friends and family, and that ultimately even her life may be in danger.

Based on the true story of Olga Gray, Olga/Minnie's work leads to the trial and conviction of a communist leader, but at great personal cost to herself.

All of the group were delighted by the emergence of successful female writers of the spy genre, an area previously dominated by male writers. But several did lament a lack of action in 'A Beautiful Spy' as the narrative slowly unfolded. Definitely a slow-burner, with

the author fusing her research into Olga's life with many imaginative touches of her own. But one Bookworm, who has read the text twice, found much to admire on the second reading, while another is going to read 'A Gathering Storm' by the same writer.

There was much to discuss in this novel, set mostly in 1930s Britain: the widespread fear of communism, the role of the Russian State, the advance of fascism. The group compared the fears then with our fears today. And poor Olga/Minnie, relying on her typewriter and in-person debriefs, with no iPad, iPhone, or WhatsApp! But we learn from this novel the almost intolerable strain of being a spy and living two lives. Today, beware - even Alexa may be listening!!

Report and Group Leader: Tom Baldwin

STROLLERS GROUP

Our May outing saw nine of us start from the Ruddy Duck at Peakirk, being led by Anne and John Burton, setting off across the fields to North Fen Road in Glinton.

At this point some members of the group opted to take a shorter route, with John, along North Fen Road to the John Clare bridge, then heading along the dyke bank towards Peakirk.

The rest followed Anne into Glington, via the playing field, through the Village and then back to Peakirk along the field paths to the Ruddy Duck where we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed a very good lunch. The walk in June will be an even more local affair, taking in the Welland bank and Frognall. This will take place on Friday 27 June. Details will be relayed to members of the group in due course.

Reports by: Anne Burton and Bob Deller
Group Leader: Bob Deller

POETS AND THEIR POETRY

A full house met this month, a warm welcome was extended to our new member Kay. Our theme for this month was "Inspirational or thought-provoking poems" and we had a wonderful selection. Starting with *The Drum* by John Scott. Followed by two poems by Maya Angelou, *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise*. Next *Queuing for an Ice Cream* by Brian Bilston. A lovely poem called *Rise and Shine*, by Jacqueline Cooper was next. Then *Joy Chose You*, by Donna Ashworth. Brian Bilston again: *She'd Dance*, a beautiful little poem. This was followed by *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver. We had three poems about blindness, John Milton, *On His Blindness*, and *Mimi's Fingers* by Mary O'Neill. Then, *Once More With Feeling* by Brian Bilston, this was about the invention of Braille. Next *Upon Westminster Bridge*, by William Wordsworth. Then the beautiful *High Flight* by John Gillespie Magee Jr. He was nineteen when he wrote this poem and then he died in an airplane crash. Wrapping up the afternoon two short poems. *New Every Morning* by Susan Coolidge. And *Ring out Wild Bells* by Alfred Lord Tennyson. A wonderful afternoon of poetry kindly hosted by Cathryn.

There is much hope to be found
buried in mud; after all, that's where the most
beautiful flowers thrive best.
Donna Ashworth.

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

HISTORY GROUP

THE WAY WE WERE THE 1950s



Unfortunately, our planned speaker for the day, Stuart Orme, was ill so we had to improvise and watch one of our recently purchased CDs. They were bought as a threesome and were for times when speakers cancelled at short notice. However, we have already watched two of them so I am wondering if it is something I have said!!

The CD made us chuckle:
Bathing hats that made us look like boiled eggs
Bathing suits that stretched when wet
Men in suits and ties at the seaside
Ladies in Sunday best hats on the beach
Children in overcoats (again on the beach)



We remembered wearing those dresses, the music and the jumper that Dave still has (not really) Manchester United's air crash, smog, Elvis the Pelvis, The Queen, The King, The Festival of Britain. They all came flooding back and made us think about simpler times when there were no mobile phones, we spoke to someone in the bank and on-line meant the washing was pegged outside.

Thank you to all who helped and attended today. Next month our speaker is John Dewis and the talk is about Peter Boizot.

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

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our May meeting took place at Chris Hartley's house. Chris presented a programme based on choral music in which he has sung. Appropriately, Chris called his presentation *Music with Words* in contrast to purely instrumental music.

The morning started with works by Vaughan Williams, Stanford and Mozart. These were followed by two contrasting excerpts from Karl Jenkins' *Requiem. The Dies Irae* (day of wrath) consisted of a driving ostinato pattern vividly reflecting the piece's title.

Following *Then sing ye birds* by Gerald Finzi, we heard two pieces from David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus* – an amazing piece using pre-recorded tapes made by Fanshawe himself during his trips to African tribal communities combined with choral parts.

The Berlioz vast *Grande Messe de Mort* was beautifully contrasted by Stanford's unaccompanied and peaceful *Blue Bird*.

An unusual *Duet for two cats* by Rossini sung by two sopranos (not sung by Chris!) was followed by *Psalm 108* from Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* sung in Hebrew.

The morning ended with contributions from John Rutter, Elgar and Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*.

Thank you, Chris for providing such a most interesting and varied programme, it was a most interesting morning.

Our next meeting will be a presentation by Anne at 10am on 11th June at Terry Noble's

Report and Group Leader: Terry Noble

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Our visit at the end of May was to Barnack Hills and Holes, an annual visit hoping to see the beautiful orchids for which it is now renowned. It was a dull and windy day and sadly the orchids were few, but here is one we did spot.

Beverley Tegala is taking over from Jo and me as coordinator for this group; she can be contacted at beverleytegala@yahoo.com.

**Report: Beverley Tagala
Group Leader: Beverley Tegala**

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



Way to the West By Vally Miller

(Vally is in the picture above showing her cards to two of our group members)

This month we were treated to some beautiful paintings by the artist Vally Miller who just happens to be Yvonne's sister.

Vally showed us her water colour collection which were illustrations for her Husband's poems, made into a book of the same title. Vally had lived in Deeping as a child but now after many moves, lives in Wirksworth in Derbyshire. She had been an Art teacher and also a Headteacher.

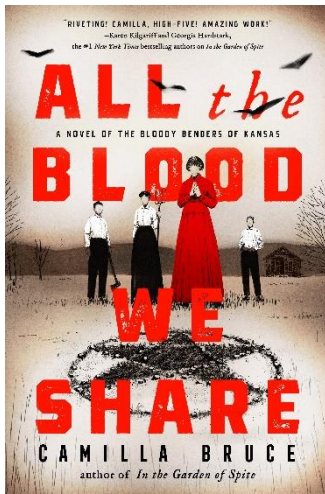
Her next project is to illustrate a book of poems by our local poet John Clare. We look forward to hearing all about the new venture when she returns next year. The seagulls painting is the illustration on the front and inside covers of the book of poems



Thank you to everyone who supports the groups and to David who uses his expertise for our benefit. Next month Sandra will be talking about an artist who has quite a sense of humour. New members welcome. We meet at the Sports and Social Club on Outgaang Road 10 for 10.30. Coffee and biscuits included.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

MONDAY READERS



If you like really gruesome murders, dysfunctional families, a great sense of place and time, and crime going unpunished – this month's book is one for you! It was *All the Blood We Share* by Camilla Bruce, a crime novel based on a real story of a family in the early days of the Wild West, who basically made their living by murdering unsuspecting travellers through their isolated settlement, stealing their money and goods, and then burying them in their orchard. They were never brought to justice, despite the suspicions of their neighbour, and the author admits that so little is actually known about them this is mainly a fictional account.

We wondered what had made her choose such an apparently unattractive subject when there are so many other things in the universe to create a novel about. We enjoyed the writing, and the way Camilla Bruce was able to recreate the place and the period, but for several of us it was too bleak and unrelenting in its accounts of blood and cruelty to be enjoyable (or even in three cases, readable). However, two or three thought it was interesting at least. Perhaps an acquired taste of a book!

Report and Group leader Liz Waterland

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

Census Returns was the subject for the May Meeting. These are essential records for Family Historians so a close look was beneficial for all levels of experience.

The idea of the census was to provide information about the population listing everyone by name on a single night. This has taken place every ten years since 1801 with the exception of 1941. England and Wales were combined; Scotland taken separately.

An enumerator delivered and collected census forms known as schedules and from 1841 to 1901 the information was entered into enumeration books which can be found online today.

The group looked at each census in turn and noticed the added information as the decades passed. The 1841 version was fairly basic, just recording names, age (rounded down to the nearest five years for those aged 15 or over), sex, occupation and whether they were born in the county they were enumerated.

By 1901 the census looked very different. Headings included address of occupants, full name of each person, relationship to head of family, age last birthday, profession or occupation, whether employer, worker or own account, if working from home, where born and finally, whether deaf and dumb, blind, lunatic or feeble minded.

In 1911, all the household schedules were kept and were not copied into enumeration books. Some questions were re-worded and an extra one for women giving number of years married, children born and the number still living and those that had died.

There were more changes for 1921, the most notable being Divorce added to marital status and the name and business of each person's employer.

There was a quick look at Ireland but only two census returns fully survive, 1901 & 1911, the 1926 version which will be released next year.

As stated earlier no census was taken in 1941 and the 1931 census was destroyed after a fire. Fortunately, there exists the 39 register. This was designed to capture the details of every member of the civilian population on a specific date (29 Sept. 1939). The information was used to produce identity cards and ration books and also used to administer conscription. The records were later used by the National Health Service at its inception in 1948 and became the NHS Central Register.

Census returns are a huge resource for Family Historians and our thanks go to Peg for such an informative presentation.

Report: David Larkin
Group Leader: Peg Torrance

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

Another occasion when rain didn't stop play! Unfortunately, the weather for our June meeting didn't mirror the sunny day that had graced our May get-together. Instead, the grey skies brought wind and rain so, as last year,

we were unable to eat our summer lunch in the garden. The patio furniture may have got a good wetting but the spirits of our twelve participants were not dampened! The food as usual was very varied and tasty and the conversation and laughter flowed freely. A very enjoyable occasion. Many thanks to Liz and Terry Noble for their splendid hospitality.

We were still able to enjoy some lovely views of the garden from the property. The roses in particular were magnificent in vibrant shades of red, yellow, pink and orange. No doubt they enjoyed their drink of rainwater. Our next meeting will be a visit to Sheila and Brian's Peakirk garden.

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

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