



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

## News and Views

Supported by



HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year**

November 2024

### From the Chair

When I took over the role of Chair 3 years ago I had never done anything like it before. As the role of Chair is for a maximum of 3 years I need someone to take over from me at the A.G.M. in March. We currently have an active committee all of whom have their allocated roles. We also have an events committee, which the chair doesn't get involved with, but the whole committee help out at events such as the Christmas Concert and our Open Morning. Apart from a committee meeting once a month which is for no more than two hours, any correspondence is usually via Emails which can be dealt with at a time to suit, and it would be helpful to have a volunteer who is happy working with a keyboard.

I will still be on the committee but in a different role, so in a position to help the new Chair as and when necessary. A current member of the committee is willing to stand as vice-chair, and she knows the ropes. We can also work together in the three months after Christmas before the A.G.M. in March.

Haverhill and District u3a is a registered charity and as such it is essential we have someone in the position of Chair. I do hope someone will come forward to help keep Haverhill and District u3a going, please contact me on [chair@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:chair@haverhillu3a.com) and I will be glad to give more information.

All the tickets for our Christmas Concert on December 3rd have now been sold and I would like to remind all members who bought one that they must bring it with them on the day as entry is by ticket only.

My picture this month is a very colourful acer which I took about 3 weeks ago in Horringer. You may have noticed it on your way to Bury St Edmunds.



We do not publish an edition of News and Views in December so, although it is a little early, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and heathy 2025.

**Barbara Lavender**

### Speaker's Corner

On Tuesday 29th October, our very own David Caulfield gave his humorous and informative talk entitled Songs and Stories from the 60's. David played guitar, sang and talked about many of the 1960's much loved songs by Chuck Berry, Elvis, Buddy Holly and many others.

David played the music from the old TV adverts, and we could all sing along to those – "The Esso signs means happy motoring...."

David also told us how the music managers often failed their young eagerly signed-up artists by taking a large cut but

with the artist paying for everything. I think only those people who heard the talk will know what I mean when I sing "Shave and hair cut – ten bob" as I sign off.

Our speaker meetings are the last Tuesday of each month (but not December), doors open at 10.00 a.m. and the talk starts at 10.30 a.m. Please bring your membership card as this must be shown on your way in. Our u3a membership increased substantially this year, and we were really pleased to see so many new faces at the October talk. There were few empty seats, so please can I ask that no empty seats are left between you and the next person, as it makes it easier for members to know which rows have available seating.

Next month, on Tuesday 26th November, our speaker will be a someone from the Bury Drop In who will talk about the impact of homelessness and the work of their voluntary team.

***Sue Dickinson***

### **Walking, Talking, Munching Group**

Linton's historic Crown pub, which once was a 16th Century coaching inn with stables and tack room, was the meeting place for the October walk.

Fourteen members, led by David and Jean Boxall, set out towards Hadstock, passing the entrance to Linton Zoo and Breeding Centre.

The zoo, established by the Simmons family in 1972, covers 18 acres and has international recognition as a breeder of endangered species.

A continual uphill walk saw the group head out alongside fields that soon became a recognised safe path called 'Len's Path'. Dedicated to the work of Len Rowlandson a local lengthsman on paths, ditches, and fences.

Arriving in the pretty village of Hadstock, with its brightly decorated village sign on the green, the group gathered for a photo.



St Boltoph's, the local church, boasts much ancient architecture but the 11th Century northern doorway deserves a special mention, as it's the oldest door still in use in the country.

Heading on, and in the direction of Linton once again, a panoramic view of that village with its distinctive water tower on the skyline, impressed all.

A superb lunch in The Crown pleased everyone and set them up for the challenge of manoeuvring out of the cramped car park.

***Ken Hainsby***

### **Cycling Group**

On Thursday 14th November - 8 go in search of a Trig Point.

No doubt energised by the prospect of a sunny morning after the recent gloom, eight members of the cycling group assembled outside the Sports Centre and set off in a southerly direction through the Hollands Road industrial estate and up towards Helions Bumpstead. Now that Anglian Water have reopened Bumpstead Road the traffic on the Helions Road has reduced to acceptable levels. We were soon through the village and off up Sages End Road. We were pleased to note that the "Jetsprayer" has been in action filling the many and various potholes that had made venturing this way rather hazardous. Today the only hazard was a man on a very big white horse on a blind bend!



A characteristic of this route is that despite only rising to a modest 126m above sea level, it has the maximum cumulative ascent of any of our six regular routes. We were soon at the radio mast and observed the trig point hiding behind a piece of untrimmed hedgerow, and as usual the conversation centred on whether the trig point is actually as high as the centre of a small copse a hundred metres away. A suggestion was made that it could have been a hill fort in medieval times and the trig point was positioned a short distance away to avoid despoiling an ancient monument - who knows?

Anyway, onward and downward into Camps End and an encounter with a slippery corner, thankfully no injury sustained, before turning right up past the old Castle site and the church. We carried on through Nosterfield End and Hazel Stub to return to the Library and welcome refreshment in the St Nicholas Hospice Cafe.

Suitably refreshed and having concluded the history, geography and botany lessons for the day we all dispersed to make our way home....

**Peter Thomas**

### **Country Casuals Walking Group**

We started our October walk from The Robin Hood in Cherry Hinton. After ordering our lunches we caught the number 3 bus into Cambridge.

We then followed a route of lanes and footpaths, pointing out some significant landmarks and sharing information on

these (various colleges, the Fitzwilliam Museum, Sheep's Green, Laundress Green, the first site of Addenbooke's Hospital, plus others).



After our walk we returned to the pub by bus and enjoyed our meal. Although only seven attended we took pleasure in a rather different type of walking.

**Pam Gilchrist**

### **Talking Hands**

We are a new group, only forming in the Summer of 2024. We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday morning at the Haverhill Bowls Club to learn the fundamentals of British Sign Language in a fun and informal setting.

So far we have covered basic question forms, colours, food groups, animals, names and family members and, the all important, finger-spelling.

We are guided by a retired BSL teacher who, being deaf herself, is highly proficient, as well as extremely patient. There are also several novice signers of differing levels within the group enabling us to practice in smaller groups when required.

BSL is a wonderful skill to have. A beautiful language in its own right and fun to learn. If you fancy learning with us, please contact us via [groupscoordinator@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:groupscoordinator@haverhillu3a.com)

**Kim Andrews**

### **Photography for Pleasure**

At the November meeting of the Photography Group the members saw

images of St Mary's Church, Haverhill and the colour Red.



All were taken by members over the previous few months and totalled an amazing 215 slides. What always surprises me is the variety of photographs created based on the same theme. The members are very clever at interpreting a subject.



We also finalised the programme for 2025 which includes: Trips to Clare, to photograph buildings, Denny Abbey Farmland Museum and Cambridge. Studio sessions on Simple Photo Adjustments using your camera or laptop inbuilt program, taking Black & White images and Autumn Leaves. Other meetings will give the chance to exhibit and view slides on various subjects including those taken on trips, the colour Blue and a Treasure Hunt for pictures!

All u3a members are welcome to come along to see what we do.

**Peter Tatam**

### **Nature Group**

Our visit to Lynford Arboretum, near Thetford, Norfolk on 24th October 2024.

On what turned out to be a gloriously sunny autumn morning, a sizeable group of us gathered at the Arboretum to see the wide variety of trees you might expect at this pleasant parkland venue run by Forestry England.

After coffee and a nibble at the on-site Shepherd's Baa (not a spelling mistake!), we spent the morning observing all manner of interesting trees, plants and fungi followed by packed lunches in the sun and then a stroll over to the nearby lakes where we saw a variety of wildfowl and, we believe, an otter swimming and diving.



A lovely day in the sun with friends.

**Neil Dickinson**

### **History Group**

In November the History Group were treated to a talk on the East India Company by David Jeffries with accompanying slides, followed by a discussion on the 2025 programme. David's talks are always so well researched, and the subject was so broad that this was indeed the second on the company with possibly more to follow.

In 2025 the group will hear talks on Smugglers of Suffolk, London Bells, Mollie, August & Rab, The Savoy, and Suffolk Artists. If this sounds interesting, come along.

Outside trips to Clare with a guided history walk, Chelmsford City Museum and Kings Lynn, also with a guided history walk are

planned. We also hold 10-minute talks twice a year when members who are not confident in presenting a long talk can dip their toe in the water by talking for a few minutes on any subject that they choose.

**Peter Tatam**

### **Church Crawlers**

On July 24th we visited Tilty Church in Essex.

Tilty Church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and is Grade I listed. It was originally a chapel of Tilty Abbey, which was dissolved in the 1530s. The Church is an odd building with a 14th Century chancel and Georgian nave joined as if pieces of two different churches had been randomly stuck together.



Perhaps the most striking reminder of the Abbey, desecrated by King John's soldiers, is the wonderful East window, a striking example curvilinear 14th Century tracery.

**Margaret Woodley**

### **Mud 'N' Grub**

Our walk last Tuesday began from Kedington Community Centre. There were 10 walkers and Kim was our leader for this month's adventure. We were so lucky with a dry day although it was the week of low cloud and no sunshine to accompany us. You can't ask for too much on a November walk.

We began by walking through the pretty village then out into the countryside towards Hundon but turning off before Hundon and heading towards Barnadiston. The route took us near

Barnadiston school where the bonfire for the night's display was being built (what a load of rubbish) and then along a quiet road which met the busy A143 to Bury St. Edmunds. A good spot with clear views was found so we safely crossed the road and we took another designated quiet road which headed towards Great Wrating. The views were stunning with the Autumn colours in full display, such a treat.

After walking for about 15 minutes we turned left joining the Stour Valley Path and recrossing the A143 heading back towards Kedington and the Community Centre.

As there is nowhere serving food in Kedington we had booked a table at the Baltic Amber restaurant in Haverhill (it is situated next to the Travel Lodge on the industrial estate). It is a Lithuanian restaurant and their menu is something different from the normal pub fare. It was nice to try something different and the staff were very accommodating.



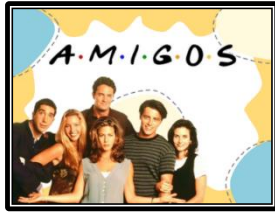
The photo looks like some naughty OAPs playing knock down ginger and getting caught on the Ring doorbell! It was all harmless fun as it was a relative of one of our walkers who lived there and knew they would be up for a lark. No, we aren't starting a u3a "Knock down ginger group".

**Jill and Alan Smith**

### **Spanish Conversation**

The members of the group remain enthusiastic and continue to make remarkable progress. It's such good fun. In the meetings we read and translate Spanish texts on a wide range of topics and watch all sorts of Spanish videos including watching Friends and

Thunderbirds in Spanish. We also enjoy games and activities to practice Spanish.



We have completed Michel Thomas' Basic and Intermediate audio courses and are considering a GCSE textbook as a way forward.

Some members have expressed an interest in another group to cater for absolute beginners, but we need more members to make it viable. Learning a language is never easy, although 2-year-olds seem to manage. For adults it requires commitment and regular repetition. If you don't attend regularly and practise every day, you will be disappointed with your progress.

If you are interested, please send an email to [groupscoordinator@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:groupscoordinator@haverhillu3a.com) who will forward it to me.

**David Campos**

### **Singing for Pleasure & Veterans Brass**

Many Haverhill u3a members came to listen to Veterans Brass in July as part of St Mary's Church lunch time recitals. This is a band that is supported by Haverhill Silver, equipment wise, and comprises of 'senior' musicians from all over the region from over 12 different brass bands. Our focus is on having fun rather than providing musical excellence. The band will give their Christmas concert in Haverhill Methodist Church on Thursday December 5th at 3pm, and there will be a programme of secular and traditional Christmas pieces.



On Sunday 22nd of December, Carols for All will once again be held at the Old Independent Church, a 50th year anniversary celebration. A 7pm start welcomes Clements and Place Farm Primary School Choir. As always, there will be a choir made up of Haverhill Singers and HADOS, the Silver Band and guest organist. This is also a chance for audience to raise the roof and join in with the popular carols. (Box office at Haverhill Arts Centre, 01440 714140 or on-line).

On Sunday February 16th at 4pm in Haverhill Arts Centre, there's another first with a joint concert by the Haverhill u3a Singing for Pleasure Choir and Haverhill Youth and Community Band. Proceeds will go to the Polished Brass Trust, a local fund which helps young brass players and percussionists with the significant cost of music examinations. (Box office as above)

**Richard Pannell**

### **A Huge Thank You**

The Editorial Team would like to thank each and every one of you for the articles and photos sent in during the last year and we are looking forward to receiving even more next year.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2025.

**Barbara Lavender, Alice Landsman and Jan Marrone**

Next Meetings: Tues 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Tues 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tues 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025

e-mail to: [chair@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:chair@haverhillu3a.com)

Deadline for next edition:  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Please either post to:

The Editor U3A  
c/o Haverhill Arts Centre  
High Street  
Haverhill CB9 8AR

OR

e-mail to: [havu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:havu3anews@gmail.com)

WEBSITE ADDRESS: [haverhillu3a.com](http://haverhillu3a.com)