



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

October 2022

From the Chair

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make last month's Open Day such a success. The Mayor of Haverhill, Councillor Bruce Davidson, visited and stayed for most of the morning speaking to most of the group leaders. He was very impressed with how many groups we have. The Haverhill Echo wrote a nice feature and kindly supplied the photos below.



I would like to welcome all the people who joined Haverhill and District u3a for the first time this year and hope they enjoy everything we have to offer. If you have not yet renewed your membership, a membership form can be downloaded from our website haverhillu3a.com or a copy can be collected from the Arts Centre.

The Christmas Concert is being very well received and all the tickets have been sold.

Gerry has been working very hard to set up direct email addresses for the committee, they are:

Barbara Lavender (Chair)
chair@haverhillu3a.com
Peter Tatam (Vice Chair)
vicechair@haverhillu3a.com
Mark Pollington (Treasurer)
treasurer@haverhillu3a.com
Alan Smith (Assistant Treasurer)
assistanttreasurer@haverhillu3a.com
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Peter Tatam (Groups co-ordinator)
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Mick Smith (Minutes Secretary)
minutessecretary@haverhillu3a.com

If you wish to communicate with a member of the committee please use the email address most relevant to your enquiry and this will go directly to the person to whom the email address belongs.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next speaker meeting on Tuesday 25th October.

Barbara Lavender

Speakers Corner

There was no talk in September as it was our Open Day. I will leave someone who was there to report on that, although I had a brief chat with someone from a u3a close to ours, more of that later.

Jo Porth and Linda Bevan will talk about the Victorian Schoolroom Re-enactments they have run as part of Sturmer Local History Group activities. There will be some background information on Victorian Education in Haverhill as well as Sturmer. The talk will be illustrated with Powerpoint. We hope you will join in with our mystery object session.

Having read the "Anniversary ring-in" which was one of the articles in the "News from the East, October" I realized, as I read, that the person who organised this was none other than Mike Rowland who will, with his group, be playing Christmas songs on handbells at our November meeting. A possible chance to take part? So don't be shy! It is great fun, I have done it.

When I got home from a short break there was a message from Mike. You can imagine my immediate thought, (Oh help he can't do it and I will have to find another speaker) How wrong I was. He was ringing to tell me that he had been to the HAC to see what the facilities are and had arrived during our open morning. He commented how much he enjoyed being there as there was a real buzz. I can therefore assume that the morning was a great success.

Mike is a member of Sawston u3a.

Wendy Foster

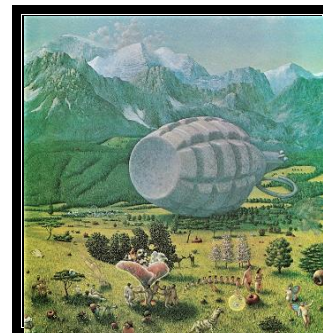
Art Appreciation

Our theme for the month was "Normal Life" which immediately begs the question, what is normal? Member's contributions were entertainingly varied and frequently touched on how mental health influences an artist's work (van Gogh for instance) or those who might find some new sense of stability through artistic endeavour; the latter being exemplified by the release of street art/graffiti being offered to young people by Nathan Murdoch from Peterborough and his local branch of the charity Mind, and citing his subjects, such as the late Caroline Flack, who had been simultaneously objectified because of her attractiveness, yet troubled by the attention: a strange irony perhaps?



By contrast, the calmness of ordinary life was seen in the works of Dutch artist Pieter de Hooch (1629 to 1684). Speaking of contrasts, the normal lives of the privileged versus the lower classes was covered by images of a French duke annotated as "an important man" on a medieval tapestry or a Victorian housemaid with a beguiling, raised eyebrow proffering the viewer "Sherry Sir?" as the picture is titled.

A new name to the group was that of Cliff McReynolds, an American artist whose curious work Landscape with Hand Grenade recalled Bosch's well-known late 15th century Garden of Earthly Delights.



Claustrophobic aspects of Covid lockdown prompted one group member to present a wonderful choice of older examples of views out of windows from within interiors be they by Japanese artist Hiroshige, British artist Lucien Freud, Frenchman Gustave Caillebotte or another van Gogh offering from the window of the asylum he had been confined to. The stories behind these images were quite profound.

Most perplexing of images was Pennsylvania Coal Town (1947) by Edward Hopper whose paintings are never less than tantalising to the point of unsettling.

Neil Dickinson

Country Casuals

It was a fine but cloudy day when we met up at the Bell Inn at the east end of Balsham to confirm our lunch choices for later. We then drove to the west end of Balsham, turned right on to Fox Road driving for a few hundred yards to the start point of our walk.

Our footpath was across fields heading north-west. Thank heavens there was no mud as there had been no rain recently. After one mile we joined the Harcamlow Way. At this point we were very close to the local wind farm (13 windmills) but the sails were hardly moving as there was only a breath of wind. (see photo of group with windmills)



We walked eastwards along the Harcamlow Way, past the windmills on our left, to the junction with the Ickniel Way where we turned right and headed back to our cars.

The total distance was approximately 3 miles which took us 95 minutes at a very casual pace. The weather was perfect for walking and lunch at the Bell Inn very enjoyable.

Keith and Frances Armes
Photo by Alan Ward

Booklovers 2 Change of Venue and Day

Please note Booklovers 2 now meet on the second Thursday in the month at Haverhill Library between 10.30 and 12.00. The cost is £1.00 per person.

Peter Tatam

Patchwork & Quilting Group

The Patchwork & Quilting group have once again shown their generous spirit. One of our members has contact with Bury St Edmunds Women's Refuge so we have made book cushions to give to them for Christmas. We have 12 cushions so far and we will include a book in each when we donate them.



We have two or three charity projects each year and the items we make are made mostly from fabric purchased by the members although we do sometimes have fabric donated. If anyone has any 100% cotton fabric they would like to donate it would be gratefully received.

I am very proud of the ladies in my group, their generosity is overwhelming.

Janet Berriman

Craft group.

Unfortunately I have had to postpone the craft group from this month as I have now got COVID! I hope no-one else has caught it but cases do seem to be increasing.

Wendy Foster

Cycling Group

On a beautiful autumn day, a rather depleted cycling group met as usual at the Sports Centre. With group leader Peter Thomas away, being in Sicily with his wife Hilary, it was left to Flight Lieutenant Smith to lead the sortie. The wing quartet headed east encountering no hostilities and flew swiftly through the Park where the last of the summer flowers fluttered in the group's tail wind.

With Kedington in sight leader Smith throttled back to allow the formation to realign. Flying once again the Newmarket

cross roads were reached where the four wheeled enemy were in abundance. Managing to avoid any casualties and entering Gt Wrating, Smith waved the group into a landing strip where some very interesting walk markings were in evidence (See pictures) These were the names and dates of completion by Italian Prisoners of War.



Take off was smooth and the quartet entered what was classified as a Quiet Road i.e. Pedestrians and cycles took precedent over other vehicles. Emerging into Withersfield and with fuel running low the group glided downhill before picking up thermal up drafts that saw them safely landing back in Haverhill.

Ken Hainsby

Nature Group

Our second outing for the Nature Group was closer to home in East Town Park. There our leader Hilary Thomas outlined what to look for when identifying trees. It is important to look at the leaf shape, size and texture, the flowers, fruiting bodies, bark texture and pattern as well as the overall shape of the tree.

We looked at examples of oak, ash, horse chestnut, lime, cherry, hawthorn, elder, sycamore, goat willow, walnut, holly, hazelnut, the wayfaring tree and the spindle tree. The latter is such a bright addition to the countryside with its pink

fruits containing orange seeds. The use of botanical names was encouraged as they can be helpful in the identification process.



Hilary also outlined some of the uses of the various woods and the history associated with the yew tree as well as some folklore associated with trees. It was suggested that we look at methods of identifying trees in the winter months when deciduous trees have lost their leaves.

Our next outing will be to look for fungi. The venue is yet to be decided but as soon as we know, we will let you know location and times etc.

Fran Armes

Spanish Conversation Group



The 5 members of this new group met on Friday 7th October for the first time.

We agreed to meet every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, at 14:30 taking it in turns to host the meetings at our homes.

We got started on a plan of activities to share and improve our Spanish language skills.

David Campos

Strollers

A visit to Royston took place on Sunday 25th September. Parking was easy and free. We met at the Priory Memorial

Gardens for coffee at the mobile kiosk there.

A shortened town trail took us around the gardens then along Melbourne Street past the Royston Cave and onto King James Palace, a hunting lodge for the king. Opposite was the Royston Museum, which houses some 40,000 artefacts plus, for one month only, a Photographic Annual Exhibition on the upper mezzanine floor.

We lunched at the close-by "Spoons" before our pre-booked visit to the Royston Cave. The man-made chamber is decorated with unique medieval-style carvings and was explained by the capable and informative guide.



Peter Cundall

Sunday Strollers

Thirteen members of the group turned out for our walk at Denston.

The weather could not have been better and the walk, 3 miles, was across lovely countryside finishing by crossing the parkland surrounding Denston Hall.

If the weather stays nice we are looking forward to our next walk, of 3.25 miles starting from the Reading Rooms at Weston Green on Sunday 12th of November.

David Jefferies

To all the kids who were born in 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's

First we survived being born, to mothers who smoked and/ drank while they carried us.

They took aspirin. Ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead based paints.

We had no child-proof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets/not to mention, the risks we took hitich hiking.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding three to a push bike was always great fun.

We drank water from a garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with friends and no one died!

We ate bread pudding, white bread, real butter and drank lemonade with sugar in it but we didn't become overweight.

We were always playing outside. We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back home when the streetlights came back on.

No one was able to reach us all day and we were OK.

We would spend hours building our trolleys out of scraps and then ride them down the hill only to forget the brakes!!! Running into bushes a few times solved the problem.

We did not have Playstations, nintendos, X-boxes, no video games at all..... we had friends and went outside and found them!!!

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and there were no lawsuits for these accidents.

We ate worms and mud pies.

We were given air guns for our tenth birthdays.

We made up games with sticks and worn tennis balls.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's place.

School sports teams had try outs and not everyone got in a team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment...Imagine that!

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors and new ideas! We had freedom,failure,success, responsibility

and we learned to deal with it all.....AND you are one of them!!!

Congratulations!!!!

Sent in by Graeme Gee

London Originals

In late September sunshine seven members of the group spent a splendid day exploring the wonderful Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Watermill.

Lord Fairhaven bought Anglesey Abbey unseen at auction in 1926. Over the next few years he remodelled and extended the House turning it into his luxurious country estate. The interior of the House takes a step back in time to the 1930's. Lavishly furnished bedrooms, one of which is named 'The Queen Mother's bedroom', complete with en-suite where she stayed over on her way to the Newmarket races. The rooms are full of beautiful furniture, antiques, art and artefacts. The walls are adorned with tapestries and paintings, the artist John Constable's paintings feature 'The Opening of Waterloo Bridge' dated 1817, plus other early impressions of the artist.



We enjoyed a tranquil walk through the gardens and tree-lined walks which featured a carpet of colourful Cyclamen plants. The Dahlia garden was in full bloom, a wonderful array of specimens and colour. Unfortunately we could only admire Lode Watermill from the exterior as it is under restoration. So much to view and explore, a second visit is definitely needed.



We left the Abbey for lunch at the White Swan pub in the village of Stow Cum Quy. A friendly pub serving home-cooked food, and very good it was too.

Sandra Culling

Cycling Group

The cycling group welcomed new member Tim from Linton as they met up on a bright autumn day outside the Sports Centre for the first of their October rides. As an inauguration, group leader Thomas, back from his Scilly escapades decided on a route known to the group as 'it's all downhill from here'. The route of course seemed to wind permanently upwards and if there were any opportunities to free wheel they were few and far between. Withersfield to Thurlow which incorporated Turnpike Hill was just for starters as the climb continued out to West Wickham and Wrattling before curving round to the delights of more elevated roads culminating finally in Skippers Lane back to Withersfield and Haverhill.

Much conversation is indulged in as individual riders find themselves alongside a different group cyclist and much can be gleaned from these tete-a-tete's. For instance, a specialist Lotus car repairer operates in Skippers Lane and Haverhill's new bypass will be completed by the spring apparently.

The sports centre cafe provided the ideal spot for a welcome drink and debrief.

Ken Hainsby

Next Meetings: Tuesday 25th October
Tuesday 29th November

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 22nd November

e-mail to
chair@haverhillu3a.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 18th November

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