



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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laugh,
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News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Our 30th Year

October 2024

From the Chair

We had a very successful Open Morning in September, and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success.

I would also like to welcome all the new members this year and I look forward to seeing them at the Open Meetings on the last Tuesday each month (except December). I can always be contacted at chair@haverhillu3a.com should you need any help. Please remember you will need to show a current membership card at these meetings.

The tickets for the Christmas Concert on Tuesday 3rd December are selling well and if you have not yet bought one you can do this at the Open Meeting on Tuesday 29th October.

The programme is:

- 1.30 Doors Open
- 1.50 Introduction by MC
Welcome by Chair
- 2.00 Saffron Walden Ukulele Group
- 2.30 Main Interval
Tea, Coffee, Wine, Mince Pies
- 2.55 Marie Dooley
- 3.05 Forever Young Guitar Group
- 3.40 Short Interval
- 3.55 Singing for Pleasure with Audience Participation
- 4.35 Concert concludes with final word from Chair.

I look forward to seeing you there.

My picture this month is of a group of Cyclamen which I took a couple of weeks ago at Chartwell, the former home of

Winston Churchill. Sadly, they tell us winter is coming but are so pretty and cheerful.



Barbara Lavender

Speaker's Corner

On the 29th 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 10.30am start. Free beverages are available in the bar along with Christmas Concert tickets to purchase (£3 only).

Sue Dickinson

Another short quiz to entertain you.

All the answers are stations. You'll find the answers on the last page. Good luck!

1. Mount in the town
2. Constructed of beer
3. Leafy river crossing
4. Young man destroyed this copse
5. Street of a very expensive
6. Invite this Oak
7. Miner's forest
8. Well, it's not a western jacket!
9. A gallant fighter crossed over here
10. She is envious

Mick Smith

Talking, Walking and Munching

A smaller than usual number of group members met at the Church in Birdbrook for the September walk. The church is dedicated to St Augustine of Canterbury and contains beautiful stained glass windows along with a superb cabinet of archaeological finds.

Taking a path through the churchyard past graves of antiquity and present day, the group skirted a field and joined up with the footpath that runs through Moyns Park.

The park is a dendrophile's heaven, as the park is full of trees of many species. The vistas between the trees of unspoilt countryside added to the majesty of Horse Chestnut, English Oak and Beech trees that abound.



Following the footpath, the group came to the impressive house that is Moyns Hall.

Built originally in Elizabethan times by the Gent Family, it has passed down over the years to successive well-connected owners. The present owners have run a successful stud farm for the last 20 years, producing many fine racehorses. The group were able to see some fine young Colts in an adjoining field further on, and the horses seemed pleased to see them.



Retracing their steps back to the gates of the Estate, another stop at the grand house was called for, where the group heard of its roll in a number of Hammer Horror Films. Another claim to its fame was the visit of Ian Fleming in 1956. It is claimed he was writing 'From Russia with Love' at the time and altered some sections following his visit.

The group, after completing their walk, drove onto Stambourne where they enjoyed a pre packed lunch in the beautiful garden of Jane Waller.

Ken Hainsby

City Walkers

Our September trip took us once again to London. We met our guide, Derek, at Liverpool Street Station and he took us from there down Bishopsgate and then through alleyways that you'll find on few maps, pointing out on the way the pub where Dickens set *The Pickwick Papers*, churches whose histories included mass burial sites for plague victims and the glorious facade of The London Fire Brigade HQ, now offices.

As a special surprise, we witnessed the march of The Royal Fusiliers through the

City from The Tower of London to The Guildhall to mark the 100th Anniversary of the regiment being granted The Freedom of The City.



We had booked lunch at The Lord Raglan in St Martin-le-Grand, and, on the way there, Derek kept us entertained with his stories of the sometimes grand, sometimes small histories of the City and its rapidly changing skyline.

After lunch, we visited Postman's Park to take in again the great sadnesses behind the ceramic tiles recording deaths from acts of heroism, originally inspired by the artist G. F. Watts. Thence it was across The Thames via The Millennium Bridge and along the Thameside Walk to Southwark Cathedral, passing, on the way, The Globe Theatre, The Clink Museum and The Golden Hind.

The weather was kind and we took the bus back to Liverpool Street having enjoyed a great day out.

Jim and Sue Lindop

Photography for Pleasure

On Thursday 3rd October, Photography for Pleasure arranged to visit St Mary's church for an opportunity to take photos when the church was not busy. After the awful weather of late the day was bright, sunny and warm, making it excellent for photography. Brian and Charmian Thompson opened up the building, guided us around, and were happy to answer any questions the group had. Their knowledge of the church is amazing!



We were allowed to climb the 84 steps up the tower to visit the roof, although only six of the group opted to make the ascent. I must be honest and say that living in a bungalow is poor training for climbing a tower and my thigh muscles are still complaining a bit.

The views from the top are great and we all commented on how green Haverhill is, with so many trees visible.



We took some time to view the bells which do need some repair but getting them down and back up by hand will be a tricky business and cost a lot of money which the church is busy fundraising for. The ancient clock mechanism no longer requires winding by hand being modified to run on electricity. However, the clock still uses the original workings from 1861 built by D. C. Burlingham of Kings Lynn. The floor for the bell ringers has several framed certificates commemorating various peals of bells that have been rung in the past, a practice that the current bell ringers do on Monday evenings to maintain their skills.

It was a truly memorable experience, and may I thank St Mary's for allowing the visit,

and especially Brian and Charmian for their time, patience and knowledge which made it all possible.

Peter Tatam

Cycling Group

Perhaps it was the promise of sunshine, or the feeling that as the year unfolds the opportunities for something different need to be seized. Whatever it was, there was optimism in the group as we assembled for our pre-ride "Where are we going today?" Meeting. As is becoming a feature of our trips, the variation on a familiar ride seemed like a good idea.

After pedalling out to Sturmer, instead of doing battle with the juggernauts on the A1017 we took the bridle path leading to the Stour Valley Path before crossing the Stour Brook and emerging at the end (beginning?) of Roost End. Stopping briefly to examine the remains of a Stour Lighter buried in the hedge, we continued to Water Hall and into Wixoe. Through the village past Rutherford's Lodge and on to the road over Thistely Common to Boyton End. Here we turned right and climbed steadily to the summit of Cain's Hill before taking our second deviation just after Farmer's Farm (one admires the originality of the owner) where we turned off on a gravel track.

At this point, we realised that only one of the group had a bike suitable for the surface on which we were riding, and that was the person leading the group. Despite a few uncomfortable moments when the gravel got deeper, we all safely negotiated the path and emerged on the Clare Road for a few hundred metres before turning off towards Hundon. Very shortly we were back on familiar territory as we pedalled up to the Plough, before heading down Simms Lane and back into Kedington. A following wind and clear road meant that "Danger of Death" hill was easily conquered, and we were on the homeward leg. Arriving back at the Sports Centre and after some uncertainty we settled on coffee in Subway and a good yarn before going our separate ways.

Peter Thomas

Beginners Spanish Conversation

Hola a todos.

On holiday in Spain have you ever thought it would be nice to order a coffee and cake in Spanish? Do you have Spanish speakers in your extended family and want to say a few more words?

At the Open Morning in September, some members expressed an interest in a beginners Spanish conversation group but we need a few more to get it going.

I'm not a native speaker nor a language teacher, so I propose to use published courses of CDs. This means listening to audio and repeating Spanish words, phrases and sentences until they become second nature. There's no reading and writing so it doesn't feel like studying, but it does take time.

At the meetings, we practice the responses and improve our accents by watching videos, playing games and sharing Spanish.

It's fun and surprisingly effective.

Please contact our group coordinator if you Are interested at:
groupscoordinator@haverhillu3a.com



**Saludos,
David Campos**

Lunch Club

Three of us from my luncheon group joined the Felix Excursions to Windsor Castle. The journey was 2-1/2 hours.

On arrival, we had a coffee to start off. What a brilliant day we had. Weather perfect, beautifully warm for walking up to the castle. What a beautiful sight the castle is, one forgets just how majestic it is. We slowly entered the castle to see the State Rooms.

Our first viewing was to see the magnificent Dolls House given to Queen Mary in 1924. The workmanship on creating all the small pieces was really wonderful. We continued to wander through, we just couldn't get over the beauty of every room. The magnificent paintings just took your breath away. We were able to have the history of most of the rooms which of course was fascinating and extremely interesting. We were able to make our way to St George's Chapel. We saw where our Queen was laid to rest. Fresh Flowers are put there every week by the family it was truly lovely.

Of course, we couldn't resist the beautiful souvenir shops and landed up with a few bits and pieces. After almost three and a half hours of wandering through we decided to have a coffee and sandwich before returning to our bus.

Gosh, we couldn't believe what a terrific day we had.

Aldine Horrigan

Cycling Group

Who would have thought that we would get a dry ride after the dreadful rain in the last few days?

More in hope than expectation, we met up at the Sports Centre on Thursday 3rd October with the sun struggling to break through the light cloud. A new member who joined at the Open Morning on Tuesday of the previous week came along for the first time. Six regulars introduced themselves and just after 10 we headed off roughly westwards along the railway path towards

Withersfield Road. Our new member was concerned that as she hadn't ridden for such a long time she would hold everyone back, so she waved us farewell there and returned along the railway path intending to get some traffic free practice in.

The remainder took the familiar route to Withersfield and along Skippers Lane before turning towards Streetley End.

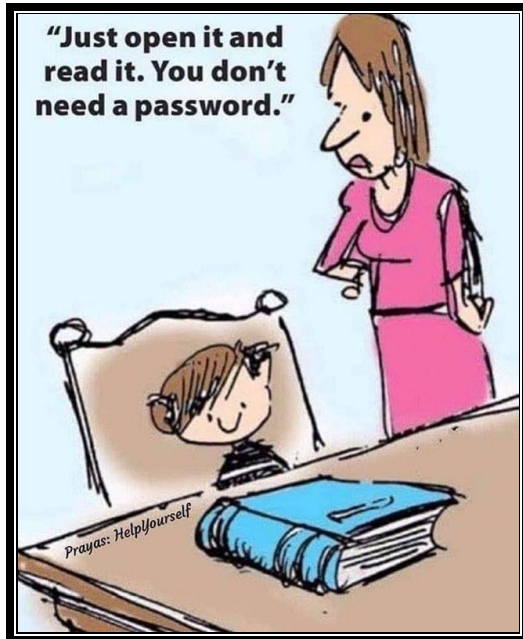
Arriving in Horseheath, we turned right and then smartly left into the Old Red Lion where we hoped to find morning coffee on the menu. We were in luck and what is more, we all received personal waitress service to our table in the sun. Coffee drunk and the sun still shining we mounted up to head back to Haverhill. Just after crossing the A1307 the leader started to take the group on a mystery tour but luckily a chorus of "You are going the wrong way!" got us all back on track.

At Nosterfield End we split up, 4 returning to Haverhill the other 2 bound for Essex.



And to prove the writer isn't viewing life through rose tinted spectacles, the picture below proves the sun was shining while we enjoyed our refreshments.

Peter Thomas



Next Meetings:

Tuesday 29th October 2024

Tuesday 26th November 2024

Deadline for the Rolling Screen:

Tuesday 19th November 2024

e-mail to: chair@haverhillu3a.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 15th November 2024

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Answers to the station name quiz

1. Hillingdon
2. Maida Vale
3. Greenford
4. Ladbrooke Grove
5. Goldhawk Road
6. Becontree
7. Colliers Wood
8. Eastcote
9. Knightsbridge
10. Golders Green