



Deeping St. James

Issue No.267

July 2025

The Deepings u3a **NEWSLETTER**

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk

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Market Deeping

Welcome

New members:None this month.

NEXT MEETING: 21 July

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:

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

How are you all enjoying, tolerating or suffering the heat waves?

Most of us may be lucky enough to be able to stay in the cool and the shade, rather than going out to work in these temperatures.

With the season of u3a outings upon us, let’s hope for some respite from the extremes. There is also the “burning question” of rain for the gardens and the farmers.

Remember that there is no meeting in August; so, if I don’t see you at u3a events before then, enjoy the summer.

Best wishes

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next Sunday Lunch will be on Sunday 27th July 12.30 for 1pm at the Black Horse Baston.

Please ring either Enid on 01778342936 or Helen on 01778345674 or email helen.perkins500@gmail.com to let them know if they are coming or not.

Group leaders: Enid Withers, Helen Perkins

CHURCH MICE



Twenty-two members of Church Mice visited St Michael's and All Angels Church at Edenham on a warm June day. Andrew, the church warden and treasurer, gave us an interesting and humorous talk about the church. It was originally of Saxon heritage via an Augustine monastery. There are some roundels dating from 850 CE, a font carved out of one stone, large enough to take a child and notable poppy heads on the pews. A 12th Century Norman arch was brought in 1967 from a barn in nearby Scottlethorpe. Perhaps of greatest interest is a Saxon shaft cross, part of a larger painted one from 825.



After a walk round the church, we retired to the nearby vicarage for an excellent tea and chat.

Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

SCIENCE GROUP

May Report

At the May meeting we had a very interesting and informative talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI). This covered from the first tentative steps by Alan Turing in the 1950s to the present-day applications which include satnav, in car technology, healthcare, financial applications and chatbot. The future of AI and its impact was also discussed along with possible legislation that will be needed. As an experiment, part of the talk was generated by chatbot. The next meeting will be on 17th June when we will have the second instalment of the Story of DNA.

June report

At the June meeting we had a most interesting talk about how the Enigma machine worked. Each letter could be changed multiple times via 3 cogs and also via a switchboard. The cogs were changed each day and 3 were chosen from 5 and each time the starting position was changed. It is really remarkable that the people working at Bletchley Park managed to break the code.

**Report by: Gill Godden
Group Leader: GarthPerry**

CYCLING GROUP

June report

On very warm morning on Friday 13th!!, four of set out from the Bridge in Market Deeping for our monthly ride. We initially went along Lincoln Road from Market Deeping and turned into Mill Road to reach the by-



pass. Here we crossed over and continued on Mill Road into Maxey, along Castle End Road to the High Street. From here after passing the Blue Bell we turned onto Woodgate Lane and took the path to Etton. Carrying on through Etton, we crossed the Helpston Road onto Woodcroft Road and to the level crossing at Woodgate Stud where we had the obligatory hold up for a few trains. Once the crossing opened, we continued along Woodcroft Road to Marholm and crossed the Stamford Road onto Caister Road.

A short distance along Caister Road, we turned left onto Park Farm Road, past the Milton Lodges and through the Milton Estate bringing us out at the Bretton Centre. Where

at the gate we took the obligatory photo (unfortunately our professional photographer was absent). We carried on along Bretton Way and took a detour through some "Jungle Pathway" behind the Eagle Wood Neurological Care Home and then rejoined Bretton Way. Just after the Ice Rink, we turned left onto a pathway

along Stirling Way and across the railway line footbridge towards Werrington. After crossing the railway, we went along Cock Lane and under Werrington Parkway exiting onto Helmsdale Gardens.

From here we took Carron Drive and Staverton Road, through the houses in Werrington to Lincoln Road then across David's Lane to David's Close Cycle Path. We followed this through David's Close, onto the Lincoln Road along the side of Werrington Parkway to the Glinton Bypass Roundabout Bridge which we duly crossed and continued into Glinton.

Continuing through Glinton, we followed the Lincoln Road through Northborough onto the Old Lincoln Road and then linking back up with the Lincoln Road into market Deeping and the Bull for a well-earned lunch.

Thanks to David for organising the route which was just over 18 miles and despite the very hot weather everyone enjoyed ride. Our next ride will be on Friday 11th July, and anyone is welcome to join us.

Report: Jim Torrance

July report



Normally, should a u3a Cycling Group ride have to be either cancelled or modified, it is due to rain, frost or generally inclement weather.

However, this was not the case on 11th July when temperatures were predicted to reach 31 degrees C. Even so, three of us turned up at the bridge in Market Deeping, so not to be deterred we decided to do a curtailed version of the 16.5 mile ride originally intended while temperatures remained reasonably cool.

First we made our way to Glinton to shelter under the tree by the church, drink some water and take a photo. Next, it was on to Peakirk where we took the opportunity to look at the medieval wall paintings in the church (which was delightfully cool).

Finally in view of the increasing temperature we decided to make our way to our respective homes before later reconvening at The Bull for an excellent lunch.

**Report by Terry Noble
Group Leader: Jim Torrance**

CRAFT 2 GROUP



In June we met at my house to do some water type painting of cards – something we rarely have done in the past – using distressed inks and a fine paintbrush! Thank you to Anita for providing the base card and ideas and well done to the rest for the results. Back to Pam's next month on 21 July and as yet the subject is surprise!

**Report Liz Noble
Group leader Pam Ready**

GOOD FOOD GROUP

June report

We had our June lunch on Monday 9th. The theme was Garden Party and the weather was so nice we actually had it in the garden.

Starters were home grown asparagus in Hollandaise sauce, followed by Boa buns with Korean chicken filling.

Our main course consisted of spicy sausage plait and a goat cheese, spinach, feta and sun-dried tomato crustless quiche with a salad of watermelon, cucumber, feta and avocado.

For dessert we had some cherry traybake and berries and cream.

New members are welcome. Please come and be our guest at a lunch before you decide if you want to join us.

Report by Sheila McGurk

July report

The July meeting of the Good Food Group took place on the only cool and breezy day between back-to-back heatwaves; and of course, the theme was barbecued food!



A compromise was reached, the intrepid barbecue chef, operating in the wind tunnel at the side of the house, cooked the various meats, and the other seven participants sat inside and enjoyed the fruits of his labours! Upon arrival, the group enjoyed sparkling rose wine and nibbles and then proceeded to the main event. For starters they had Thai prawn and mango salad before the arrival of the various barbecued delights. These included chicken, marinated in a spicy BBQ sauce, belly pork flavoured with ginger, soy, brown sugar. There were also sausages, and vegetable kebabs with pepper, onion and tomato. All this was accompanied by watermelon, cucumber and feta salad, tomatoes stuffed with apple, celery and yoghurt as well as red cabbage slaw. All the above was washed down with a tasteful selection of red and white wines.

The sweet course was strawberry fool and summer glory trifle cake with peaches, raspberries and cream; and then coffee to finish.

The next meeting will be on the 4th of August at David and Anne's house and the theme is dishes following a Mediterranean diet.

Report by Hilary Akam

Group Leaders: Hilary Akam and Sheila McGurk

PACERS WALKING



The route for the Pacers' July walk was originally planned with the heatwaves of June in mind, so with plenty of woodland shade included. But as it turned out trees were a welcome shelter from the rain!

We met in the Burghley golf club house to choose and order our lunch before setting off on our circular walk towards Wothorpe, along bridleways, footpaths, across fields and through avenues of trees with some good views to enjoy along the way.

Anne couldn't resist a stop for a group photo at the gateway to Lady Anne's Cottage.

Walk led by Barbara Wilson and Anne Burton

Report by Anne Burton

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

WEDNESDAY GARDENING

June report

Eleven members of the Wednesday Gardening Group visited Fenleigh, a garden at Throckenholt.

The garden belongs to Mr. And Mrs Stalker. Barbara is a County Adviser for the NGS for Cambridgeshire. The top part of the garden was full of flowers and interesting plants as well as that new phrase "hard landscaping". There was a lovely large pond with fish and water lilies. The remainder of the garden was more wild, complete with a turkey sitting on a clutch of eggs! Members were then able to sit on the patio in the sunshine and enjoy refreshments.

Our next meeting will be our summer lunch in Jane's garden on 9th July. As previously, please bring your own picnic. Drinks will be provided. Details nearer the time.

July report

Eight members of the Wednesday Gardening Group had their summer lunch in Jane's garden in Deeping St. Nicholas. Everyone brought their own picnic and Jane provided cold drinks and/or tea/coffee. We all walked round the garden to view the extremely parched ground plus a few plants which amazingly are thriving!

The next meeting will take place at 11am on 13th August at Russell's at Little Bytham. It is important that we have numbers in advance in order to reserve a table for lunch.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



The Monday group's walk for July started from The George in Whittlesey on a lovely warm and sunny day with a light breeze. There were 16 walkers and 15 for lunch. It was a nice easy 6.5 mile walk along footpaths and bridleways. We walked along New Road to the end where we joined the Whittlesey Walk footpath which took us along the fishing lake, three stables and the Lattersey Nature Reserve.

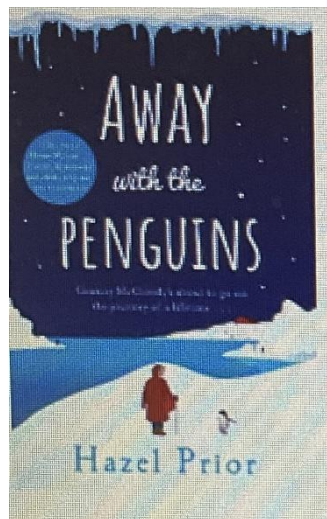
The walk was mainly flat with no stiles, the footpath at times ran alongside the railway track. We passed through two villages: Eastrea, and the quaint village of Coates with a pretty green, horse chestnut trees and thatched cottages.

The last two miles took us past some open farmland and we repeated the last half-mile back along New Road to the George Hotel where we were well looked after.

Report by: Brian and Helen Driscoll

Group Leader: Steve Hanson

BOOKWORMS



'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior [Published by Penguin Books!] is the first of three volumes following the adventures of lonely, cantankerous millionairess Veronica McCreedy, aged 85yrs. Formidable and opinionated, Veronica is aware that something is missing from her life. But all is about to change! Inspired by a TV wildlife programme, she travels to Antarctica and stays with a small group of scientists studying penguins, hoping to leave her millions to further their scientific research. Concurrently, she learns she has one relative – a grandson.

The fifty plus chapters flip between Veronica's tragic and difficult early years, revealed through her diaries; her grandson's life and hopes; the scientists studying penguins; a blog about penguin behaviour. Written with compassion and much humour, Veronica's frozen heart is finally melted by the penguins and their communal, life-affirming antics.

Thumbs up from our group! Comments included: 'Charming'; 'Uplifting'; 'Veronica McCreedy was an easy person to fall in love with'. Her grandson understands that

Veronica's harshness was: 'a kind of coat she wrapped around herself so nobody could see what was underneath'. But a few felt the story stretched credibility perhaps too far – an 85 years old female travelling solo to Antarctica! Cramped space for the scientists but room and duvets for two extras! One comment caught the group's feelings: 'I found the novel very funny, very sad and hugely entertaining!'

So [if you remember the 1980s McVitie ad] P...P...Pick up a Penguin – the book not the chocolate biscuit - and enjoy a great read!

Report and Group Leader: Tom Baldwin

STROLLERS GROUP

It was quite a warm morning, with prospects that it would get hotter during the course of our latest walk. That was another local outing starting from the car park of the Priory Church Hall in Deeping St James.

Setting off through the churchyard and into Hereward Way, we joined Broadgate Lane, which in turn led us to Spalding Road.

Walking alongside the former main road, we turned into Frognall, admiring the flora adorning the front gardens, including sampling cherries from an overhanging tree.

Having passed through the hamlet, we took a footpath which led us towards Back Lane, after Rosemary added a few yards to the route, which gave us some respite from the sun, courtesy of some overhanging trees.

Reaching Back Lane, we arrived back at the Priory Church Hall car park.

Our outing in July will be on Friday 25th, commencing from the car park of Burghley Park Golf Club, when Anne and Barbara will lead the way.

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

JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND APPRECIATION GROUP

Just like any other subject, when you start to look, or in our case, listen, in detail, as to what is available, it's easy to see what a wealth of our favourite music there is to enjoy. The title of our group might suggest that each month we're on a nostalgia trip with the names of Count Basie, Duke Ellington or Ella Fitzgerald being so high profile even these days.

But nostalgia is not where we are at. That said, it's not possible to ignore the great names and music that have happened from the very early days of the genre. And we don't! Especially as our group members are so diverse, which means that each us brings to our meetings knowledge and sometimes surprising stories of when some of music we know and love was common currency and not overtaken by pop as are all the other "new" ideas that have happened since, let's say, the fifties.

Jazz, Swing and Big Band Music seems to be poorly served by popular radio these days, so we're making up for that. Plus, so wide is the choice available, if you know where to look, we can get to hear some music that's over 100 years old and new music that's right up to date, with all stops in between.

By the way, it's worth saying that recording of the older pieces of music we hear, the legacy music if you like, are usually excellent. So we can go from Thelma Carpenter in 1939 via Sister Rosette Tharpe and Nina Simone (massive influencers of musicians to this day) to up to date artists bringing new music to the table. But the message is clear – you can't keep good tunes down and there's lots of the good stuff about!

**Report by Phil Jones
Group Leaders: Phil Jones, Anne Jones**

POETS AND THEIR POETRY

On a very hot afternoon we met with a cooling theme of "water", for this month's poems.

Starting with *Love's Philosophy*, by Percy Bysshe Shelley. Swiftly followed by *The Sea*, by British poet James Reeves, not a poet any of us knew.

Next was *Youth and Age on Beaulieu River, Hants* by John Betjeman. And *The Shellfish* by Walter De La Mare. *Hope Stick* by another English poet, Robert Andrew Lyle was followed by *Summer Night On the River* by Mike Jones.

Alfred Lord Tennyson captivated us with *The Mermaid, and his adventures*. A sombre poem called *Rain* written by Edward Thomas written in 1916 during his training as a World War 1 soldier. Our final poem *Above Us the Waves* by Andy Miller, concluded another enjoyable afternoon kindly hosted by Hillary.

Web by Simon Armitage

Abseiling silk threads,
spiders darn holes in the hedge.
Trampolines of death.

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

HISTORY GROUP



Today's talk by John Dewis, was a fascinating look at the life of Peter Boizot, who spent most of his life in Peterborough. He founded Pizza Express, owned The Great Northern Hotel, bought and remodelled The Broadway Theatre and ended up owning Posh Football Club.

He was a keen hockey player and also a fan of Jazz. He was a benefactor to many causes. John gave us a lot of information about this extraordinary man who unfortunately died almost penniless, following some bad decision making. He was summed up in three words: 'A nice man'

John hadn't been to the group before but we hope he will revisit next year.

Thank you to everyone who helped. There was a problem with the projector but fortunately John had brought his own. David was going to look into the problem but who

knows; it might be time for a new one!!!!

Next month we have another new speaker Dr Eric Somerville who will be telling us about The Care Pathway in WW1.

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

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

June report

For our June meeting we met at Terry Noble's house for a programme devised by Anne Jones. Anne's programme was entitled **Contrasts**, which as suggested by the name, featured many differing moods of music. The morning started with a performance taken from the BBC Proms of Sibelius dark and foreboding *Finlandia*: this was an unusual version as it featured a chorus singing patriotic words (in Finnish) to the well-known chorale theme. This was contrasted by the sunny first movement to Mendelssohn's *Italian Symphony*.

Four *Sea Interludes* from Britten's opera *Peter Grimes* provided contrasts between themselves ranging from, *Dawn*, *Sunday Morning* and *Moonlight* through to the dramatic *Storm*.

Next came Mussorgsky's violent and spooky *Night on a Bare Mountain*. Rossini's *Overture to William Tell* in itself gave contrasting moods depicting a storm, the haunting *Ranz de Vaches* (call to the cows) and the famous *Gallup* finale – better known today as the theme to the Lone Ranger.

This was followed by two movements from Beethoven's *Pastorale Symphony* – *Storm* and the very moving *Shepherd's Thanksgiving* after the storm.

To finish in a much lighter mood we had *Raindrops keep falling on my head* (Burt Bacharach) and *Bring me sunshine* (Morecombe and Wise).

Thank you, Anne for providing such an interesting morning's listening. Our next meeting will be at 10am on 9th July at Ann Holmes' house.

July report

Our July meeting took place at Anne Jones' house. We listened to a programme titled *The Quality of Mercy* – mainly based on the *Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)* from the Communion service.

Starting in the 12th century with Hildegard von Bingen the German Abbess mystic and polymath with one of her plainsong settings. Continuing through the centuries we heard settings from Bach, Haydn, Rossini up to the twentieth century with Kodaly and Vaughan Williams.

We ended with (in the writer's opinion) two of the greatest choral works ever written – Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and Bach's *B Minor Mass*.

We are not meeting during August, so our next meeting will be at 10am on 10th September – watch this space for the venue.

Reports and Group Leader: Terry Noble

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Our June meeting was at Eye Green Nature Reserve, which is a picturesque lake, fringed by reeds and bushes. Originally, the site was part of the Northam Brickworks and was declared a nature reserve in 1996. We were pleased to see butterflies, moths and caterpillars among the flora.

Report: Beverley Tagala
Group Leader: Beverley Tegala

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

June report

Three Villages and a White Elephant...



'Oh, are you organising the June Walk....poor you....nobody comes – they're all on holiday!' I'm pleased to report that, despite doubts expressed earlier in the year, eight of us enjoyed the 'John Clare Country – Three Villages Walk' which Claire and I led. On a lovely sunny day, after reading 'Summer Morning' by John Clare, we started out from the White Hart in Ufford. The 5.5-mile walk took us past Ufford Oaks to Barnack, through the length of the village and briefly onto the Torpel Way.

Accessed through Kate's Wood, the third village visited was Bainton, returning to Ufford in time for lunch –

where most went for the very tasty Ham, Egg and Chips on the 'Lunches for Less' menu.

We were very fortunate to see the White Elephant (eagle-eyed readers will spot it looming behind the group in the photo) in their enclosure in Ufford – a rare sighting. We called in to visit the three churches en-route and particularly admired Barnack's 11th Century tower and later early 13th Century spire.

We reminded ourselves of how picturesque and historic our local villages are, and it was great to see evidence of local nature conservation in the form of the flower meadows we passed with swathes of Tufted Vetch and Poppies. Despite many changes, John Clare would still recognise much of what we saw.

Report by: Simon Byshe

July report

The July walk was organised by Godfrey Parkes and David Scott using Northamptonshire walks – Walk no.143: Bulwick Circular Walk: A Pickled Village and A Teapot Monument in Red Kite Country. Distance 5.5 miles.



Ten walkers, braving extremely high temperatures, set out from the ancient, picturesque Queens Head Inn and heading southwest, towards the village of Deene. Our route firstly took us through a very large field containing a few dozen very lively and inquisitive young cattle. After escaping the stampede, we crossed the very busy A43. We now entered an area of very high flora (mainly nettles and thistles) with no discernible pathway through. After we had fought our way through the dense vegetation, we climbed uphill to reach a stone obelisk, a monument to the Brudenell family. On

the top of the obelisk was a teapot – Edmund always enjoyed a ‘jolly good cuppa’ From Deene we headed southeast to reach Deenethorpe. Near the village was once the site of USAF a wartime airfield for American heavy bombers. The walk from Bulwick via Deene to Deenethorpe took us through Deene Park Estates, where we had good views of Bulwick Hall and Deene Hall. The walk now became more clearly marked. After re-crossing the A43, we now headed through pasture land, woods and spinneys and fields of wheat. The cleared paths through the wheat fields had huge, deep cracks in carefully so as not to fall down into the crevasses. The final mile had us walking along the soil and it was a case of treading a minor tarmac roadway to emerge back to Bulwick where the Queens Head Inn served us an excellent lunch with very friendly and attentive staff. Thanks to Godfrey and David for organising and leading today’s expedition.



Group Leader: Richard Coulson

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



Beware of Luxury

Our topic this month was the painter Jan Steen, who lived in the Netherlands in the 17th Century. His work was often amusing and his faces were sometimes grotesque. He resembled Bruegel in style. The talk included a short video clip (with unwanted adverts). This was particularly informative and talked about EMBLEMATA. It focussed on the painting above and warned against the ease of which wealth can be frittered away and how important it is to be careful with both money and precious things, including life!



The picture on the right shows a baby and a skull. The message is that all life will end. It shows flowers that die, bubbles that pop and smoke that fades into the air. In other words, make the most of it!! The picture on the left shows how fortunes can be frittered away and poverty isn’t far away. It linked in with the video which is called Beware of Luxury. Next month we are visiting Cambridge and then we have a break until September. Thanks for everyone’s support again during the last six months.

Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

Something a little different for the June meeting. A few days earlier Peg asked if anybody had a question which she could have a look at and report back with any possible information.

There was a good response and below are some of the questions:

Althea could not find a 12 year old in the 1891 census. Brenda was wondering about a correction on a marriage certificate and a double entry in the 1939 Register. Debbie had missing death records and wondered if a particular marriage had taken place. Tina had problems obtaining a marriage certificate while Andrea asked if there were any migration records from Ireland to Liverpool. Finally, Sue was interested about immigration of aliens from Germany.

There were answers for some of the questions and more work to be done on others, but it did provoke some lively discussion and there is always something to learn.

Once again, our thanks to Peg for putting in all the work.

Report: David Larkin
Group Leader: Peg Torrance

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Ten Thursday gardeners spent a lovely July morning relaxing in Brian and Sheila's Peakirk garden. We strolled gently across the lawn, through areas shaded by trees, by vegetables and fruits provoking thoughts of delicious summer puddings and apple crumbles to come, and found various areas to sit and chat. The morning was completed with drinks and biscuits on the patio. Our thanks to Brian and Sheila for such an interesting visit.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Marjorie Fitzjohn, a very dear and long-time member of the Thursday Gardening Group. Marjorie very much enjoyed her garden visits and chatting with members. She will be greatly missed.

Our August meeting will be held at the home of Mike and Sandy Bowers.

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 |

NO MEETING IN AUGUST
DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 5 SEPTEMBER 2025
SEND TO: NEWSEditor@DEEPINGSU3A.COM