



Issue No.290 November 2025

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk

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



Welcome

New members in October: Lisa Kirby, Thurlby; Sue Langhm, Maxey; Dawn Dent, Deeping St James; and Christine Babb, Stamford

NEXT MEETING: 17 November

Unless otherwise stated, all monthly meetings are at the Methodist Church, Deeping St James. Doors open at 9.30am.

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 2025/26:

17 November: What they didn't teach you in the history class at school

Fascinating facts in a talk by Stuart Orme, which is not recommended for those who are easily shocked. A humorous look at some bits of history that the Victorians wouldn't have approved of, as well as posing thought provoking questions about the way we look at history.

15 December: Christmas

Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served and we will be entertained by the Buckden Bellringers

19 January 2026: Typewriter tales

A brief history of typewriters. Tales of disasters, love, wartime machines, drugs, espionage, bankruptcy and more.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

It was good to see many of you at our AGM at the beginning of the October meeting.

The business, though important, was brief with only one change to the committee, the election of Tom Baldwin to the post of Groups Coordinator, stepping into the role previously held by June Wheatcroft. We express our thanks to June for her commitment to Deepings u3a and welcome Tom in the role. He will be contacting Group Leaders in the coming weeks.

After the serious business we were entertained by the guest speaker to a lively catalogue of encounters with show business personalities.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting for "something completely different". Variety is certainly a characteristic of the monthly meetings and our groups.

Best wishes to you all.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – January to December 2026

NO FORM IS REQUIRED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Please pay by BACS or Cheque, just send your renewal payment and make sure you include your membership number and the “J” suffix if you are paying for more than one person from a joint account.

As advised at the AGM the subscription remains at £10 for full membership, £6 for Associated Members who are fully paid-up members of another U3A. Please notify Name and Membership Number of main u3a member.

HOW TO PAY - Either by:

- **BACS or TELEPHONE BANKING** – ensure your membership number(s) is in the Reference and if paying for more than one person from a joint account then add a “J” suffix to the Reference.

Account Name: The Deepings u3a

Sort Code: 20-81-20

A/c No: 63194272

- **CHEQUE** payable to “The Deepings U3A” – ensure your membership number(s) is on the back of the cheque and if paying for more than one person from a joint account then add a “J” suffix.

Hand cheque in at the Monthly Meeting or post/deliver to:

23 The Parslins

Deeping St James

Peterborough

PE6 8NQ

If your details have changed, send an email to: membership@deepingsu3a.com or if you prefer complete the online form on the website (deepings.u3asite.uk) or post/deliver a note.

New members, or returning members (not a member last year) need to complete an online form.

AFTER COMPLETING AN ONLINE FORM REMEMBER TO MAKE A PAYMENT BY BACS OR CHEQUE



Just a reminder that we are no longer issuing annual badges. Group Leaders will be checking their group members are paid up members. If there are any queries the Membership Secretary will be pleased to confirm a subscription has been renewed.

David Perkins

Membership Secretary

DEEPINGS U3A NEW GROUPS COORDINATOR REPORT

My name is Tom Baldwin, and I replace the irreplaceable June Wheatcroft as Deepings Group Coordinator. But fear not – June will continue selling u3a diaries!

First, a very brief autobiography. Born and lived in in Cromer, Norfolk, for 18 years. After university, taught in Zambia and Antigua for several years. Returned to England, and taught in schools in Kent, Manchester and Peterborough. Later, taught teachers at Leicester University, 10 years retirement in Spain, where I first encountered u3a and became a group leader for classical music. Returned to UK in 2016. Appointed Chair of Governors for the old Walton Secondary School (now QKA). Retired in 2023 and currently the group leader of Bookworms. That’s enough about me!!

How do I view the role of Groups Coordinator? The Headlines: It is essential for the smooth running and growth of our core activity – the interest groups. Most important is the support of all Group Leaders, the encouragement of new groups, and maintaining current information on established groups. Other aspects include maintaining accurate records; ensuring smooth communication between Committee, Group Leaders and members; monitoring, e.g. tracking group numbers, managing waiting lists; organising meetings, especially between group leaders to share best practice; provide guidance if required over u3a policies and procedures. Phew! Is that all? Glad I took the role!

Tom Baldwin

CHURCH MICE

October's visit was to St Mary Church in Swinstead.



Swinstead is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, so must have been a more flourishing village than it is now with its 150 or so inhabitants.

There would have been a wooden church built from the surrounding forest. By 1200 the wooden church had been replaced by the present stone church with its chancel, nave, tower and two aisles.

Interestingly the north aisle is broader than the chancel.

There are two hagioscopes or squints which allow the congregation sitting in the aisles to see the altar. The altar is beneath the east window which still has some medieval glass in it. In the vaults behind

the present organ are buried some of the famous families that live in nearby Grimsthorpe Castle.

Nicholas Ridley, a former churchwarden, gave us an interesting talk and answered the many questions that followed. This was followed by an excellent tea and a lot of chat.

Report and Group Leader: Henry Roberts

FAMILY HISTORY

Our November meeting looked at the various ways we store our information, in books, folders, photo scrapbooks etc. We talked about storage of life events of individual family members, and how to confirm all of our findings and record these in ways that details were clear, concise, and useful in our research.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas get together on December 8th.

Report by Margaret Hudson

CRAFT 2 GROUP



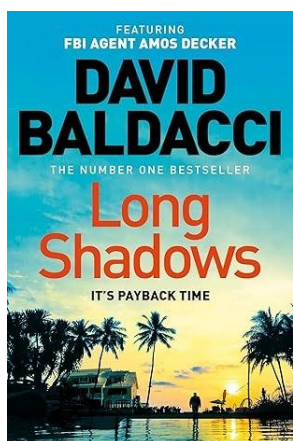
The group was back to full house this month and it was good to see all the members after various holidays.

Heather produced a 3D Christmas card for us to tackle which as usual she had prepared very thoroughly.

Thank you to her and to Pam for hosting the session. See you on Monday 17th November.

**Report Liz Noble
Group leader Pam Ready**

MONDAY READERS



Our book this month was Long Shadows by David Baldacci, book 7 in his Amos Decker series.

The group found that being part of a series didn't matter at all as the protagonist was explained well and developed further throughout the story, particularly through his relationship with his new partner, making for a satisfying read.

Other than a couple of readers who hadn't managed to read the book, the entire group enjoyed the narrative, finding it fast-paced and engaging.

As Long Shadows had a proper beginning, middle and end, it made for an excellent audio book too and we felt we'd be very happy to read another book by the same author. In addition to our discussion, we were also delighted to make arrangements for our Christmas meal!

**Report by Linda Hill
Group Leader: Liz Waterland**

MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Unfortunately, four of our members were unwell and unable to join us for our walk in November. Nineteen walkers met at The Windmill in Orton Waterville and set out walking to the end of Cherry Orchard Road,



joining the footpath that delineates the Old and the New Ortons.

The ancient and picturesque villages of Orton Waterville and Orton Longueville expanded when Peterborough was designated a New Town, and Orton became the second township in the development of Peterborough in 1967.

We took a detour from the path between the two villages and discovered the Long Walk.

This is a half-mile long plantation, in which a beautiful avenue of giant redwood Wellingtonia trees, one of the largest and oldest tree species on earth, forms the centre-

piece of the original 1850s planting.

We walked along 'The Village' in Orton Longueville and crossed into Orton Mere, stopping at the weir to see canoeists in the turbulent water below, navigating the gates and rapids. We then took the riverside path, passing a much newer plantation. In 2019, the Sikh Community began a project to plant 550 trees to celebrate the 550th birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of the Sikh faith.

The path led into Ferry Meadows and the Bluebell Wood Boardwalk, which was constructed in 2018 by a team of volunteers and Nene Park Trust staff. We passed Bluebell Wood on our right and beyond the river on our left were the Heron Meadows, a more recent project. The land has been encouraged to revert to water meadows, where cattle graze in the summer and wetland birds visit in winter. Cows were grazing and so it must still be summer, and the mild weather we enjoyed, added to the beautiful colours of the trees, the glorious scenery and the calm and peaceful environment, all contributed to our memorable walk.

Returning to The Windmill at the end of our six-mile walk, we received a warm welcome and enjoyed an excellent lunch. We hope that our poorly members recover quickly and are well enough to walk in December.

**Report by Lesley Evans
Group Leader: Steve Hanson**

JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our group title is a bit of a mouthful and often gets shortened to Jazz, but "appreciation" is the important word. While we meet monthly and take turns in putting together a programme of music, that's not compulsory, and anyone can join us simply to appreciate music.

Our October programme by Geoff Whittle was, as usual, an excellent selection of tunes featuring music from the blues end of the spectrum including music by harmonica players. That said, we were treated to a whole host of people who have made been regular "appearances", such as Teddy Wilson on piano, and indeed Dave Brubeck also on piano of course, but was not as easily identifiable playing *S'wonderful* from 1950.

Damn Right I Got The Blues from Buddy Guy revealed some excellent guitar work almost concluded the programme, but he was followed by Booker T and the MGs and the famous *Green Onions*. Wrapped around the music were details of the various musicians, with Booker T being a good example. He's really Booker Taliaferro Jones Jnr and far from the only artist whose real name is a little different to his famous one. Jelly Roll Morton, who claimed to invented the blues was really Ferdinand Joseph LaMothe. He was featured with the Red Hot Peppers playing *Dr Jazz* from 1926.

Geoff's programme was varied and included quite a few harmonica players including Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter and Junior Wells (Amos Wells Blakemore Jr). An instrument we have not really profiled in any details until now.

Thanks to Geoff for a really good programme, some said “informative” too!
Our next meeting will be at the home of Colin wall on 26 November 2025.

Report by: Phil Jones
Group Leaders: Phil Jones and Anne Jones

GOOD FOOD GROUP

October report

The theme for this month's lunch was family favourites, those recipes we return to again and again. We began with Potage Bonne Femme, a soup made with potatoes, carrots and leeks served with garlic bread. This was followed by chicken liver pate with sourdough toast.

Our main course dishes were pork in mustard sauce and cottage pie, accompanied by potch which is mashed carrot and swede.

For dessert we had chocolate pots and spicy apple roll. All washed down with wine and a dessert wine, followed by coffee.

This may sound like a huge meal but, of course, we only have small portions of each dish. And, as we each bring just one dish, it is a delicious lunch without a lot of effort!

If you would like to join us, please get in touch with me or Hilary. You will be welcomed to your first lunch without making any contribution, so you can see if it's for you.

Our November lunch is on Monday 10th and our theme is Jamie's Healthy Dinners.

November report



The November gathering of the Foodies took place at Hilary and Barry's house and the theme was: 'Eat yourself Healthy' a Jamie Oliver concept one would have thought would have simplicity as its basis. Not a bit of it! Most, if not all of the dishes required numerous ingredients and hours of preparation.

Upon arrival: drinks with carrot and celery sticks and vegetable crisps.

The Starters: Muffins— finely chopped salmon, feta, egg whites delicately presented in bijou cupcake cases.

The Mains: Smokey chicken fajitas, and then butternut squash risotto, with chestnut cream and crispy rosemary, turkey ragout, all accompanied by a finely chopped rainbow salad.

Dessert: strawberry tarts made with filo pastry.

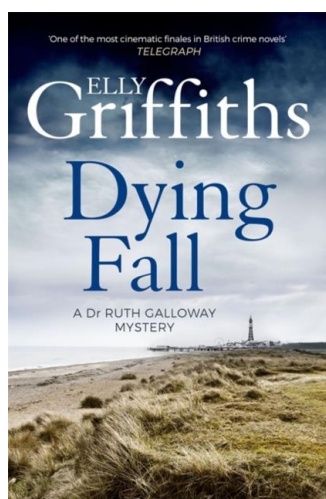
All the above washed down with lashings of Savignon Blanc and Primitivo.

And then: coffee and recovery!

The next meeting is on December 10th— the Christmas meal. Our hosts: Anne and David.

Report by: Sheila McGurk
Group Leaders: Sheila McGurk and Hilary Akam

BOOKWORMS



'Dying Fall' by Elly Griffiths is the fifth in a series of fifteen detective novels featuring forensic archaeologist Dr Ruth Galloway and Detective Inspector Harry Nelson. Ruth receives a voicemail from Dan Golding, a former fellow student and friend, fearing for his life. He has made an exciting archaeological discovery which will shock the world - will Ruth verify his findings?

When she learns that Dan has died in suspicious circumstances only hours previously, Ruth dashes to his dig site near Blackpool and quickly learns that someone will do anything to prevent Dan's findings from becoming public knowledge.

Ruth is sent threatening text messages; ancient bones at the dig site mysteriously disappear; Dan's colleagues are slippery. And who are the shadowy members of a racist secret society? There will be two more deaths before the murderer is finally revealed.

All enjoyed this mystery, where complex relationships and character development are intertwined with an ingenious plot which leads to murder. Ruth and Nelson form an endearing opposites-attract duo: Ruth, self-deprecating and suspicious of those she doesn't know (especially other females); Harry, full of bluster, but shrewd and cunning. Praise from the group: 'a great read'; 'mixture of interesting characters'; 'more like this'. And good advice from one group member: best read in order to get the maximum benefit from the series, but each can be enjoyed as a stand-alone. Either way, a great read and heartily recommended!

Report and Group Leader: Tom Baldwin

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Speaker Alan Brooke. Topic Hogarth



To your left is a portrait of William Hogarth

Interesting fact: His dog was named Trump!!

Interesting fact: His father started a coffee shop but it failed as the customers were required to converse in Latin!

22 members enjoyed a very interesting talk about Hogarth this month.

He was an artist renowned for his interest in the social life of London in the late 16th and early 17 hundreds.

His paintings sold as prints and were widely followed by the public.

He spent his early days with his family in a debtor's prison which may have influenced his observations of life.

His works are very satirical and can be bawdy in nature. Alan pointed out a few of the latter in his talk.

He had a very happy marriage and had no children. He was aware of cruelty to animals and many of his paintings showed a dog or other animal in amongst the crowd.

His paintings are very thought provoking and can keep a conversation animated just by identifying the variety of people shown in the scene.

Right, is a photo of his tomb. He was buried with his wife Mary.

Next month we have Chris Porsz who is showing us photographs from his collection. He was a photographer at the Evening Telegraph so the photos may bring back memories.

Thank you to everyone who helped today.



Report and Group Leader: Sandra Jones

POETS AND THEIR POETRY

A smaller group than usual met on a lovely sunny afternoon, with our poems on the topic "War".

We began with *To Whom It May Concern (Tell Me Lies About Vietnam)* by Adrian Mitchell. Followed by

Retribution by Ilya Ehrenburg. Next the chilling, *The Bivouac in the snow* by Margaret Junkin Preston.

We then had *The Departure* by Thomas Hardy and *The Call* by Francis William Bourdillon. *The Conscientious Objector* by Karl Shapiro was our next offering.

The mood was lifted slightly with *Naming Of Parts* by Henry Reed, then *War* by Ebenezer Elliott. Another by Thomas Hardy, *Drummer Hodge*. Our final two poems were *The Poppy* by Jessica Smirk and *Fields Of Red*. It was a thought-provoking afternoon hosted by Cathryn who kept our spirits up with tea and biscuits.

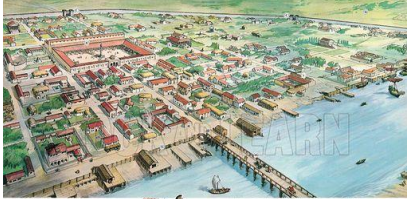
The Battle of Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum by Lewis Carroll

Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee
Resolved to have a battle,
For Tweedle-dum said Tweedle-dee
Had spoiled his nice new rattle.
Just then flew by a monstrous crow,

As big as a tar barrel,
Which frightened both the heroes so
They quite forgot their quarrel.

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

HISTORY GROUP



LONDINIUM

Our capital city as the Romans built it



THE MAKING OF LONDON BY ALAN BROOKE

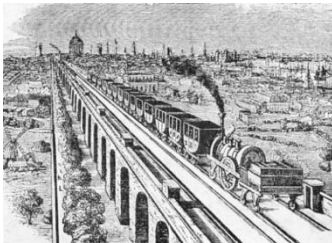
Alan based his talk on 4 key events that changed the face of London (Londinium)

He began with the Romans and showed pictures of maps that illustrated how restricted the area was but also that a bridge had been built to join the south part of London with the northern part. He talked about Lundenwic, Lundenburgh,

which became the names for London.



Then came the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry V111 Lots of the religious buildings were ruined so the vast wealth was transferred from the Church to the Crown and private owners, leading to secularisation of the city.



The next big change came with the coming of the railways and their ability to bring goods and services from other parts of the country. People could travel much quicker to and from London. There was growth in the suburbs and the physical landscape of the city changed.

Underground trains were gradually built.

Last of all on Alan's list was The Blitz. No one needs to be reminded of the devastating effect this had on London. St Paul's Cathedral stayed as a symbol of resilience.



By the Thames, history flows,
Echoing tales, as the river goes,
Past bridges and banks, the water knows
London's secrets as it ebbs and flows



The sky line of London in 2026. A bit different isn't it!

November's speaker will be Sheilagh Coates and the topic is The Spitfire. It relates to a personal tale about this iconic aircraft.

Thank you to everyone who helped at History this month. The Christmas buffet looks as if it will be well attended. Alan will be back to see us in 2026.

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

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



Unfortunately, our October meeting to Bourne Wood to look at fungi was cancelled due to 'Storm Benjamin'. We did not want to walk in a wood during high winds and rain due to the risks of falling branches and slipperiness. Fortunately, I was able to visit the following day and managed to find at least ten different fungi.

We find it quite difficult and challenging to identify fungi but the one pictured is quite easy. It has a white tip and black base and is called candlesnuff fungus, also known as 'Stag's horn'. It is common and is the subject of ongoing research because it contains both anti-viral properties and compounds that are active against some human carcinomas.

Report: Beverley Tagala
Group Leader: Beverley Tegala

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



It was a damp but unusually mild November morning when the Thursday gardeners met in Bourne to plan their 2026 activities. The eleven monthly slots were filled pretty quickly.

We do not meet in January. It seems we have another interesting year ahead with quizzes, talks, garden visits, group meals and some coffee and retail therapy in local garden centres pencilled into the programme. Whatever happened to 2025?!

Our next meeting will be our Christmas lunch to be held at Browning Court, Bourne.

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2024/25**

#

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw
Secretary	Mary Martin
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Membership Secretary	David Perkins
Group Co-ordinator	Tom Baldwin
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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