



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

August 2022

From the Chair

I was reading an article by a founder member of u3a in the spring edition of Third Age Matters. His theme was "Everyone in u3a should be an involved member, not a customer being served". This made me think of our u3a and how we all try to help each other being it by running a group, helping to get the venue ready for a group, being a member of the committee and many other ways.

The Third Age Trust magazine, Third Age Matters, has many interesting articles and is delivered to your home 5 times a year and the cost is £3.50. To order this select the appropriate box on your membership renewal form.

The committee are busy planning the Open Day on Tuesday 27th September when you can renew your membership and talk to the group leaders. There are two new groups in the planning stage and hopefully more information will be available here. I look forward to seeing you there.

Caroline, our events' organiser, is working on a Christmas entertainment afternoon for Tuesday 6th December.

It has come to my attention that many members do not know the current committee members. Please have a look at our website haverhillu3a.com and under the Hu3a Trustees tab you will find pictures of us all with our names and titles.

Barbara Lavender

Singing For Pleasure Group

The Haverhill U3A Singing For Pleasure Group performed their second concert of the year on Tuesday 9th August. The Sunshine Group, who meet at Chalkstone Community Centre, gave us a very warm welcome and were an appreciative and responsive audience. The programme was largely based on popular show tunes including Love Changes Everything and Edelweiss. There was also the opportunity for the audience to join us for some sea shanties. Many of the audience commented on the quality of the sound made by the choir, the clear diction and dynamic range.

We have been directing the group since September and have been really pleased with the way all the members have responded to us and the wide variety of music we have introduced. It has been good to include some partner songs and part singing in our repertoire. In this respect, expanding the number of men in the group would be great. If anyone out there would like to join our ranks you would be most welcome.

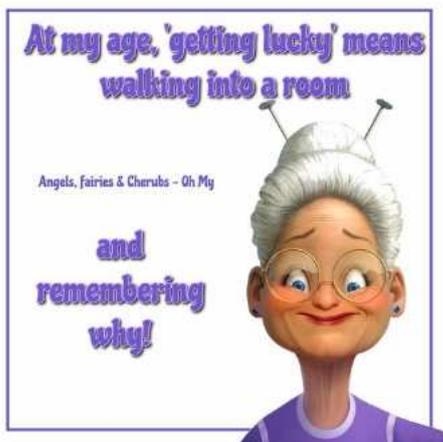
Ros Seeley and Di Pannell

Walking Talking Munching

For this month's walk, the group met at The Crown in Linton to undertake a route sourced by member Sarah Harrison. The heat of the previous days had reduced numbers to 13 but the hardy remainers set off by walking along Market Lane to the recreation ground. There had been a market in Green Lane Linton since the

Middle Ages and one that flourished until its demise in 1864. Continuing on through Little Linton the route crossed two bridges where the Granta tributary was but a trickle. Following the river to a path which led to Symonds Lane the group stood to hear about Symonds House which in former times was the local workhouse before becoming Linton hospital and presently a care home. Next came a test of endurance as a steady climb to the water tower in very hot conditions was required. The tower itself is a master class in bricklaying and was the salvation of the village when built in 1935. It transformed village life and allowed for the building of Linton College. Working their way back down via The Mill House, a site that had been used for that purpose since 1222, the group passed through the church grounds to stop and admire The Guildhall. The site of The Crown in the high street was like spotting an oasis in a desert and the hot and sweaty walkers retired for a well-earned drink and lunch.

Ken Hainsby



Graeme Gee

New Jubilee Dance

You may have seen the article in the News from the East magazine about a new dance created for the Platinum Jubilee with music written by David Read. He is a friend of mine who played for Ian and me at our wedding in 2015. I have been with him all the way with his Platinum Waltz. I taught this a couple of months ago to my own group of dancers at the dance club I run at the Haverhill Arts Centre and as the article

says it's been a great hit. If any of the U3A members would like to learn this, then I am happy to teach as it's an easy sequence. Please contact me on havu3agen@gmail.com

Rita Hammond

History Group Trip to Crossing Temple Barns and Paycockes House



On Friday 5th August the History Group visited Crossing Temple Barns to look at the well-preserved barns, the Victorian walled garden, and the various exhibits around the site. It was a very warm day so walking in the sun was limited. Lunch was taken at the Wilkin & Sons café on site which was enjoyed by all.

A private tour had been arranged at Paycockes House in Coggeshall to begin at 14.30, but due to an error we were expected at 13.30 so we had to leave the barns earlier than intended. Paycockes is a wealthy merchant's house dating back to 1460 and has been extended many times since then. Entry to the gardens and café are free, but the house is operated by the National Trust, so free to members but non-members must pay. The tour lasted an hour with an excellent guide from whom we learned so much about the history of the house and the families that owned it. A cold drink or ice cream from the cafe ended the day.



Peter Tatam

Speakers corner for Aug 2022

Our speaker in July was Captain Karl Lumbers, who told us The Trinity House Story. An excellent speaker who drew a lot of interest and questions from the audience.

Thank you to everyone who made a point of coming to see me afterwards to say how much they had enjoyed the talk.

I apologise for there not being enough feedback sheets, we now have a backup plan so it shouldn't happen again.

Coincidentally I was chatting to my son about the talk and he recommended a book that he had just read and enjoyed; "The Lighthouse Stephenson's" by Bella Bathurst. The synopsis is as follows:
An exciting new edition of Bella Bathurst's epic story of Robert Louis Stevenson's ancestors and the building of the Scottish coastal lighthouses against impossible odds.

'Whenever I smell salt water, I know that I am not far from one of the works of my ancestors,' wrote Robert Louis Stevenson in 1880. 'When the lights come out at sundown along the shores of Scotland, I am proud to think they burn more brightly for the genius of my father!' Robert Louis Stevenson was the most famous of the Stevenson's but not by any means the most productive. The Lighthouse Stephenson's, all four generations of them, built every lighthouse round Scotland, were responsible for a slew of inventions in both construction and optics, and achieved feats of engineering in conditions that would be forbidding even today. The same driven energy which Robert Louis Stevenson put into writing, his ancestors put into lighting the darkness of the seas.

Next month we welcome Graham Kay who will tell us how he built a Reading style Romany Caravan and how he acquired the horse! The meeting will start at 10.30am. Entrance to the Arts Centre will be via the front or rear doors which will open at 10am.
Wendy Foster

Creative Writing Group 2

Looking for new members.

We are a small group of 4 and looking for 2 new members to join us. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10 – 12 at a member's home in Haverhill. We offer tea, coffee and gentle critique on our monthly theme story. We're just people who want to try putting pen to paper.

We will be at the U3a Open Day on September 27th at the Arts Centre or contact us via the Groups Co-Ordinator on the web site.

Jackie Tatam

Cribbage

How would you like to spend an alternative Wednesday afternoon playing cards? Especially as Autumn and the winter months are fast approaching (sorry to remind you about this). Our group has been running approximately 14 years. We have a mixture of old (not relating to age) players and several that joined us last September following the open day. Our venue is Chalkstone Community Centre and we meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month ready to start playing at 2pm. If you are coming to the Open Day please pop along to the Cribbage Table and we can introduce ourselves and maybe enrol you into our group. If you cannot get to the open day, please feel free to contact me on either 01440 762090 or my mobile 07913361373 and we can have a chat. Looking forward to seeing you.

Patricia Palmer

Sunday Strollers

Our planned walk in August was called off due to the extreme temperatures. Hopefully we will do this walk in October.

Our next walk will be led by Lian, The starting point is from the car park in Linton CB21 4JS at 10-30 am on 11th Sept. The distance is approx. 3.5 miles. There may be some stiles and possibly short sections of road walking.

David Jefferies

A Quirky Town called Bulls

The Commonwealth Games at Birmingham with its giant metal bull reminded us that North Island New Zealand has a small town called Bulls. Almost twenty years ago we had no intention of visiting this place but having missed the Overlander train between Auckland and Wellington, we had to take a bus, and the only route available at short notice, required a change at Bulls. We spent half an hour there, and as usual on long bus journeys, we immediately sought the public toilets which we found were called "relieve-a-bull".

We quickly realised that the whole town was based on the "bull" pun. The library was called "Read-a-bull", the antique shop, "Collect-a-bull", the food store "Eat-a-bull", and so it went on, down the high street.

Google Earth now enables us to view the town and sadly the "puns" have had their day. The town now has a number of metal bull statues, but the only evidence we can find of the old days is the faded Town Hall called "Soci-a-bull", the butcher's shop called "A load of Bull" and a shop selling "Coffee on the Moo-ve"

Ian Johnson

Cycling Group

For the second ride of the month the group gathered as usual at the Sports Centre. The weather was on every one's lips and all were pleased it had cooled enough for the ride to go ahead. Clare Country Park was the objective and the cakes available at Platform 1 the spur.

Following the well-worn trail out to Sturmer and onto Wixoe the effect of the recent intense heat was plainly visible on verges and gardens. All that is except the cottage garden plants. The Hollyhocks in particular were majestic, standing like colourful silent sentinels as we passed. The road to Clare is a tight and dangerous one for two wheels so it was relief that group leader Thomas took a quieter route from Stoke by Clare into Clare Country Park. Good refreshment at Platform 1 revitalised the group for the trip back, this

time heading past the fine Clare Church of St Peter and St Paul toward Hundon and Kedington and back into Haverhill. 16 miles were clocked up and all agreed it had been a refreshing ride after the heat of recent days.

Ken Hainsby

City Walkers – Norwich Visit



In July, the Haverhill u3a group of City Walkers found themselves in the city of Norwich. Having successfully negotiated major road works on the A11, we all arrived in plenty of time for a quick cup of coffee before meeting up with our guide, Paul Dickson. Paul gave us a quick "potted" history of the City of Norwich before we started out from the Market Place, the bustling heart of the city for more than 900 years.

The tour entitled "Norwich: An Introduction" took us along cobbled lanes and down narrow alleyways, where the group discovered hidden gems tucked away in the backstreets of Norwich, ending up in Tombland. The name actually meant "empty space" rather than a burial site, and was the Anglo-Scandinavian marketplace before the Normans moved it to its present location.

Our guide was incredibly knowledgeable and we discovered more than 1000 years of Norwich's history in just under two hours! We found out about the city's historic woollen and shoe making industries and how, in 1792 James Smith opened a factory and shop selling ready-made shoes on site and went on to become the world-famous firm Start-Rite.

We worked our way around this delightful and fascinating ancient city, as Paul told us interesting stories about the places and people of this area (legends and myths), including Norwich Castle, the 15thC Guildhall, City Hall, Maid's Head, the river Wensum ... the list goes on! We even stumbled upon dinosaurs on our travels!



The highlight of the tour is undoubtedly Elm Hill, the most famous street in Norwich. It is also the most complete medieval street in the city. A major fire destroyed almost everything in 1507 but the properties were rebuilt along this cobbled street and remain to this day.



The Briton Arms, formerly an inn and the only survivor of the 1507 fire, is very much in demand as a film location.

The Royal Arcade, the Art Nouveau masterpiece of local architect George Skipper, was quite stunning. Opened in 1899 and hailed as one of the first shopping

malls in England, Skipper used arts and craft style tiles and stained glass to create this beautiful arcade, complemented by the dark mahogany shop fronts.

The City Walkers, with their heads still buzzing with facts and figures, retreated to The Refectory at Norwich Cathedral to digest what they had learnt, and the tasty snacks provided by Jarrolds at the Refectory café!

After lunch we met our Blue Badge Guide, Jan King in the Hostry for our guided tour of Norwich Cathedral. When asked whether we had any time constraints, we knew then we were in for a very informative tour! Incredible stories of the Cathedral's past, covering 1,000 years of history were told!

Norwich Cathedral is one of the finest complete Romanesque buildings in Europe. Founded in 1096, the cathedral was built using Normandy stone shipped from Caen. The architecture and craftsmanship is truly astonishing, and one struggles to imagine how these gigantic buildings were built without the use of today's modern technology!

There were so many areas of interest, but a few stood out from the rest. A treasure trove of over 1000 unique medieval decorated bosses, depicting a wonderful cross-section of medieval society, can be found in the cathedral.

The Nave, with its superb combination of Norman arcades and triforium and high 15th



century vaulted ceiling (complete with 225 bosses) was a sight to behold.

The Cloisters built in a quadrangle date from 1297-1430, and again have magnificent, vaulted roofs joined with bosses.

Both Paul Dickson and Jan King were excellent guides. The tours were relaxed and friendly, and we all had an enjoyable day. The only problem was, we all went home with information overload, and had trouble trying to remember all that we had learned.

This trip certainly lived up to the u3a's motto of LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!

Caroline Choat

Membership Renewal 2022-23

Attached to this edition you will find the membership renewal form for the year 1st Sept 2022 to 31st August 2023.

Please come along to the Haverhill U3a Open Day on Tuesday 27th September at the Arts Centre between 10.00 & 12.00 to meet with our Groups and hand in your completed membership form at the Membership table.

For those who choose to pay prior to this date (Online) please use your membership number as the reference and return the form to me. If you do not have your membership number, please contact me using havu3agen@gmail.com.

Gift Aid – If you are a U.K. tax payer and mark the yes box in the Gift Aid section of your membership form we can claim, from the government, £2.50 for each of you. This enables us to keep our membership fees as low as possible and will be extra helpful this year as all costs are going up.

Steve Green

Membership Secretary

Next Meetings:

Open Day: Tuesday 27th Sep 2022

Tuesday 25th October 2022

Deadline for the Rolling Screen

Tuesday 18th October 2022

e-mail: havu3agen@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 16th Sep 2022

Please either post to:

The Editor U3A

c/o Haverhill Arts Centre

High Street

Haverhill CB9 8AR

OR

e-mail to havu3anews@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE NEW WEBSITE

haverhillu3a.com