



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

News and Views

Supported by



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Our 30th Year

August 2024

From the Chair

The events committee are all working very hard to finalise the details for the Christmas concert on Tuesday 3rd December. I will let you have more details shortly but please reserve the date in your diary.

Next month we have our Open Morning when members who have not renewed their membership online can do so in person. You can all come along and talk to group leaders and committee members about our u3a.



The weather has at long last become very summery and I thought you may like to see this picture of some geraniums which I bought back in February as very small plug plants and now have in a raised bed in my garden.

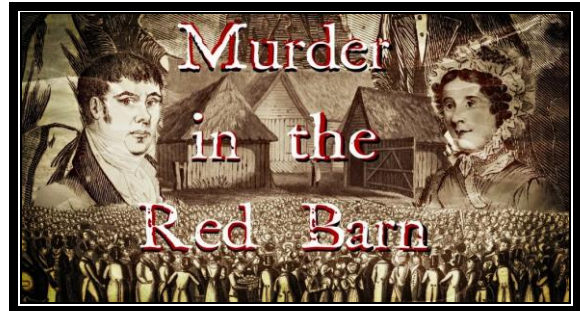
Barbara Lavender

Speaker's Corner

Unfortunately, the speaker booked for the Open Meeting at the Arts Centre on Tuesday 30th July, Saffron Summerfield, was unwell and could not attend. Due to the shortness of time (two hours!) to find an alternative speaker, I asked my

husband Neil, to step in and he gave his talk, Arsenic's Toxic Legacy.

The members heard about various murders that had taken place using arsenic, its other uses and where it comes from. The u3a are grateful to Neil for stepping in at such short notice.



At next month's Open Meeting, on Tuesday 27th August, we will be pleased to welcome back Bryan Thurlow, the brilliant actor/narrator, when we will hear the voices of some of the leading characters in this tragic true story of Maria Marten, a poor Suffolk maiden who fell victim to the young village squire in the village of Polstead, near Hadleigh.

Sue Dickinson

Sunday Strollers

We picked a lovely day for our walk at Little Walden on Sunday 11th August. Eight strollers enjoyed some fine conversation on our 3 mile walk.

Our next walk is at Long Melford on Sunday 8th September. We park at the grassy common by the church. The walk commences at 10.30am and is 3.25 miles long, there may be a couple of stiles.

David Jefferies

H&D u3a Membership Renewal

Your 2023 membership expires on 31st Aug 2024.

Thank you to those who have renewed already.

If you haven't done it yet, you can do it now. The easiest way to renew is to do it online with a debit or a credit account.

You do this in your members portal, which is a gateway into the beacon database where all u3a members records are stored.

Go to our website www.haverhillu3a.com and click the link to Members Portal.

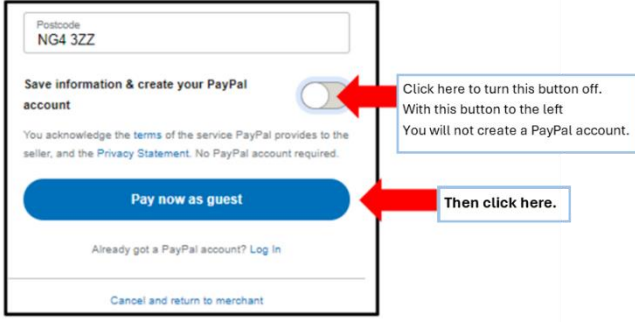
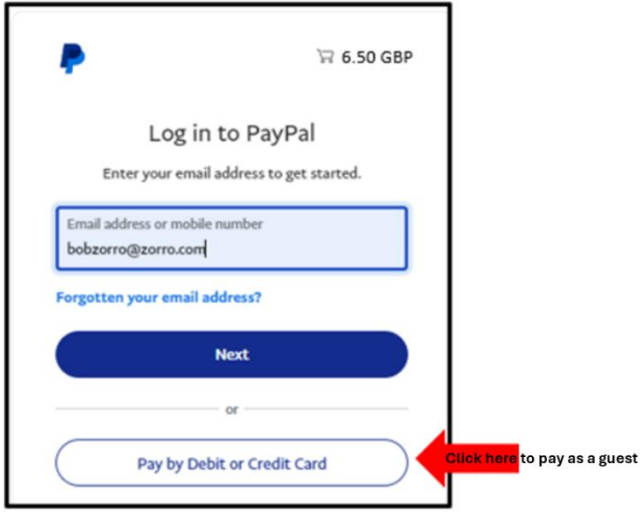
The first time you access the portal, you must register for a membership account. Click the email to confirm your account.



Once you've registered you can enter the portal with your email address and the password you've set, and renew with a debit or credit card.

The card payment is managed by PayPal but you do not need an account. Click **pay by credit or debit card** and when you have entered your card details, click **pay now as a guest**.

You will receive a receipt from PayPal and a photo of your new membership card from the u3a.



You can still renew with the paper form which is available on our website and at the monthly meeting. You can pay by BACS, cheque or cash. At our open morning on 24th September 2024 at Haverhill Arts Centre from 10am—12 we will be pleased to help you fill in the form and receive your payment or cash, cheque or card.



Thank you for your cooperation and continuing support of Haverhill and District u3a.
David Campos Membership Secretary.

Country Casuals

On Tuesday 16 July 2024 the Country Casuals' walk was at Fulbourn Fen.

Before setting off we met at the Hat and Rabbit pub to order our lunches, then drove a short distance to the Fulbourn Centre free car park, to begin our walk from there. We were only seven persons.

At first on pavements, we passed Fulbourn Manor and the parish church. We were now heading eastwards and soon joined a footpath in the verges of which we saw burdock and other wild plants.

We were excited to arrive at the entrance to Fulbourn Fen, a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a series of beautiful meadows, packed with wildflowers. We identified just a few using the identifier app on our mobiles – including selfheal and lady's bedstraw. The area is renowned for its display of thousands of marsh orchids in the spring, but they'd been and gone long before we got there. (Must do the walk again next spring!). On leaving the fen, we took a path heading south-west and saw an interesting looking plant which we identified as hemp.

Coming to a cross-paths we turned right into a wooded part of the nature-reserve, eventually reaching a vehicular track called Stonebridge Lane. We walked just a short distance on this before going through a stile into the Fulbourn recreation area with its very well-kept lawns, tennis courts etc, situated next to the Fulbourn Centre.

Lunch at the Hat and Rabbit was good. We were joined there by three others of our group who had been unable to do the walk. It was all very pleasant, especially as the rain kept off during the walking part. It waited patiently 'til we were safely ensconced in the pub!

Keith Armes

Art Appreciation Group 1

Another trip out for a full-house of group members this July, but not too far: to Haverhill's Town Hall Arts Centre to look at the exhibition of a set of photogravures (don't ask, it's complicated!) of mainly

charcoal drawings made between 1915 and 1963 by American artist doyenne Georgia O'Keeffe (1887 – 1986).

Many will be more familiar with her bold paintings of flowers of which at least one rather sadly faded print graces the waiting room walls of a Haverhill GP surgery. Perhaps because only one room at the Arts Centre contained the 21 images, the group visit unwontedly acquired the air of a small pilgrimage as if to see the relics of a luminary figure.

O'Keeffe's images were precise and controlled, generally abstract and clearly influenced by her times amidst the rugged landscapes of New Mexico where she spent much of her life seeking inspiration and quietude, making sketches featuring objects such as the skulls of animals that had perished in that stark and beautiful but sometimes hostile environment.

This was only a fraction of her artistic output, but it somehow pierced straight into O'Keefe's, at times, troubled psyche and it's a credit to the Arts Centre that we had this remarkable and free opportunity to glimpse into another world from another time, the tantalising scale of which simply left us wanting to know more about this artist and her life.

Everyone in the group found the masterful sketch of fellow American artist Beauford Delaney's face had magnetic appeal. A sad outcome for an artist was that, in her later years, O'Keeffe developed macular degeneration, such that her central vision was lost, but indefatigable to the end of her long life, she adapted her approach to creativity and continued with her art.

Neil Dickinson

Cycling Group

"Hope, they say, deserts us at no time in our existence" (Robert Louis Stevenson) and so it proved as five cyclists gathered at the Sports Centre at 10am on Thursday 8th August. Hope that the threatened rain holds off. Hope that the fresh gusty wind won't be in our faces all the way. Hope that the shop and cafe at Balsham are open for business and they have cake. Hope that it won't be too far this week.

With these thoughts in mind we set off with the sun shining and the pavements warming in its rays. Along the cycle path west to Hales Barns Road and then off up Withersfield Road to the village green and on to Skipper's Lane. The cross wind was tolerable and thankfully not in our faces across the common so one hope was still alive (so far). We zoomed past the Chestnut Tree in West Wrating and climbed out of the village and into Balsham, a short detour through the churchyard to avoid a busy junction, and the shop hove into view.

It was open and as we ventured inside the display of cakes was enough for any cyclist. Hope number 2 ticked off. As we took our cakes and drinks outside we found another group of cyclists were already enjoying their morning break. A few half acknowledged nods were exchanged.

Suitably refreshed we retraced our tracks and as we approached the Carlton turn one of our group turned left to take the scenic route back to Kedington. Our hopes for the wind were confirmed as it remained from the side and even on occasions came from slightly behind so we made swift progress past the Jelly Warehouse and back into Withersfield. At the A1307 roundabout the second of the group peeled off and the remaining three rejoined the cycle path into town.

The sun was still out and the temperatures perfect so the third hope was ticked off. As to the hope that it wasn't going to be too far, well that is for each member to decide for themselves.

We meet every second Thursday, new riders very welcome. Start and finish at the Sports Centre. Contact via u3a website. Next ride: 10am 22nd August and then 10am 5th September.

Peter Thomas

History Group

Twelve of the history group visited the museum at the Tiptree farm of Wilkin & Sons Ltd on the second of August. The journey out was a problem as the High Street in Earls Colne was completely closed and all alternative routes were

narrow lanes that became blocked by vehicles unable to pass each other. Eventually we arrived and still had time to view the museum which contains many machines collected by Mr Wilkin, the founder of Tiptree, together with copies of the various Royal Warrants received and the story of the growth of the business.

The café serves a wide range of light meals and snacks, so we took advantage before visiting the shop holding all the Tiptree products including the latest fruit flavoured vodkas!



At one o'clock we queued briefly for a tour of the farm aboard a tractor and trailer. Our guide gave a running commentary for forty-five minutes, so we discovered how they produce the different fruits that are used in their traditional jam making. The Tiptree site is one of three in the area and specialises in strawberries, producing many hundreds of tons in a good year, which 2024 certainly is.



The return journey was quicker and smoother as we chose different routes home.

Peter Tatam

Next Meetings: Tuesday 27th Aug. 2024

Tuesday 24th Sept. 2024

Rolling Screen deadline: Tues 17th Sept

e-mail to: chair@haverhillu3a.com

Next Edition deadline: Fri. 13th Sept 2024

Please either post to: The Editor U3A

c/o Haverhill Arts Centre

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