



Deeping St. James

Issue No.299 September 2026

The Deepings u3a NEWSLETTER

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk

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



Market Deeping



New members in July/August: Adam Geldman, Stamford, Jillian Sage, Market Deeping, Joy Bradley, Langtoft

NEXT MEETING: 21 September

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

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 2026:

21 September: Gordon Bennet

John Dewis will explain about the extraordinary life of Gordon Bennet and his pursuit of fame and fortune.

19 October: Community response

Struan Cornell will tell us more about this.

16 November: What Inspires Art?

Kevin Byron will discuss the nature and nurture of creativity and certain perennial patterns of creativity that appear in many different forms including art, science, technology and advertising.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

AGM MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2026

The Annual General Meeting of Deepings u3a will be held **at 10.15am on Monday 19th October 2026** at the Methodist Church, Deeping St James.

Documents will be sent out in September.

In addition to the voting at the actual AGM, members who cannot or do not wish to attend the AGM, but wish to exercise their right to vote on the Resolutions, can do so by Proxy.

Votes by Proxy will be counted and reported at the AGM, and added to the votes taken at the AGM.

The results of the voting at the AGM will be reported in the November Newsletter and on the Deepings u3a website.

Nomination forms to join the Committee, and Proxy forms, will be available at the September meeting. Please contact the Secretary for further details.

We currently have vacancies on the Committee and applications would be welcome.

If you wish to vote by Proxy, please contact the Secretary and we will send out the voting forms.

secretary@deepingsu3a.com

If any member wishes to submit a formal Resolution, it must be seconded and submitted to the Secretary by September 25th 2026.

After the AGM, there will be our normal monthly talk.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

We had no meeting in August and I know that some groups also took a break, so welcome to our u3a's Autumn activities.

Deepings u3a had a presence at the raft race this year, when we were invited to share a gazebo with Probus. Tom Baldwin, our Group Coordinator was on hand to promote our activities.

Autumn can be one of the most pleasant times of the year and this year we have welcomed rain showers amid the mellow sunshine, bringing relief to our parched lawns and allowing sleep without the hum of the fan.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the September monthly meeting.

Best wishes

Margaret

Margaret Beardshaw

Chair

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Deepings Raft Race



The Deepings Raft Race set sail at the beginning of August—well, most of the rafts did! Deepings u3a was pleased to share a stand with The Deepings Probus Club under the joint banner, “Retirement Hub!”, helping us chat with local people about what u3a has to offer, from joining existing interest groups to starting something new. Race Day brought hundreds of people together, and it was lovely to see several visitors asking for more information on Deepings u3a and our activities. A big thank you goes to the u3a members who generously gave their time to support the stand and help on the day.

Follow-Up Opportunity

It was encouraging to hear that some Probus members are interested in u3a activities, and I'm pleased to have secured a spot at this month's Probus Lunch. This will give us another good opportunity to talk about our interest groups and encourage people to get involved, whether by joining a group or starting a new one.

Other Updates

The updated GL Guidelines are now available on our website. They can be found by selecting “Useful Information” and scrolling down to “Group Leaders”, then “Guide”.

The Incident and Risk Forms will be updated by next month. Also, many thanks to everyone involved for sending Stuart the updated financial reports for July 2025 to July 2026 so promptly.

Finally, Braeburn Lodge has kindly offered us free use of their media room, including an 83-inch TV and equipment with a DVD player. This is a great opportunity to start a Film Appreciation Group. If you are interested, please get in touch with me at: groups@deepingsu3a.com

Tom Baldwin
Group Co-ordinator

CHURCH MICE

July report

Joint Visit of Church Mice and Art Appreciation Group

The morning stop on our day out was Higham Ferrars. The churchyard is a unique compound with Parish Church, Bede House, chantry chapel/grammar school and stone cross all dating between the 13th and 15th centuries.

The west front of St Mary's Church contains a recessed porch with twin doorways and its 13th Century statues practically intact. On entering we were surprised to see a twin nave providing a completely square area with aisles to the north and south. The second half of the nave and the aisles were built about 100 years after the first.



The tradition is Anglo-Catholic and the rood screen was installed in 1920 in the chancel to the first nave. This has a complete set of twenty stalls with misericord seats in collegiate arrangement for clerks and priests of the college set up by Archbishop Henry Chichele (a local lad) in 1495.

The altar frontal is spectacular, made of leather, and it incorporates symbols and tools of the leather trade and Saints Crispin and Crispian, patron saints of leather workers.

The Bede House was founded by Archbishop Chichele in 1422 to house 12 poor men over the age of 50, with the support of a woman to look after them. It is now used a community hall – we

had to wait for the badminton group to finish their time before we could visit!

August report

Sixteen members of Church Mice visited St Mary and All Saints Nassington Church in August. On another one of this summer's hot days, it was excellent to be in the cool church.



The vicar, Jane Tailby, has five other churches, some of which we have visited. The church is large for this small village and Jane explained that having a prebend (a senior church official) in Nassington in the 12th Century meant that the church needed to be of a size to suit his importance.

During the centuries that followed, changes were made to the church we see today. Interestingly before changes in 1879 the church fabric had been allowed to deteriorate.

Of notice in the church are some medieval wall paintings dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries. They are now faded and distinguishing all the features is difficult. There is also a shaft of an Anglo-Saxon church cross with decorations (pictured). This would have probably been on the

site of the present church and visiting priests would have addressed the villagers beside it. Also of interest is a 17th Century clock mechanism.

After the talk and a walk round the church the members enjoyed tea and cakes and conversation.

September report



Nineteen members of Church Mice visited St Peter's Church in Maxey in September. We had an excellent talk from Michael, a former churchwarden, helped by Angela who showed us illustrations of the development of the church as Michael gave us explanations.

From the earliest work on the church in 1113 there have been at least eight fairly major developments that have led to the church today. The original church was a simple rectangular structure, which then had a tower, an apse replaced by a chancel, and then separate aisles all added.

The church feels large and well lit. Two unusual additions are an Easter Sepulchre in the area near the altar and the remains of a

13th century roof-loft. The was high up below the magnificent chancel arch. It included an altar and a piscine that can still be seen in the south wall of the nave. The church also holds a small museum containing interesting articles found in the church and nearby.

An excellent tea was served in the Lady Chapel and much conversation ensued.

Reports by Group Leader: Henry Roberts

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



We visited Baytree Owl and Raptor Centre, near Spalding.

The visit included a flying display by some of the birds including owls and a hawk. There was heavy rainfall that day but fortunately the Centre includes an indoor area for the display.

The staff members showed great skill and care when handling the birds. They delivered an impressive presentation, which was informative and enjoyable. The Centre is a conservation charity with over 70 birds.

Report by Group Leader: Beverley Tegala

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



August report

We met at Wishing Well at Dyke to use the facilities before the walk.

We stated walking along Main Road for a short distance, then following footpaths North to Station Road Morton.

Continuing on footpaths and footway, running parallel with the High Street, Ford Lane, until we reached the Bourne Road A15.

Crossing over, we continued on a public footpath south of Hanthorpe Road and then joined up with a footway by Brackers Farm. Joining the Edenham Road, we came across some locals who had a chunter and a moan as

we were stood on the footpath. There is always someone to moan, and this was followed by another rude person from some environment company who said "out the way" and barged through some walkers - where an "Excuse me" would have sufficed. Welcome to Hanthorpe!!

From the Edenham Road, we took a track down to Cawthorpe which is a small hamlet that includes Cawthorpe Hall, Cawthorpe House, Ivy Nook Cottage and an 18th Century Farmhouse.

We then returned to the pub crossing over the A15 again.

A good meal was had by all after a lovely 5.37 mile walk.

A big thank you to Ann for organising and leading the walk.

Report by Steve Hanson

September report



Eleven members of the Monday walking group met at the Horse and Jockey at Manton.

On what was a comfortable day for walking, dry, slightly overcast and a refreshing breeze (so different from the hot conditions on previous walks).

The group headed to Brooke where we entered the 12th Century church (refurbished in 1580) which was well worth viewing.

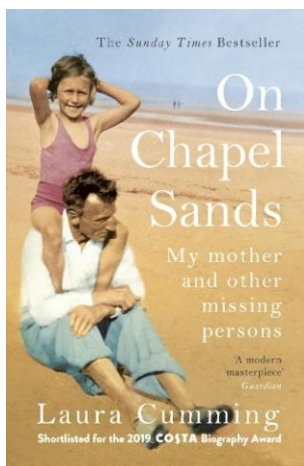
Then on to Martinsthorpe, a civil parish and one of only eight parishes in England with no population!!

Returning to the Horse and Jockey for a very pleasant meal, to be joined by two former members of the group to enjoy a chat and catch up.

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

BOOKWORMS

August report



“At the age of three, my mother was kidnapped” – a dramatic opening to a work that is part personal memoir and part true-crime investigation. The book explores themes of community, filial love, relationships and the ramifications of what goes unsaid (also explored through historic and family portraiture and the emotions represented therein).

Set in the Lincolnshire village of Chapel St Leonards, readers enjoyed the description of this familiar coastline which revived childhood memories of seaside holidays on empty, endless beaches. Surrounded by connectivity as we now are, it seems inconceivable that the mystery of Betty’s disappearance in 1929 was perpetuated by the unspoken community decision to keep the details secret for the entirety of their lives.

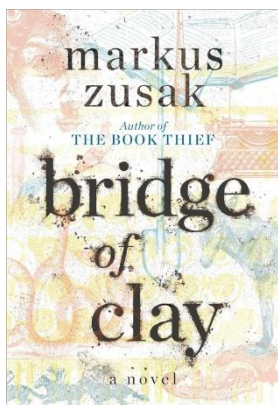
Having been adopted at the age of three by a couple in their late forties, Betty suffered: an overbearing father who restricted her life to stop her having friends

who might reveal the truth; a confrontation, aged 13, with a stranger on a bus that confused and embarrassed her; and total ignorance of her birth mother until she was sixty and her mother dead.

The author’s sympathy for her mother’s apparent lack of love during her childhood prompted her to investigate the kidnapping circumstances for herself - a true labour of love - and the results were revelatory. But they were not presented in chronological order and most of the group found the book’s style confusing, especially with the accompanying artwork comparisons. However, it certainly gave us all plenty to consider and discuss, including how well we actually know our families, and whether ‘silence is golden’ or ‘knowledge is power’.

Report by Anne Lees

September report



Set in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia, this complex family saga examines the lives of the five Dunbar brothers, their relationships, and the influence of their parents, through the novel’s narrator, Matthew Dunbar, the oldest brother. After the boys’ mother (Penelope) dies young, their father (referred to as ‘the murderer’ because he deserted/‘murdered’ his family) abandons the five now orphaned brothers. They grow up together in a chaotic, parentless home. Years later, the father returns unexpectedly, requesting their help to build a bridge over a river on his property. Clay, the quiet but haunted fourth brother, is the sole volunteer. Working tirelessly, and traveling between his brothers and father, the bridge becomes the central symbol of the novel, offering a literal and metaphorical path to redemption and family healing.

Bookworms all agreed: Zusak’s long novel is not a cosy, easy or comfortable read! There was praise for his stylish prose, which describes death, loss, abandonment, and family trauma. While Zusak uses emotionally charged and poetic language, employing imagery and sustained metaphors which linger in the mind, some in the group thought his style overly ornate, stylised and over-written. All found the opening first third of the novel extremely challenging: an unfocused number of characters appearing without context or reference; constant and often confusing jumps in the time-line; little action. While all the threads from the opening chapters were cleverly woven together in the later pages, those who completed reading to the end found the themes of death, suffering and family trauma leading to a kind of redemption emotionally exhausting. As one of our group wrote: ‘Life’s too short and I have enjoyed other books in its place!’

**Report by Tom Baldwin#
Group Leader: Tom Baldwin**

WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP



July report

For our July meeting we met at Sissons Barn to look around the gardens. The Barn is a wedding venue situated between Peakirk and Newborough and is open as a NGS garden once a year. Ten members arrived on a very hot morning and were warmly welcomed by Laura, our host.

Due to the heat everyone went at their own pace, finding shelter when necessary. We were able to go round the gardens of the Barn itself and also the lovely garden around the farm house. This had a big pond with lots of fish and an interesting patio laid out like a room with a mock fireplace. The barn gardens stand on what was once an open field so everything has been created from scratch in the last nine years.

Laura told us that the house has a lovely display of magnolia in May but we were able to see its second flowering which was very attractive. All gardens have suffered this year from the drought and there was evidence of this but still a very pleasant garden to visit.

Thankfully Laura had laid out a refreshments table for us in the Barn away from the heat and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their tea, coffee and cake.



August report

In August we met for our summer lunch. Angie Dorward and her husband John hosted the lunch at their home in Eastgate and made everyone very welcome. Again, it was a very hot day but we were very spoiled to be able to sit under umbrellas and enjoy their lovely garden.

Nine members were able to attend and lunch was a bring-and-share with some very delicious food on the table. We all ate and drank very well and it was a thoroughly enjoyable get together.

Thanks again to Angie and John for their hospitality.

Our next meeting will be at Russell's Nursery at Little Bytham to enjoy a walk around the plants followed by a visit to the café. Details by email as usual.

Report. Julie Fitzjohn

Group Leaders. Jean Foster Julie Fitzjohn

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP

August report



Eight walkers met at the Wheatsheaf Inn in Edith Weston. The planned walk was for 5.5 miles walking northwards beside Rutland Water then looping back mainly along minor roads. Due to there being a national warning for extreme temperatures of 35 degrees and higher, I decided to alter the plan and take a shorter version. We were all aware of what the forecast was, so everyone came with appropriate headwear, plenty of fluids and ice packs – no need for rainwear.

Heading down King Edward's Way, towards the church, we came upon the remains of an ancient medieval stone cross. This was also the site of the village stocks. Crossing the road here we turned left, down a footpath, to enter a shrivelled grassed area containing a children's play park.

Continuing on, over yellow grass, we came out onto Weston Road. Here we turned right and soon took a shaded pathway down beside the marina to the shore of Rutland Water.

From here we followed the trail path heading north east. As expected, the water level was extremely low. The television news had reported that evidence was now able to be seen of the lost, submerged village of Nether Hambleton.

We continued to the edge of Normanton car park and then down to the Waterside café. Continuing on, pausing at patches of shade, we carried on up to Normanton Church. We all agreed that on a day like today that this was far enough to venture, so we spent some time looking round this unusual church. Built upon a 14th Century building, the church was constructed in 1764 with the tower added in 1826. The church was de-consecrated in 1970 and is now only used for civil weddings and concerts.

Time to head back for an early lunch, retracing our steps and seeking out any available shade. We all had an enjoyable lunch with me opting for the very well-presented crab salad.

Only a tad over 3 miles today (plenty) with the walk lasting 2 hours 15 minutes.

Report by Group Leader: Richard Coulson

September report

Eight walkers this month, led on a route created by Leslie Evans. We began and finished at the Water Mill Inn at Orton Longville.



On leaving the car park we turned left along Cherry Orton Road and soon came to a footpath sign taking us west along a tree lined pathway. After turning right, we followed a path that ran parallel to Brimble Way. This led us to the A605, Oundle Road.

Crossing over we soon came upon our footpath, heading left besides Orton Meadows Golf Course. Heading now north west, we followed Ham Lane to emerge besides Nene Valley Railway track. Taking a footpath westerly we walked parallel to the railway track along the Green Wheel. At the first opportunity we crossed the line and continued with the rails now on our left.

Crossing over the river Nene we followed the river, to our right, heading north and continued along the timber boardwalk skirting the Ferry Meadows Gunwade Lake. Here we came upon some very unusual large plants with a flower that looked similar to a wild orchid. Steve Hanson found out

that they were called Himalayan Balm, a very invasive plant to our country. When you touched the small seed pods they shot off the plant and exploded spraying their seeds. (Triffids?)

We continued round, passing Overton Lake, then crossed back over the railway lines where there the Visions of Nature Sculpture stands.

(When entering the Ferry Meadows Park from the direction of Goldie Lane and just after having crossed over the Nene Valley Railway line you encounter a sculpture depicting the wildlife that can be seen in the surrounding area as well as acting as a visual welcome to the Ferry Meadows area of the park. This large-scale installation comprises three panels, each of which contains a different design cut from steel sheets mounted in a frame).

We were now heading south onto Goldie Lane which brought us back to Oundle Road. Carefully crossing over, it was now only a short climb up Cherry Orton Road to our destination.

It was a beautiful day for a lovely walk of 5.5 miles – thank you Leslie. We all enjoyed our lunch at an excellent venue – several walkers opting for the very large pizzas.

Report by Group Leader: Richard Coulson

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



August report

Great news! Firstly, all members were able to attend our August meeting. This hadn't happened for a while due to members' accidents and ill health. It was lovely to get everyone together again.

Secondly, after some re-planning and head scratching everyone managed to find the Browning Court car park despite the best efforts of British Gas and Anglian Water to erect barriers across and dig up the access roads.

The meeting consisted of a topical discussion about droughts and planting and maintaining gardens with less water, reports of members' recent visits to public gardens and a light-hearted quiz where all answers were a variety of flower. Alistair was the successful winner after a three-way tie- break. Well done everyone!

Our September meeting will be a visit to Kay and Bob's Langtoft garden. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

September report



Our September meeting was held at the Langtoft home of Kay and Bob on a pleasant early Autumn morning. Chat over coffee and biscuits centred on the importance of water. A long discussion developed covering hose pipe bans, water levels in local rivers and reservoirs, automatic drainage systems and much else besides. The discussion began and ended with how much we like green lawns and how the lack of them upsets us. Maybe, we will have to adjust our thinking in the light of climatic changes but it's not going to be an easy process for many in this group!

We finished the meeting with a tour of Kay and Bob's very well designed and tended garden. Yes, there was evidence of the extreme summer weather but lots of sedums were blooming and attracting plenty of butterflies, the Autumn crocus provided pops of colour and there was a lovely variety of foliage. The plum tree was also doing well and Bob was happy to assure us that the fruits not only looked good but were also very tasty! Our thanks to Kay and Bob for hosting.

We send our very best wishes to Margaret and David who were unable to attend and hope Margaret will feel better very soon.

Our October meeting will be a visit to Waterside Garden Centre.

Report and photos: Ann Pettitt

Group Leaders: Kay Parker and Ann Pettitt

PACERS GROUP

August Report



There were only eight members for our August walk which started in the pretty village of Alwalton at The Cuckoo. The weather was perfect for walking - a very pleasant summer day, not too hot. The walk was around four miles and took us down through the village to the river Nene, across fields to Castor Mill (completely renovated) and then part way along Mill Road towards Castor. The route turns right along a bridle way which used to be our favourite blackberry picking opportunity but has now been trimmed back!

We met the river again and turned right where there were plenty blackberries! Finally, we crossed the Nene Valley Railway and followed the footpath, crossing the river again, and back into Alwalton where we enjoyed a pleasant lunch.

Report by Gary Armstrong

September report

Wednesday the 2nd of September saw a select band of Pacers leave the Deeping Stage to begin their local walk.

Crossing the town bridge, we then turned left down the riverside footpath and continued on until we met the Deeping St James Road.

Here we turned right and walked until we met the edge of Northborough. Turning left we took the path by newly tilled fields until we rejoined the Welland near Low Locks. We followed the river back to The Stage where we enjoyed an excellent lunch.

Details of October's walk will be out shortly.

Report written by Barry and Hilary Akam

Group Leaders: Geoff Whittle and Margaret Beardshaw

MAHJONG GROUP



Ever wondered what this game is about? Come and join us on a Friday morning at the Community Centre. We play from 9.45 until 11.45.

We are a small group and there is no pressure, come one week and then miss a few and it will be ok.

We're a very friendly lot and there is plenty of banter.

If you need to find out more, please drop me an email to peg@torrance231.plus.com or phone me on 01778 347601.

Report by Group Leader: Peg Torrance

MONDAY READERS

August report

Because our August session is traditionally a social event as well as a book group meeting, the format was

slightly different this month. We met at the library but a little later than usual and then planned to have a picnic in the Community Centre garden to round off the morning. We began with a discussion of our latest book, *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. This is a psychological thriller about a murder, apparently a domestic one, the solution to which is finally revealed in a twist at the end which none of us saw coming.

Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a

park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. She, the silent patient, is hidden away from the spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit.

Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband is the main part of the plot – until the ending!

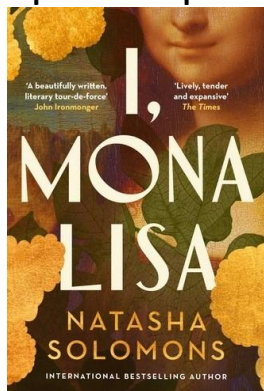
This was one of the rare books that everyone agreed on; it was described as 'a page turner', 'I couldn't put it down', or even, 'the best book I've read this year so far'. If you like a thriller with an unsuspected twist in a clever plot, we recommend this one.



To finish the morning, we walked across with folding chairs and packed lunches to the Community Centre and spent a very pleasant hour or so in the shade of the trees. We completely forgot to take a picture, so here's one of the gardens instead!

Report by Liz Waterland

September report



Our September book was 'I, Mona Lisa' by Natasha Solomons published by Penguin. It tells the tale of the Mona Lisa painting over several centuries. Slightly different from other historical fiction is the fact the narrative is told through the first person voice of the painting itself.

There was a lively discussion about the book because it polarised opinion. Some of the group loved it and others found it impossible to get past the concept of a sentient painting.

Almost everyone found it tough going at the start. The numerous characters and the vacillating time scale made it tricky to follow as an audio book. However, those who did persevere found it fascinating, with vivid descriptions, and thought the amount of

research that had gone into the story was exemplary.

Report: Linda Hill

Report by Group Leader: Liz Waterland

STROLLERS

Since the last newsletter back in July, we have had two walks, both of which were successful and those taking part, found them very enjoyable.

The walk in July started from the Red Lion at West Deeping, when 12 Strollers set off out of the village, before taking the public footpath over to Maxey Mill, then on to the village.

Walking through this pretty village with more than its fair share of thatched cottages, we had a 'hydration break' and an opportunity to rest our legs at the playing field.



We returned taking Castle End Road back to the mill, where we had a photo stop, before making a return journey back to West Deeping, leaving the Welland to slowly slide to Market Deeping and the Wash.

Finally, we had our lunch at the Red Lion, with three other members of the group joining us.

In August we made a long-awaited return to Ufford, where 11 of us left the White Hart and made our way to Bainton, partly traversing the road and a parallel footpath, joining the road close to the former sheep-wash at the side of the road.

Turning right at the junction, we entered the pretty village of Ashton, stopping for a photograph at the village green, (see photograph). At this point, we were

invited to have a walk around the well-kept garden of one of our group, Barbara.

We left the village, heading south, then turning onto a track back to Ufford for lunch at the White Hart.

Overall, two very enjoyable walks covering some photogenic villages.

Our walk this month will be led by Geoff and will take place on 25 September, when we may have to dig out our autumn walking apparel.

Report by Group Leader, Bob Deller

JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

July's meeting was held at Phil Jones' house where Phil presented the second part of the answer to Ann Holmes' question "What is jazz?".

Phil followed on from Colin Wall's "Origins" presentation last month with illustrations of a broadly chronological series of items showing some of the various types of jazz as it evolved over the years.

Phil started off with perhaps the greatest of them all – Louis Armstrong – playing *West End Blues*, not only quintessential, but underpinning the influence that the blues has had on jazz (and many other genres) throughout the years. Moving swiftly on. Phil reminded us as to how much dancing, as a social activity, had on the development of jazz and heralded the “swing era” of the 1930s and 1940s. The music evolved towards bigger ensembles – the Big Bands – and a stronger emphasis on rhythm. Duke Ellington and Count Basie played a central role in shaping this and so Phil chose *Take the ‘A’ Train* as his exemplar.

Much as the music pleased the ears (and feet) of the dancers, the rather formalised, sheet music, form of the music precipitated a revolution from those who wanted a more adventurous and improvised style (as jazz had been at its’ birth) and so Bebop was born. Phil played Kenny Clarke’s explanation of it before playing *A Night in Tunisia* – an icon of the genre. By the 1950s and 1960s Bebop had evolved into “Cool jazz” and “Hard Bop”, exemplified by Miles Davis and John Coltrane playing *So What*. From the late 1950s into the 1960s, jazz entered a deeper phase. Modal jazz and Free jazz emerged, each redefining the role of harmony, form, and improvisation, which were typified by Ornette Coleman playing *Blues Connotation* and John Coltrane’s *My Favourite Things*.

In the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, jazz entered a new form that is Jazz Fusion. One of the defining characteristics of Fusion is the use of electric instruments, including electric guitar, electric bass, and synthesizers. Phil demonstrated the genre with Holy Mountain playing the immortally named *The greatest synth solo of all time!* In spite of these developments there was still a substantial portion of jazz lovers who hankered for the more tradition styles of jazz.

So, centered originally in the UK, Trad jazz emerged which Phil typified with the Clyde Valley Stompers playing *Peter and the Wolf* and Anita O’Day’s *Stella by Starlight*.

And to bring a most informative and entertaining session to a close, Phil chose a genre spanning jazz version of Petula Clark’s *Downtown*.

After which all present thanked Phil for the hours of preparation he had put into such a quality presentation.

Thanks to Colin Wall for this report. We are not meeting in August. Our next music session will be at the home of Terry Noble on 23 September 2026.

There is an open invitation to any u3a member to join us in listening and appreciating Jazz, Swing and Big band music – no experience or knowledge necessary.

Report by Phil Joens

Group Leaders: Phil Jones, Anne Jones

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



On Tuesday 21st July we joined the Church Mice for our annual day out.

This year we visited Higham Ferrers Parish Church and then went to Northampton to visit Rennie Mackintosh’s Museum at 78 Derngate.

It is the only house in England designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. It is now a multi award-winning visitor attraction offering an unforgettable day out in Northampton.

Designed and remodelled by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1916, the house has been meticulously restored and opened to the public.

78 Derngate was the architect's final major commission; his visionary patron, Northampton model engineer, W.J Bassett-Lowke.

It is the only place in the world where Mackintosh's mature architectural and interior style can be seen in their original setting. As such, the house has drawn many thousands of visitors from around the globe.

Hilary looks very relaxed in this really unusual but well-designed museum.

Thank you, Margaret for organising another super visit for us.

September’s talk is being given by Sandra and it is based on Kissing!



Report by Group Leader: Sandra Jones

HISTORY GROUP

July report

Dr Eric Somerville

Fake news about the First World War



On a warm July morning we were given a whistle stop presentation by Dr Eric Somerville about some of the facts that were believed to be true at the time and have since been contradicted or disputed by historians.

There was so much information, it is impossible to include into this report.

However, if you Google the title of this article then you will learn a great deal and even begin to question your school History lessons!

Report for August

Afternoon tea at Eventus Cafe

No historical links but a different version of the August visit to a place of interest.



Twenty-nine members of the History group met for afternoon tea at Eventus on August 19th.

It was organised by Barbara who must have been pleased with the support. The tea was delicious and there was plenty of it. It gave everyone an opportunity to catch up and put 'The World To Right!'

In September we have Dr Martyn Thomas who is going to tell us about the life of Florence Saunders who was the pioneer of District nursing in Peterborough.

October's talk is about Robert Owen and will be given by Lesley Evans.

Report by Sandra Jones
Group Leader: Sandra Jones

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025/26

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw	chair@deepingsu3a.com
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