



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

## News and Views

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TOWN COUNCIL

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

September 2024

#### From the Chair

August 21<sup>st</sup> was a bright, sunny day and 53 u3a members boarded a coach for a visit to Highclere Castle, the home of the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and the location for the filming of Downton Abbey. The castle is an amazing place with some wonderful ceilings and beautiful rooms. A tour of the castle was followed by coffee and sandwiches/cake.



A walk round the gardens which extend to 1000 acres (we did not cover it all) followed. There are also 40,000 acres of farmland.

The castle was very well organized and the guides most helpful. A very enjoyable day

and I would like to thank Alan Alexander for organizing it.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> we have our open morning when you can renew your membership, (if you have not already done so), collect your membership cards and have a coffee and chat to the group leaders. I look forward to seeing you there.

Our website has had a face lift please have a look. [haverhillu3a.com](http://haverhillu3a.com).

**Barbara Lavender**

#### Speakers Corner

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, we were delighted to welcome back to the Arts Centre Bryan Thurlow who not only narrated but also acted as the characters in the Suffolk true crime story of Maria Marten and the Red Barn. His spot on Suffolk accent for Tom, Maria's father, a timid girl's words for Maria herself and superior way of speaking for William Corder, the murderer, were presented by Bryan, a skilled professional. Below is a picture of the Red Barn Murder Exhibit at Moyse's Hall Museum (Bury St Edmunds) which Bryan spoke of in his talk.



There is no speaker in September as the 24<sup>th</sup> September is our Open Morning.

**Open Morning  
24th September 2024  
10am – 12  
Haverhill Arts Centre**

Come and meet other members and Group Leaders to find out more about the groups and events available to interest and entertain our members.

You can renew your membership with cash, cheque or card and if you have already renewed your membership, come and collect your new membership card.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October, it will be great to have David Caulfield back to entertain us with Songs and Stories from the 60's. After spending his entire career in the music business, David has amassed a large number of stories and experiences that he shares in this humorous and informative talk. He also plays and sings some of the songs from the sixties and seventies. Doors open at 10.00am for a 10.30 start. Free beverages are available in the bar along with Christmas Concert tickets (£3 only).

**Sue Dickinson**

**Church Crawlers**

***Herringswell 2024,  
or "A Spy in the Village?"***

A remote Breckland village. The Church Crawl was over and our small group of u3a stalwarts was lazily strolling back to our parked cars. Lazily because the sun was hot and we had just left the cool stone church. Apart from us the village street was empty and silent. Spookily silent. We were almost back at our cars when we spotted the phone box, the red metal structure looking slightly incongruous in the rural setting, at the top of a slight grassy bank and backed by a dark green, high hedge.

"I wonder what they use it for now" I mused, knowing that most such boxes are nowadays "re-purposed" as village libraries, first-aid posts, tourist information points or the like, certain that nobody uses them for actual phone calls any more.

"Unless you're a *spy*, of course" my companion pointed out, "Spies in old films couldn't do without the good old red "phone box!"

Gingerly we opened the dusty door to find there was – a telephone. A real "callbox" of probably 1980s vintage. Carefully lifting the cobweb-festooned receiver, wary of the spiders, we heard a dialling tone...

A printed slip, worn and faded but just about visible, displayed a number next to the coin slot.

"What are you doing?" my companion said.

"You'll see" I replied as I tapped the number into my mobile handset.

A few clicks and then – the loud clear ring indicating my incoming call. In that silent street it must be audible a long way away - anyone could pick it up.

We looked at one another in astonishment that this piece of 20<sup>th</sup> century technology was still functioning in the twenty-first. Our modern age has persuaded us all to carry our own personal "walkie-talkie" and led us to believe that phones like this are obsolete.

"Unless you're a *spy* of course", I murmured, and as I closed the red door I half-expected that a figure in a mackintosh and trilby would emerge from the bushes, pick up the handset and whisper "Tonight, 9.15, at the 39 Steps....."

**Richard Durley**

**Sunday Strollers**

Nine strollers were lucky to escape the showery weather that had been forecast and enjoyed a pleasant 3.2 mile walk at Long Melford on Sunday 8th September.

Our next walk will be at Linton on Sunday 13th October starting from Station Road. at 10.30 am, 3 miles in length.

**David Jefferies**

### **Cycling Group**

You never know when you are going to need a lumberjack!

Six members of the u3a gathered outside the Sports Centre on Thursday 5th September- five regular cyclists and a new lady who was thinking of joining the group. We chose one of our shorter rides via the railway path and Withersfield to Great Wratting and Kedington. On our way back from Kedington our new member peeled off for her home leaving the other five to continue back to the Sports Centre. As we neared our goal we were confronted by a fallen tree blocking our path.



A couple of riders smartly dismounted and set about its removal. Grasping a branch firmly and trying to pull it out of the way resulted in a resounding crack and we now had two trees! This seemed the right way to attack it and in moments we'd dismembered it and cleared the way. The noise it made and ease it broke made us think it must have been 'Crack Willow'! After coffee in Subway we dispersed to wend our way home.

**Peter Thomas**

### **Visit to Highclere Castle**

I would just like to thank Alan and Barbara for organizing the lovely trip to Highclere Castle. Everything went well, a very comfortable coach ride as the journey was

a good two and half hours and once we arrived we were able to make our way straight to the entrance of the castle. As we entered the famous rooms, which were filmed in the making of Downton Abbey, we also learned of the history of the famous Carnarvon family. Possibly the most famous Lord Carnarvon worked with Howard Carter in organizing and discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt.

After the tour of the beautiful castle we were able to see the Egyptian Exhibition where they had put a copy of the find as it was in Egypt. This was also wonderful and most interesting as you could read the full history of the find. We couldn't get over the gold that surrounded the tomb of the boy pharaoh, it was absolutely amazing. After such a busy few hours we collapsed with a cup of coffee. What a lovely day including the weather.

Any more trips Alan/Barbara I am sure you will be well supported.

**Aldine Horrigan**

### **The Knife Angel**

On the fourth of September I was honoured to represent Haverhill & District u3a at the official reception for the Knife Angel installed on the market square. The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behavior, whilst solidifying our critical need for social change. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions. It was built by the British Ironwork Centre in Shropshire and was designed by Alfie Bradley an employee at the works.

It came to Haverhill after a campaign by the family of Harley Barfield aged 16, who died after being attacked in January 2023 in Strasbourg Square. The event saw many speakers, our Mayor David Smith, the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston who spoke on behalf of the King,

the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Yvonne Gilchrist-Mason OBE, Clive Knowles head of the Ironworks, the vicar of St Marys Church, The Revd Max Drinkwater and a rapping Vicar from a poor estate in Ipswich Kiran Lotay. Harley's parents Daryl and Bernice also both spoke so eloquently about their loss. The message from every speaker was 'lives, not knives' and regret for the senseless destruction of not only the victims, but the damage to their families and those of the assailants who invariably received long sentences.



Clive surprised the crowd by stating that although the statue used 100,000 knives, over one million were delivered to the ironworks from police forces around the country! Another statue created initially for Manchester used seized handguns. Again, the ironworks expected a box of guns, but the first delivery came in a skip! The resulting statue is a large Bee which is also available to tour the country.

The statue will remain in place for one month before moving to another town.

More details can be found on the website <https://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/the-knife-angel-official/>  
**Peter Tatam, Vice Chair**

### **WalkingTalking Munching**

Nine members of the WTM group met at The White Horse, Whepstead. The pub which dates from the 17th century is almost unique in that it is only open during the week. It is excellent in every respect and one worth visiting.

First stop before leaving the village, was the church of St Petronilla. It is the only one dedicated to the Saint in the country. The suggestion is, that a leper hospital of that name in Bury St Edmunds, procured its funds from Whepstead.

Following a designated colour coded route the group headed off into the countryside and were soon walking along vast, recently ploughed fields. The vistas were, as many in this part of Suffolk are, free from any eyesore of pylons or masts. Golden swathes of wheat delighted the eye at another juncture and one was reminded of the continual passing of the seasons. Sadly, little wild life was evident, even the birds seemed absent.

Back at the pub, the group enjoyed a variety of lunches from the extensive menu.  
**Ken Hainsby**

Next Meetings: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September  
**Open Morning**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Deadline for the Rolling Screen

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

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

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

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