



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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laugh,  
live  
**News and Views**



**SEPTEMBER 2022**

## **From the Chair**

By the time you read this the funeral of our dear Queen Elizabeth 2nd will have taken place. I know that death is an inevitability but she was our Queen for so long it felt as though she would be with us forever. We welcome our new King Charles III and I am sure you will all join me in sending our best wishes to him in his new role.

Next Tuesday (27th September) is our Open Day for membership renewals and a chance to meet the group leaders and see which groups you would like to join. If you cannot find the table for the group you are interested in, Peter, as Groups Co-ordinator, will be manning a table and should be able to help you.

You should have already received my email with information about the Christmas Concert during the afternoon of Tuesday 6th December, please remember to get your ticket at the Open Day.

***Barbara Lavender***

## **Speakers Corner**

Our speaker in August was Geoffrey Kay, who told us about his experience of building a Reading-style Romany caravan.

Romany caravans are beautifully decorated and on the inside they are immaculate with the best of everything. All cooking is done outside even if it is raining, when the ledge on the roof is used as a shelter.

Reading and Stoke on Trent are the main places for making the caravans.

The horses are mostly traded at a well-known horse fair in Appleby. The Appleby Horse Fair, also known as Appleby New Fair, is "an annual gathering of Gypsies and Travellers in the town of Appleby-in-Westmorland in Cumbria, England". The dealing takes place in the street for two weeks a year.

The horse is the engine of the caravan and is very precious. Geoffrey bought his in a pub one evening and took a short course on how to drive it. However, once Geoffrey finished building the caravan he decided to sell it and move onto another project.

I was very disappointed that he did not even take one trip in it. I was looking forward to hearing about the experience.

Having sold the caravan he was left with the horse (There is another story about that but you should have been there to hear that one.) and as horses are herd animals he and his wife were happy to sell the caravan but wanting to keep the horse they bought a Shetland pony to keep it company.

Geoffrey carried on with several other projects and he is still working on them.

September 27th is our open day at the Arts Centre from 10am to 13.30pm. If you would like to join any of the groups on offer you can discuss details with the representative.

I will tell you about the speaker for October in next month's News & Views..

***Wendy Foster***

## Nature Group - Butterfly Walk

The first outing of the group started out in inauspicious circumstances. We had had to abandon the scheduled date for looking at butterflies on Therfield Heath after a timely warning from our leader, Neil, that massive thunderstorms were forecast for early Thursday morning and rain forecast throughout Thursday which meant no butterflies would have been seen.

So the foray was rescheduled to Friday 26th August and only six, could make it. The day was bright and clear as we assembled in the car park and walked up the road towards the wooded area. On the way we saw many flowering plants of interest.

Our route took us through Fox Covert and then over Church Hill and Pen Hills. We stopped on a bank with a south facing hillside and short grass which Neil told us is the perfect setting for butterflies. We later learned that conservation of the wildflower pasture is maintained by sheep grazing.

Soon we saw our first Adonis Blue butterfly, and then we were seeing Adonis blue butterflies (male and female), here, there and everywhere. The male is a dazzling blue with white fringes. The female a duller brown with a few blue scales on the wings and blue hairs on the body.



The Adonis Blue is scarce and only found in the south of England on chalk downland and both its larva and adult forms feed solely on horseshoe vetch. It's presence on Therfield Heath is quite recent and is suspected to be an unofficial introduction.

Neil informed us that there are two broods of the Adonis Blue butterflies each year, one in the second half of May and the other late August to September. We also saw a Small White and a Green Veined White and, as we left the bank, a Meadow Brown butterfly. The Meadow Brown butterfly had the bright red parasitic larva of a tick on it.

We also saw many snails attached to grass stalks which were later identified as white-lipped snails. On our way back to the cars we saw a couple of Small Heath butterflies and a rather ragged Common Blue and several Brown Argus butterflies.

We finished the outing with refreshments at a local café.

## *Fran Armes*

### Strollers August Trip

Our group visited the ancient market town of Framlingham and congregated on the Castle meadow before strolling around the town centre on a self-guided tour.

On a warm sunny day, we settled down for a refreshing lunch at the Castle Inn.

We then made our way to Parham Airfield Museum, only 5 miles away, but difficult to find even with the use of satnavs. The museum opens Sundays, April-October and Wednesdays only during June, July and August closing at 4pm.

The museum comprises the US 390th Bomb Group and also the British Resistance Organisation.



It has a wonderful exhibition, great displays and very helpful volunteers and free admission.

With only a minimal time to look around, we all agreed that it is well worth at least a half-day visit in the future.

**Peter Cundall**

### **Sunday Strollers**

The October walk will be at Denston on October 9th at 10-30 am.

Parking at the green near the church, post code is CB8 8PP.

The walk is 3 miles with no stiles or road walking.

**David Jefferies**

### **Craft Group**

Last Friday at our monthly craft meeting, one of our members, Pamela Housden, taught (or tried extremely hard) to teach the group macrame.

We had a fun morning and you can see from the photo, we all tried very hard.



One of the ladies thought that my cat did the best. He certainly had a go at helping each one of us; amazing how his little black paw kept appearing above the table!



I am sorry but the group has no vacancies at the moment.

## **Wendy Foster**

### **Art Appreciation Group**

Postponed from July, this month's theme was Heroes and Heroines.

Sometimes the hero was the subject of the art, for example David Oxtoby's Pop Art images of Jimi Hendrix and Ray Charles or those of Napoleon Bonaparte crossing the Alps looking magnificent on horseback as depicted by Jacques-Louis David or less heroically slumped on a peasant-led mule as depicted by Paul Delaroche. Some forty years separated these paintings and Napoleon's image had gone from heroic man of the moment to deceased exile. In two cases, the artists themselves were chosen by group members as their hero or heroine. This was so with Michael Ayrtton (1921 – 1975) whose output was very varied and who lived and worked in this area. His grave is in the churchyard at Hadstock and features a bronze labyrinth, something he not only designed but which held his fascination, linking the duality and misunderstanding embodied in the myth of the Minotaur.

Élisabeth Vigée-Le Brun (1755 – 1842) was a driven French portrait artist working before the revolution and carefully managing to survive it despite having enjoyed the patronage of no lesser a figure than Marie Antoinette. In what was essentially a male dominated profession, she went on to paint other notables across Europe. We looked at one of her engaging self-portraits but nearer home, one of her works exists at Ickworth. Her story is both remarkable and inspiring.



Women as both subjects of art and figures of inspiration brought us to the American World War 2 image of Rosie the Rivetter as

both a morale raiser and call for women to undertake war work. At the same time in Britain, the artist Laura Knight painted some marvellously detailed works such as the less than catchily entitled “Ruby Loftus Screwing a Breech Ring”. Images where ordinary people became the heroes and heroines of the hour.



As for other unsung heroes and heroines, we looked at an image by Jan Steen (1626 – 1679), showing two teachers with their hands full trying to deal with an unruly class of mixed-age children and we contemplated how covid lockdowns have presented teachers with new sets of difficulties to tackle ... heroically!

**Neil Dickinson**

### **Cycling Group – September Ride**

Five men and a woman set out on the first of the September rides and quickly lost two of their number. A change of route leaving Haverhill had not been communicated well enough by leader, Hainsby, and a search party was sent out to return the strays to the group.

Reunited, the sextet dissected the industrial estate and headed out on the Helions Bumpstead Road. There was a fresh breeze to accompany the riders as they entered Helions village and then into Sage's End at the crossroads.

Following the winding road the group entered Bolt's Hill and then Church Lane towards Castle Camps. Formerly known as Great Camps the village ownership had passed into many hands down the years. Probably before 1100 a castle was built on the north-west slope of the eastern ridge. A

two-acre motte, surrounded by a wet moat 25 ft. deep, to the north-west of a small bailey across whose banks the church was later erected. A new and larger bailey was made perhaps in the late 13th century, little of which now remains.

With the history lesson over the riders exited the village toward Nosterfield End and took the gradual descent into Haverhill. The miracle of Subway's coffee machine actually working, encouraged the group to sample the goods.

**Ken Hainsby**

Next Meetings: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022  
(Open Day)

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

Deadline for the Rolling Screen

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

e-mail to [havu3agen@gmail.com](mailto:havu3agen@gmail.com)

Deadline for next edition:  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

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