



Issue No.292 January 2026

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

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



Welcome

New members in December: None

NEXT MEETING: 19 January

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:

19 January 2026: Typewriter tales

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

16 February 2026: Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service

It's not just bikes and it's not just blood! Find out what this charity actually does.

16 March 2026: Folding back the years.

Brian Bignell will transport us back to the music scene of the 1960s.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

Welcome to 2026.

I hope you were able to enjoy Christmas; if you were "dreaming of a White Christmas" you would have been disappointed in most places but the weather since has certainly given us frosty mornings, cold north winds and freezing temperatures.

We can now look forward to resuming our group activities, perhaps joining new groups or even suggesting a completely new activity. There will be forms at the back of the hall at the January meeting, inviting you to suggest new groups.

Best wishes for 2026.

Margaret

Chair, The Deepings u3a

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S NOTICE

Your last chance to renew your Deepings u3a membership!

Wishing all Deepings u3a members a Happy New Year. A big thank you for all those that have already renewed for 2026.

Your u3a membership needs to be renewed if you wish to continue attending Groups and/or monthly meetings.

Please see the November newsletter for details or contact me if you are having problems renewing.

email: membership@deepingsu3a.com

Tel: 01778 343158

If your subscription has not been received by 31st January 2026 you will no longer be a Deepings u3a member and you will be removed from the 2026 Register. Obviously, you will be able to rejoin at a later date if you wish but note that the membership year is a calendar year (Jan-Dec) and does not run from the date of joining.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The Sunday Lunch group will be at the Sugar Mill, Bourne on the Sunday 25th January, 11.30 for 12 meal. Please note earlier time.

Please contact either Helen on 01778345674 or 07707822729 or email helen.perkins500@gmail.com or Enid on 01778 342936 by Tuesday 20th January.

Happy new year.

Group Leaders: Helen Perkins and Enid Withers

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Thirteen of us met at The Deeping Stage on a crisp -3.5°C morning. It was a bright, sunny, cold day, but everybody was wrapped up for the weather conditions. There was some snow on the ground, but no mud fortunately as this walk is renowned for MUD!!



We left the Stage and walked over the bridge to the path following the river. Along here we saw a kingfisher, heron, deer, mallards and a wooden stag. Continuing on paths towards Maxey, crossed the river at the Maxey Mill. More footpaths took us to West Deeping, where we diverted through The Lane to the route along the River Welland. This took us to near Molecey Mill and finally back into Market Deeping and The Stage. A distance of

approximately 5.8 miles.

Two walkers didn't stop for lunch, but we were joined by the Perkins and Marjorie Cornish. A good meal was had by all.

A big thanks to the Littlers for leading walk.

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

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our meeting on 10th 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.

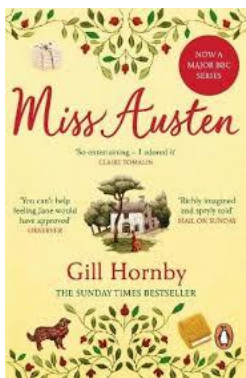
There was a whole range of most interesting items including an arrangement of *Hark, the Herald Angels* given by a brass band of disadvantaged African children with accompaniment of bongos, *Non Nobis Domine* from Henry V, and a folk drama of the Nativity based on the rhythms of Hispanic America by the Argentine composer Ariel Ramirez.

Carol arrangements included the *Bell Carol* and the *Angels' Carol*.

A fugue based on *We wish you a merry Christmas* was most inventive. A very poignant piece called *Remember Bethlehem* sung by Jake Thackray portrayed the experience of the Virgin Mary giving birth on the floor of a stable. We also heard three carols from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* sung by the Vienna Boys Choir. Our next meeting is at Terry Noble's house, 10am on 7th January.

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

MONDAY READERS



Our meeting in December went on longer than usual, due to its ending at Waterside's restaurant for our Christmas social.! However, with admirable devotion to duty, we began at the library as usual for our book discussion.

This time we had read *Miss Austen* by Gill Hornby. This was made into a television series earlier this year but only two of us had seen it, so for most people this was the first time they had really heard the story of Jane Austen's sister, Cassandra, and her attempt after Jane's sadly early death, to destroy most of her sister's family letters. All the family were prolific letter writers, and used them to discuss in often scurrilous, by the standards of the time, detail all the family's concerns. This, Cassandra feared, would lead Jane's name into disrepute and so she set out to read and

destroy every one she felt unsuitable for posterity.

Almost all of us enjoyed the book, which is very well written, with echoes of Jane's style and characters. The most frequent point that we felt was raised by it, was the position of women in the period, especially of dependant women. They were completely reliant on the whims and favours of their men, even Jane whose writing was in part an attempt to gain some independence for herself to enable her to help her sister and widowed mother.

Altogether, it's a book we would recommend, especially for Jane Austen fans, but also for anyone interested in the social mores of the period.

We then repaired to Waterside to enjoy a lunch together, which was very pleasant, as you'll see from the photo!



Report and Group Leader: Liz Waterland

GOOD FOOD GROUP

On Monday 8th December, after our customary nibbles, we sat down to our annual Christmas dinner: Our tasty starter was Poached Balsamic Pears on a bed of lettuce, goats cheese and walnuts with a balsamic jus.

This was followed by Roast Fillet of Pork with a Cranberry and Port Gravy accompanied by Hasselback potatoes and an assortment of vegetables including Honey Roasted Parsnips and Carrots.

Dessert was a delicious Chocolate, Hazelnut Strawberry Roulade.

We then rounded things off with coffee and chocolates.

While it was an enjoyable time, it was tinged with sadness as one of our co-founders, Ian Tanner had died two days previously.

Report by Dave Gaskell

Group Leaders: Hilary Akam & Sheila McGurk

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

December 2025 report



For the last walk of 2025 eleven colleagues met at the Market Square, Market Deeping. We set off heading along Church Street.

After passing Saint Guthlac's Church, we turned into Rectory Paddock and then walked around the rear of the supermarket.

Crossing over a muddy field we came to the footpath beside the new housing estate. Halfway along this path, we turned N.W. up to the road Towngate East. Turning right here, we headed into the car park of Swines Meadow garden centre.

Here the footpath sign took us through the Square Root Communal Gardens and orchard. Eventually we emerged at the A11175.

After carefully crossing this busy road, we turned right along Northfield Road East. This obsolete road, running parallel to the A1175, gives access to Willowfield Caravan Storage, Lakeview Dog Adventure Park and Coles Nurseries. The road ends at Cross Road, but can be seen to continue further along being now named Sharpe's Road.

At the Cross Road junction, we carefully crossed back over the A1175 and headed south along the track which was the old Cross Road, now not navigable by traffic. The track led us to the Towngate East road. Now heading west, we were hoping to take the diagonal footpath from Sheepskin Hall farm to Linchfield Road but decided against this due to the very sticky nature of the ground underfoot. Instead, we kept on the road back to Swine's Meadow and then turned down Linchfield Road.



After a short walk along the roadside, we turned right crossing the dyke using the footbridge. Our path now was a continuation of the first path we had walked, beside the new housing estate. A short way along, we turned left and made our way back to Linchfield Road via The Brambles. We were now at a point where our intended diagonal field path would have brought us to. So, we now turned into the walkway, running parallel to Thackers Way, and headed back to Godsey Lane walking through the Jubilee Park. Crossing onto Dixon Road, we emerged onto High Street, through the impressive archway of the old Granary.

A short hop now to our lunch venue Linfords Restaurant. The establishment were very accommodating and provided us with a very hearty meal, with excellent, pleasant service.

Thank you all for joining and contributing to these very enjoyable outings – wishing you all a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year and may we all cover many more exciting miles in 2026.

January 2026 report



The first walk for 2026 was arranged and led by Brian Littler. 15 walkers met at the Sugar Mill, Bourne, on an overcast, cold morning. On the day we were threatened to receive Storm Goretta, we were hoping to complete the walk before its arrival. Luckily, we did!

To begin we headed south on the A15, Bourne Road and very soon turned left, along a field edge, down to Carr Dyke. We followed the path, southwards, beside the dyke and arrived at the township of Thurlby. Turning left along Church Street we re-crossed the A15 and headed west up and along Market Street until we met Northorpe Lane.

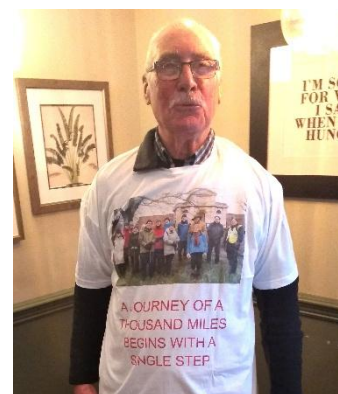
Turning left, besides the brick chapel, we headed west,

uphill, across several sticky fields up to the highest point in the area. The panoramic view from here was worth the climb and muddying our boots. From here we headed back down to Northorpe Lane on a slightly different path (still muddy) and then turning left we came onto Wood Lane. Heading along north we skirted Math Wood and emerged at the A151. Crossing over entered the vast housing estate situated to south Bourne. We now had to zig zag our way to arrive at the pub for a very pleasant lunch.

Our thanks for the day to Brian and a fond farewell from the group to Peter Jackson, who was one of the founding members – your participation and comradeship will be sorely missed.

We shall also miss one of the Magnificent7, lovely lady, Yvonne Bather who decided to withdraw from the group – such a shame and keep in touch.

We welcome to a new member Lesley Evans who has defected from the Monday Walking Group to join ours.



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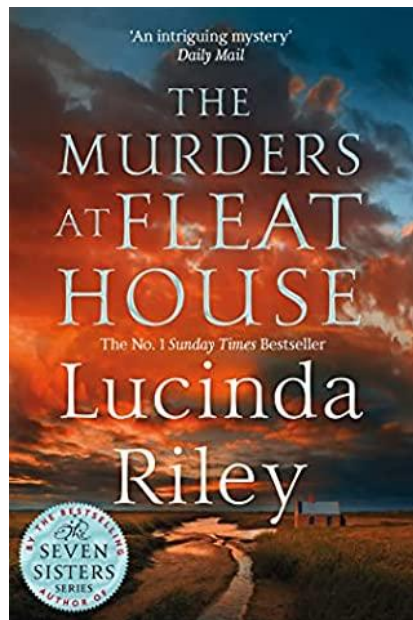
has

A Certificate of Attendance (100%) for 2025 was issued to Ann Ashby and also a bag of crisps – WALKERS of course.

In 2025 the Thursday Walks totalled a distance of 66.18 miles, for 11 walks. The annual competition for who could come nearest to this figure was achieved by Brian Littler who submitted 66.58 miles. He therefore won the award of a very special designer T shirt.

Report by Richard Coulson – Walk Leader

BOOKWORMS



The Murders at Fleat House by Lucinda Riley. Another thumbs-up from all in Bookworms for an enjoyable page-turner! The setting for this standalone murder mystery is St Stephen's, a private boarding school located in rural Norfolk. A student, known for vicious bullying, is found in his dormitory, murdered.

High-flying but emotionally conflicted Chief Inspector Jazmine (Jazz) Hunter is assigned the case. While investigating, Jazz confronts personal problems, including her recent divorce from a controlling husband and relocation from London to Norfolk. But her keen intelligence and intuitive nature uncover complex and deep-rooted relationships between the school, parents and students in this isolated but mostly affluent rural community.

Before Jazz can unveil the murderer, there will be a suicide, missing witness, and further deaths.

Bookworm members enjoyed the combination of a complex murder mystery intertwined with equally complex relationships. They warmed to the central character, Jazz, a female DI, who hides her personal problems while she investigates and reveals deeply buried past secrets and relationships

between the main suspects. Add a frantic Headteacher, a broken marriage, a distraught student, secret liaisons – not forgetting the original murder – and for a few hours leave behind Donald Trump and Greenland! A book to enjoy!

Report and Group Leader: Tom Baldwin

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Nine members of the Wednesday Gardening Group met at Jane's house. Some of the group just socialised (!) whilst the remainder worked really hard creating some lovely Christmas themed arrangements.

The next meeting will be our Christmas lunch at 12.30 at the Horseshoe, Thurlby on 14th January, 2026.

Report: Jane Cooke

Group Leaders: Jean Foster/Jane Cooke

PACERS GROUP



Our January walk was around Crowland. We enjoyed the best weather of the week; yes, it was very cold but the sun shone from a blue sky all morning.

We went from the Abbey to the "lake", walking on the waterside up to the Welland and back over the boardwalks, then along West Bank.

We turned up the track in the direction of Peakirk, before returning via the town to walk around the Snowden field for some good views of the Abbey from the south. The morning was rounded off with a delicious lunch at "Behind the Yellow Door".

Report by Margaret Beardshaw

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

POETS AND THEIR POETRY

On a bitterly cold afternoon we tried to warm to our topic country/countryside, starting off with a Welsh verse *Nant y Mynydd – The Mountain Stream* by John Hughes beautifully read in Welsh and English.

Next *BC:AD* by Ursula Fanthorpe. One of our favourites Brian Bilston, with *On English Soil*.

The next poem was called *Jaywick* by Rowan McCabe, who travelled the country knocking on doors and asking people if he could write a poem for them.

We had several poems by John Clare, first *On a Lane in Spring*, *The Winters Spring* and *Winter in the Fens*. We had Ted Hughes, *Crow Hill* and Thomas Hardy, *In Time of 'The Breaking Nations'*. Then on to warmer climes, *Berowra Waters, New South Wales* by Clive James. A lovely afternoon beautifully hosted by Juliet.

I am a lifted kettle, me
I rise and I shine
One cup of tea
And the world is mine.

Lemn Sissay

Report and Group Leader: Susanne Hoadley

HISTORY GROUP

Our meeting in December took place at Deeping Sports and Social Club. It was a buffet lunch attended by over 30 members. The food was plentiful and delicious.



Following the buffet was a Music quiz, arranged by David and Sandra. It was meant as a fun event and we had music, playing, photographs of the singers/characters or radio shows, with questions about them written on the slides.

The photos were on a roll so keeping up to speed was quite amusing. There were no prizes and phones were allowed to find out answers if needed.

Everyone entered into the spirit of the season. It was a pleasant few hours spent with good friends.

The History Group wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy 2026.

May the year bring you happiness and good health.



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

STROLLERS GROUP

So, Christmas is over and a new year has arrived.

With there being no walk in December there is little to report, but quite a bit to look forward to.

We can keep our walking boots stowed away for a further month, as our normal walking day in January will be taken up with a group lunch at the Ruddy Duck in Peakirk.

The programme for 2026 has been circulated to members of the group and will be displayed on the notice board at the January u3a monthly meeting. We have walk leaders allocated to walks from February to November.

Wishing all at u3a a happy new year.

Report by Group Leader: Bob Deller

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2025/26**

#

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 Coordinator	Liz Noble
Webmaster	David Perkins
Media Equipment Co- ordinator/Asst. Webmaster	David Scott

**DEADLINE FOR REPORTS: 6 FEBRUARY 2026
SEND TO: NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM**