

Issue No.301 November 2026

The Deepings u3a
NEWSLETTER

Website: deepings.u3asite.uk
Click here to visit our Deepings website





New members in October: Allan McMorland, Market Deeping and Caroline Glynn, Baston

NEXT MEETING: 16 November

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

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 2026/27:

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.

21 December: Singer Alan Jackson

Join Alan for a morning of festive songs.

18 January 2027: Blood Bikes

It's not just blood and it's not just bikes. Neville Wright will explain what the Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikes Service actually does.

MARGARET'S MUSINGS

Dear members

Autumn offers us many traditional opportunities to celebrate – pumpkin festivals with lanterns and pies, bonfire night (or nights as it seems now!) and the dubious delights of Hallowe'en; then there are the moving ceremonies of Remembrance.

As a meteorological season, however, there are non-traditional signs – summer bedding still in full flower or reflowering, leaves clinging to trees instead of the autumn fall, which experts warn us bodes ill for the plants' future life cycle.

Let's hope that the examples we set to combat climate change can inspire the sceptics.

Many of our groups meet with a specific focus here, gardening, natural history and walking for instance, but we are all aware.

I look forward to meeting you during the month

Best wishes

Margaret

Margaret Beardshaw

Chair

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Three Deepings u3a committee members attended an East Midlands workshop last month entitled: 'Promoting Your u3a'. We learned that of the 408.000 members nationally and over 1000 branches affiliated

to The National u3a Charity (statistics from u3a Head Office) many shared identical concerns: recruiting and retaining new members; creating new interest groups; how best to support group leaders; succession planning. There were many helpful suggestions from delegates which the committee will discuss over the coming weeks. One of these was the use of Facebook, which several u3a branches use currently with great success to promote and advertise their interest groups and programmes.
While advantages are clear (an estimated 72% of adults use Facebook) online safety and security are paramount.
So, if you know of anyone who is experienced in the use of social media/Facebook, we would be grateful if you could contact a member of the committee.
Any groups or members of a group free on the third Monday of August 2027? The monthly Newsletter paints a vivid picture of the exciting activities of many of the interest groups. The committee would like to showcase the talents of our members and interest groups next August, so plenty of time for discussion and planning. You might choose one or two from a group, or the whole group. Songs, telling jokes, playing instruments, sketches, sharing favourite visits using slides, making up a poem. It's a chance to show off our talents and skills to fellow members! I have contacted Group Leaders so they can discuss any ideas with you.
If you or members of the group are free in August 2027 and would like to contribute, just email me: groups@deepingsu3a.com
Finally, Steve Debonnaire and Mike Shilling from Deepings Probus will be advertising Deepings Probus Club at the rear of the hall at our Monday November meeting, reciprocating my visit to Probus to advertise u3a. I'll be at the rear of the hall with my red jumper and lanyard as usual!

Tom Baldwin
Group Co-ordinator

SCIENCE GROUP



David Perkins gave the talk last month, entitled "Advances in printing over the last 50 years". He explained in great detail the changes that have been made in the printing industry, from, post lead-typesetting, to the latest advances in digital printing. Starting with four colour printing, (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black), where large rolls of paper were printed for newspapers and magazines, which was fairly wasteful in both paper and inks (25%+), due to stretching of paper and difficulty in registration of getting one colour exactly in the right place, through to the development of computer controlled printing machinery and computer based system for design and layout on screen, rather than the old cut and paste system used for years.
He told us about the products developed for the industry by Crosfields in Peterborough (world leaders in analogue and digital testing systems, and in systems for the print industry), and the data disks, which were 14" in diameter and held negligible data compared to what you now have in your phone, and were extremely expensive at the time.
David covered the major systems of printing, such as letterpress, silkscreen, photogravure and offset printing, and brought us right up to date with the systems now used for 3D printing, bio printing, and all the variations used in packaging - think the supermarkets. He also covered the way the industry is investing in the future in carbon saving and the use of non-toxic inks and the different materials which can now be used such as polymers and silicones.
A fascinating and thoughtful talk. Next month Garth Perry will entertain us with one of his excellent, as-yet-to-be-decided talks!

Report by Alistair Smith.
Group Leader: Garth Perry.

LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

In view of the recent term of drought conditions, it was perhaps appropriate that our programme presented by Joy and Donald was entitled "Water Connections." This explored various depictions of water ranging from calm and serene through to ranging storms.

Early pieces were the *Air* from Handel's *Water Music* and the *traditional The Keel Row*. There were two pieces form Percy Grainger*: Molly on the Shore* and *The Young Brisk Sailor* both with Sea Shanty sounds. Dialogue between *Wind and Waves* from Debussy's *La Mer* and *Reflections on Water* respectively portrayed violent and serene aspects of the ocean. The scene of a quiet English riverside was from George Butterworth's *Banks of Green Willow*. We also heard contributions from English light music composers Ronald Binge and Eric Coates. Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* and Vaughan Williams' *Lovely on Water* provided two contrasting aspects of Water.

Johann Strauss II's *The Beautiful Blue Danube* made a delightful conclusion to our morning's listening.

Thank you, Joy and Donald for such an interesting and varied morning.

Our next meeting is at Colin Wall's house - 10:00 AM on 11th November.

Report by Terry Noble, Group Leader

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP



In October we looked at old photographs, how to find out who were the people in them, and when they were taken.

We looked at fashions in the photos and a general history of photography through the ages.

Maureen Hudson Group Leader

PACERS GROUP

October report



Despite the weather forecast being awful with heavy rain predicted all morning, seven Pacers decided to don extensive waterproofing and carry on with the planned three mile walk from Greatford led by Geoff Fitzjohn. Greatford Barns was our meeting point which is just south of Greatford village, a new venue for the group. We used two cars to move the short distance into the village.

Fortunately, the rain was not as heavy as predicted so the fields that we crossed had insignificant mud and were not a problem.

After leaving the Macmillan Way we entered Braceborough which is a delightful village with some very attractive houses. There was once a Spa in the village which supplied water by rail to London. It was said that the fine ladies of London found it 'most efficacious for their complexions'.

We took a slightly different route back across the field and footpath to Greatford. Once in the village the footpath by the bridge led us by the stream to the Church. Inside we looked at the modern stained-glass window that has images of water cress which in the past was produced in great quantities in the water cress beds. The choughs which are depicted on the window link with St Thomas a Becket to whom the church is dedicated.

It was a very relieved group of happy walkers who returned to the cars relatively dry!

We made our way back to Greatford Barns where we were joined by three other group members for lunch.

Report by Julie Fitzjohn

November report



Ten walkers assembled at the Crab & Winkle car park on an overcast November morning ready for a four-mile circular walk of Werrington. We started out on Lincoln Road, heading south to Sheldrick Walk which led us into Werrington Park before winding our way through the park to Cuckoos Hollow and crossing the bridge over the weir. We then headed back towards Foxcovert Road, passing Ken Stimpson Academy and under the subway in the direction of Sobrite Spring and then onto Sergents Way with trees on both sides displaying their true autumn colours and underfoot. On returning to the Crab & Winkle, we were joined by a further four members of the group for a well-earned meal and drink.

Report by David Mann
Group Leader Margaret Beardshaw

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP



We have welcomed some new members to our group recently. There were 18 of us at our October meeting in Bourne Woods, to look at fungi.
You might be mistaken for thinking our photo shows a small woodland flower but it is in fact a yellow stagshorn fungus. It was growing on a decayed conifer stump. Fungi can have unusual names: we found dog stinkhorn, destroying angel, rosy bonnet and hairy curtain crust.

Report by Group Leader: Beverley Tegala

ITALIAN GROUP



As a group, we thought we would have our summer outing in October as many of us are away in summer!
We went to an Italian restaurant in Bourne, Il Mulino. We had a great evening with good food. We spoke a little Italian...I think!
A good time was had by all.

Lynne Alcorn: Group Leader

POETRY GROUP

Our November meeting was a dull damp afternoon, but we had a far from dull session. Our topic was “One long poem”. We had fantastic tales, drama, laughter and almost tears. Beginning with *The High Tide On The Coast of Lincolnshire*, by Jean Ingelow. Then several by Pam Ayres, *The Stuffed Horse, Happy Families* and *The Racehorse Fred*.

We had an Australian poem called *Tangmalangaloo*, by John O'Brian. *Goblin Market* by Christina Rossetti then *The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes. *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Robert Browning, had us on the edge of our seats.
This was followed by *The Wreck of the Hesperus* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. And finishing a wonderful afternoon with *Church Going* by Philip Larkin
We really enjoyed listening to such a variety of wonderful poetry. Thanks go to Juliet for hosting us so well.

Report by Susanne Hoadley group leader.

MONDAY WALKING GROUP



Eighteen of us met at Waterside Garden centre. Unfortunately, Richard, although willing, was unable to walk, so sixteen of us went to the restaurant to pre-order our food, which wasn't the start of the walk but we did 0.7miles just to order.
It was a sunny, breezy day, but much cooler into the headwind.
We set off along Kings Street for 0.6 miles along the road/verge then joined the footpath leading to Wilsthorpe.
Along Main Street to St Faiths Church, turning left onto footpaths across fields for two miles leading us to Braceborough.
We sussed out Braceborough Hall Retirement Home and decided that we were not eligible!!!
Here we followed Church Lane onto Main Street and along Braceborough Road and were able to follow a grassed footpath off the Braceborough Road to Wilsthorpe.
Arriving on Main Street, Wilsthorpe again, (deja-vu!), then footpaths to Obthorpe – another Main Street.
Continuing on the road until opposite Obthorpe Lane, we followed the footpath back towards the garden centre.
The sky blackened and we were hoping to miss rain, which we did apart from a few spots.
The A15 was a bit hairy with large Artics hammering along and with a very narrow verge, some of us crossed over and went via Kate's bridge
We had a very good lunch in the Lindum room.
A big thank you to the Famous Five leading the walk and organising it.
The next walk will be on 14th December from The Horseshoe details to follow.

Report by Group Leader: Steve Hanson

BOOKWORMS



Violeta by Isabel Allende. Bookworms gave an enthusiastic thumbs up for Allende's historical fiction novel, structured as a letter to her grandson, Carmilo. Violeta Del Valle tells Carmilo her life story, from her birth in 1920 (as the Spanish Flu pandemic raged) to her death in 2020 (the start of Covid). Born into a privileged, influential South American family which loses everything in The Great Depression, the family is forced to locate to a poor, remote rural area, where Violeta learns the values of hard work, survival and independence. She experiences very different relationships in her long life: a boring but stable marriage; a passionate and destructive relationship outside her marriage; divorce; companionship and peaceful love in her later years. Surviving the brutal dictatorships of South American politics and observing the powerlessness of the women and children she meets, Violeta ends her life a fiercely independent and wealthy person, using her riches to support the less fortunate.
As one group member observed: "What a meaty novel!"

So much to discuss and enjoy: feminism; history and politics; wonderful writing and characterization. The group discussed Violeta's character and how she developed from a spoiled child to become an independent and wealthy woman. We debated the circular nature of history, as Violeta's life was framed by two pandemics – how dictators and state sponsored terror is often followed by democratic rule; then the cycle begins again! But the big question, asked by Violeta's aunt: Is it better to marry a reliable but boring person or an exciting and unreliable one? We are still debating!

Report by Group Leader: Tom Baldwin.

CRAFT REPORT



We visited Kath Allen's house this month to tackle some beading ideas.
We created a variety of miniature flower arrangements in a miniature watering can.
Fortunately, Kath has a large table to display all the ingredients and thankfully she is used to beads on the floor too!
It was very delicate to do but most enjoyable.
Thank you to Kath for the ideas, beads and hosting us all.
We are back at Pam's next month for Christmas cards and look forward to that on Monday 16 November at 2pm.

Report Liz Noble
Group Leader Pam Ready

THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



Fortunately, there were no unexpected bangs or bumps but a touch of sparkle when a full complement of Thursday Gardeners met on 5th November at the Bourne home of members Roy and Ann.
There were two main tasks to complete, both of which were accomplished with ease. Firstly, members made their menu choices for the forthcoming Christmas lunch.
Then next year's programme was planned. There were plenty of ideas and suggestions and the task was finished in record time.
Our next meeting will be for a Christmas lunch at Browning Court, Bourne. After an excellent event last year this is being very keenly anticipated.

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

STROLLERS



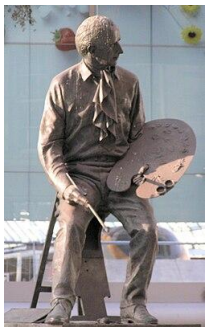
There was more than one eye on the weather forecast in the days leading up to our October walk as Storm Austen 'Powers' across the UK.
Considering that, there was a healthy turn out with 14 setting off from the Millstone at Barnack led by Geoff.
Geoff had revised his original route, so that in the event the storm arrived, we could make hurried return to the start.
We were very fortunate to escape the storm, seemingly taking advantage of a six-hour break in the storm, which coincided with our morning out.
The walk took us through the 'Hills and Holes' and Geoff stopped to talk about some of the history of the site, especially the fact that stone was taken from the site for the building of the cathedrals at Peterborough and Ely, with transportation by river and canals. The photograph shows the group in this area.

Our route showed the extent of this site, before we worked our back into the village and the relatively new development to the north of the main road.
Walking back, we could see the church in the middle distance, with its octagonal spire, then in the village itself, the house where the author of *The Water Babies*, Charles Kingsley lived for a while.
Our lunch at The Millstone, was swelled by five other group members, who enjoyed the fare on offer.
Did someone say there would be storm that day? Where was it, or were we just lucky?
Our walk this month will be on Friday 27th November, which will be the first for the group, led by Eddie, starting from Greatford.

Report by Group Leader: Bob Deller

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

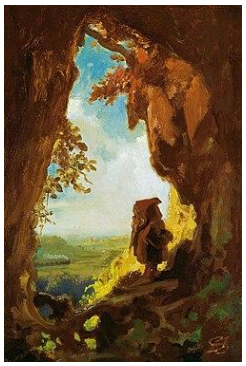
Twenty-three members of the Art Appreciation enjoyed a really interesting talk given by Hilary this morning. Hilary cheered up a grey and chilly day. **Trains in Art** was the theme.
She chose five artists, Monet, Cezanne, Turner, Spitzweg and Cuneo.
Each one had a different style and each painting shown resulted in a discussion.
Included in this report are the two paintings that are very different.
Terence Cuneo (1 November 1907 – 3 January 1996) was a prolific English painter noted for his scenes of railways, horses and military actions. He was also the official artist for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.



On the left, is a sculpture ofTerence Cuneo and to the right is the painting that Hilary showed us which is titled The Running Sheds of The Great Caerphilly and Vole-Tale Central Railway.This series of paintings will have a mouse hidden somewhere. Hilary brought one of her paintings which was by Cuneo and there was a mouse hidden in the foreground.



Carl Spitzweg 1808-1885 was a German romantic painter. Below is one of his paintings which is oil on wood.



It shows a small Gnome with a grey beard and a pointed hat standing at the entrance of a cave at a high altitude.
He looks out over a landscape with hills, trees and a town in the distance. There is grey smoke coming from the distant train. This painting could have been an illustration for a children's book but was interpreted as time standing still. It was painted not too long after the introduction of train travel.in Germany.
It was a very interesting talk. Thanks to Hilary and our resident magician David who always manages to get the equipment working
Next month we have Alan Brooke who will be telling us about Propaganda in Art.
New members always welcome.

Report by Group Leader: Sandra Jones

HISTORY GROUP

Robert Owen, by Dr Lesley Evan



Today the Green School must have had a maximum of attendees. We listened intently to the story of Robert Owen and watched the video about New Mills in Lanark.

Robert Owen was a Welsh textile manufacturer, philanthropist, political philosopher, social reformer, and a founder of utopian socialism and the co-operative movement.



He gained prominence at New Lanark, Scotland, where he improved housing, sanitation, education, and restricted child labour, establishing the first infant school in Britain.

Rejecting organized religion, he promoted communities based on cooperation, most famously New Harmony in Indiana, though such ventures failed. Owen influenced the trade union and co-operative movements, advocating humane working conditions, education for all, and collective social responsibility. He was certainly and interesting character, seemingly very confident from a young age. He had links to Stamford where he was articled for three years. Lesley showed us where it is thought he lived and worked. The next time you go to Costa Coffee or Macey Mays think of him as we think he actually lived there even though there is no blue plaque!

Born: 14 May 1771 (Newtown, Powys)

Died: 17 Nov 1858 (Newtown, Powys)



This is the reason that New Lanark Mills were founded The River Clyde produced copious amounts of water to source the power for the machinery of the mills which produced cotton.

A dam was constructed on the Clyde above Lanark and water was drawn off to power the machinery. Water went through various tunnels and then through a number of water wheels in each building. These were replaced by turbines in 1929!

Science lesson finished. Nest month our speaker is Alan Brooke

Thank you to everyone who helped today and especially to Lesley.

Report by Group Leader: Sandra Jones

BOURNE U3A RAILWAY GROUP

I am a member of Bourne U3A Railway Group and have been asked to let you know of a talk that is being given to our members, and others who may find the subject of interest, by Tom Ingall of The Great Central Railway, based in Loughborough on Wednesday, 2 December at 2.00pm.

The talk is on the Great Central Reunification, which is the joining of the preserved railway line between Leicester and Nottingham. This project has been ongoing for a number of years and involves the construction of bridges, embankments etc. The cost of this work runs into £millions, a lot of which has been secured already by donations and grants, but funds are still required to finish off the work.

Tom has agreed to give the presentation, which I'm sure will be very interesting, but he expects that those attending will make a contribution to go towards the funds required by the GCR. A donation of £5 has been suggested by attendees.

Members of Deepings u3a will be very welcome to come along and I would be grateful if you would pass on this invitation to the group. We meet at the Thurlby Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Thurlby.

I'm happy to give you any additional information.

Michael Soppitt (msoppitt5@gmail.com). Phone: 07837 415919

CHRISTMAS STARTS HERE!

The city's favourite festive celebration returns to Peterborough Cathedral this December There's something very special about Christmas Magic at Peterborough Cathedral — wonderful festive music, warm brass, glowing candlelight, magnificent lighting effects, and the joy of sharing it all with family and friends!

Returning on Saturday 12 December 2026, with performances at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, this popular festive celebration promises another unforgettable experience in one of the region's most iconic settings — and what could be more perfect than Peterborough Cathedral at Christmas time?

From the first sparkling notes of brass to much-loved melodies that bring back treasured memories of Christmases past, Christmas Magic celebrates the music and traditions that make this time of year so special.

Expect festive favourites like Carol of the Bells, the magical theme from Home Alone, White Christmas and Winter Wonderland, alongside traditional Christmas carols that will have you singing along in no time!

Christmas Magic has been a highlight of the festive season in Peterborough for 15 years, becoming a cherished Christmas outing for families and friends who return year after year.

"Guaranteed to put a huge smile on your face and give you a warm fuzzy feeling inside!"

Featuring live music performed by a magnificent brass ensemble and singers, hundreds of candles and a sparkling light show, it's a spectacular celebration of everything we love about Christmas!

The perfect festive treat for EVERYONE who loves Christmas!

Tickets from £20 (fees apply) at: www.peterboroughsings.org.uk/christmas-magic or call 0333 666 3366

(Programme may be subject to change)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025/26

Chair	Margaret Beardshaw	chair@deepingsu3a.com
Secretary	Mary Martin	secretary@deepingsu3a.com
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson	treasurer@deepingsu3a.com
Membership Secretary	David Perkins	membership@deepingsu3a.com
Group Co-ordinator	Tom Baldwin	groups@deepingsu3a.com
Gift Aid Secretary	Anne Burton	giftaid@deepingsu3a.com
Committee Member(s)	Phil Jones	phil@deepingsu3a.com

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: 11 DECEMBER 2026
SEND TO: NEWSEDITOR@DEEPINGSU3A.COM