



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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laugh,
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News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

May 2022

Tickets for the Picnic

Have you purchased your ticket for the Picnic celebrating the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement, on 2nd July in the Great Meadow, Kedington? If not these will be available at the meeting on Tuesday 31st May in the Arts Centre. Alternatively they can be purchased via Bank transfer to Lloyds Bank Plc Sort Code: 30-98-90 Account No: 18240860, quoting your membership number as reference. The tickets are £5.00 each. Further information can be found on our website haverhillu3a.com.

Barbara Lavender
Chair

From the Chair

Following my request for members to join the committee I would like to thank Alan Smith and Mick Smith for volunteering. I would also like to thank all the members who sent me emails saying how much they appreciate the work the committee do to make Haverhill u3a so successful.

I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine which makes me think of the Picnic on 2nd July and I would like to request donations of bottles of drink for the Grand Raffle. Please bring these to the meeting on Tuesday 31st May or contact me and I will arrange to collect them. Thank you.

Last week Gloria (our Secretary) and I attended the u3a Eastern Region conference in Chelmsford. One of the morning speakers was Gervase-Phinn who is an author.

He was very entertaining with his tales of when he was a school inspector. One piece of advice he gave was “read a book every week, if you do not have a lot of time make it a thin book but if you have more time make it a fat book”. I enjoy reading but never have the time for a book a week.

Take care and best wishes.

Barbara Lavender

Speakers Corner

Our speaker in April was Amanda Sutherland, a local lady who entertained us with her talk on “My creative Journey in fashion”. Amanda told us how she moved through film, television and theatre costume design before setting up her own accessories business.

Amanda makes all her articles and they were innovative and attractive; who would realise that the brooches were made from coke cans for example. At the end of the presentation members were able to browse the latest collections of Amanda's hand-made accessories and many took the opportunity to purchase from a range of fabric jewellery and eco-accessories at a members group discount.

Next month we will welcome Jan Brownfoot who is a retired, Anglo-Australian, professional historian who specialises in the Asia-Pacific area of the British Empire, especially the roles of white women in Australia, Malaya and Singapore, during the 19th and 20th centuries. In particular Jan will consider –

Suffolk's part in the Empire's expansion – the missions of men – white women's contributions with individual examples and the positive aspects of Empire.

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

Cycling Group

As winter finally conceded defeat to the blossoming of spring the u3a cycling group met for the first of their two April rides.

The ride eastward along the old railway line and through the East Town Park was in warm sunshine, helping to enhance nature's palette of colours in the trees and shrubs. Passing through Sturmer and veering left across the road bridge, the riders stopped to admire a single swan on the water. There was a parallel between the riders and the aquatic bird in as much as the serene upper appearance belied the frantic lower movements of both bird and cyclists. Through Wixoe, where Walrus eggs were offered for sale, I kid you not, followed by a 180 degree turn heading to Kedington. A small drama unfolded here when one rider was unseated and suffered minor injuries which were attended to by Hilary Thomas in her role as Florence Nightingale. No further incidents interrupted the group's progress and there was time to admire the animals and wildlife along the route. A ride up to and descent from the Water Tower, to the North of Haverhill, brought the group bumping back to the railway line and a well-deserved coffee.

Nine members of the Cycling Group met on a chilly morning for the second ride of the month. Taking the well-travelled route through East Town Park and along the railway path to Sturmer, the group crossed to the aptly named Hill Lane. Electric bike riders barely noticed the climb while those of us on pedal power felt the burn in hard-working calves. Arriving in Steeple Bumpstead the route veered right to head

to Helions Bumpstead. A little known fact about Helions is its connection to the beginnings of the Farm Workers Union. A firelight procession from Steeple, along the very road we had ridden had, in the early years of the 20th century been addressed, when assembled, by no less a personage than Sylvia Pankhurst who wanted to show her support for the Farm workers cause of better wages and conditions.

The group continued on to Castle Camps and Nosterfield End before arriving back in Haverhill via Camps Road, dissecting the fun fair on the Recreation Ground on the way and returning to the start for a well-earned coffee.

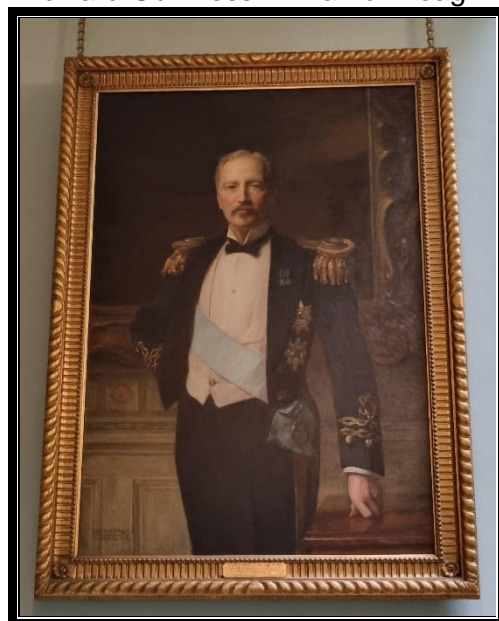
Ken Hainsby

London Originals

On a lovely sunny day the London Originals met at East Town Park to board the mini bus to visit Kenwood House, Hampstead.

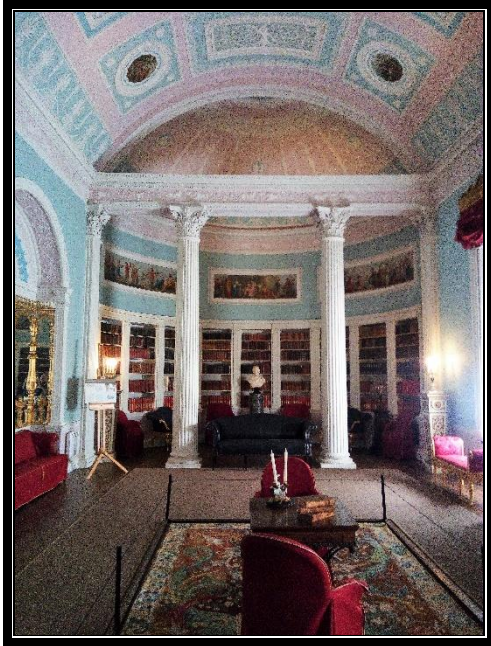
Kenwood House (also known as the Iveagh Bequest) is a former stately home on the northern boundary of Hampstead Heath. The house was originally constructed in the 17th century and served as a residence for the Earls of Mansfield during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Edward Guinness 1st Earl of Iveagh



The house and part of the grounds were bought from the 6th Earl of Mansfield in 1925 by Edward Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh, and donated to the nation in 1927. He had purchased many wonderful paintings by artists such as Rembrandt, Turner and Reynolds to name but a few which were included in the house when it was donated to the nation.

The Library



After coffee on the very sunny terrace we proceed to tour the house marvelling at the wonderful ceiling in the library among other things. The afternoon was spent roaming the grounds where the rhododendrons were in full flower. There are two ponds one of which, quite possibly, is the source of the river fleet.



The first part of the journey home was very busy with traffic so our driver Alan used his own knowledge and took us through Epping Forest joining the M11 near Harlow.

I would definitely recommend Kenwood House for a visit.

Barbara Lavender

Aprils Mud 'n' grub venture

The walk in April was led by Keith Choat and was centered around Long Melford. The group met at the free car park next to the Old school, which incidentally now has charging points for electric vehicles. We headed up through Kentwell Hall and avoided contact with the longhorn cattle and the wooden gorilla? "What a guy". We then proceeded across the fields and hedgerows to join up with the Stour Valley Path to eventually cross over the Melford to Boxted road. Somewhere about here, in the garden of a private house, we saw a virtually full size toy biplane made for children, a real grandad's project, and we were all quite envious.

Taking a footbridge across the river Glem and admiring the riverside property being modernised there, we walked along a quite lane and then cautiously crossed over the Cavendish Road. Following the footpath down to the perimeter fence of the old Bush Boake Allen factory located on the river Stour, we continued past "Cranfield" with what appears to be holiday lodges and glamping being developed, reaching the final leg and ultimate return to the carpark where we had started the walk. The walk was about 5.5 miles and had taken 2^{1/4} hours, then into the cars and up to the Hare pub at the top of the village for Lunch "grub" and drinks.

All very nice! The lure of the garden centre next to the pub proved too much for some to resist a visit, did they grab a bargain? Lovely walk, good food, good company.

Alan Smith

April 2022 Art Appreciation Group

This month's theme was Roots, being inspired by regular news coverage of dispossessed refugees and asylum seekers, but which inevitably led, as was hoped, to a wide interpretation by group members' contributions to the extent that we have spare contributions for a future meeting.

With the idea of emigres' leaving their roots behind for whatever reason and the impact on indigenous populations, we firstly looked at John Gast's 1872 painting "American Progress". This has certainly not aged well politically speaking, in that it depicts settlers coming from the enlightened east being led by a strangely floating and (sigh!) scantily clad Caucasian figure of Columbia representing the personification of the United States as she carries a helpfully marked "school book" and a coil of telegraph wire! This has some artistic precedence such as Delacroix's 1830 "Liberty Leading the People", but really? The Native American Indians scatter at the approach of this "progress". Interestingly, this painting has recently been adapted into a GIF showing Columbia as a wraith-like skeleton draped in ragged black cloth, bringing only darkness from the east and entitled "The Dark Mark of Manifest Destiny".

By way of a slightly more enlightened viewpoint, Henry Farney's 1904 painting "The Song of the Talking Wire" shows a native American in the snow with his ear to a telegraph pole listening to the wind in the wires as if hearing the ominous message of his peoples' vanishing way of life, but is it simply more of a nostalgic look at the Wild West from a European settler's perspective?



We were then engaged by a selection of paintings including Van Gogh, Stanley Spencer and Paul Nash illustrating a member's grandfather's journey from his roots in the tenements of Glasgow via the shipyards and enlistment in the Life Guards, whose magnificent cavalry was made redundant by the mud and trenches of the Great War, requiring his retraining as a machine gunner.

The reading of two excellent poems written by our member and the bringing along of a Christmas 1914 presentation cigarette box (astonishingly complete with untouched contents!) added significant poignancy at this juncture.

Staying with poetry, we then looked at a fascinating drawing by Leonard Baskin of a half crow, half human couple that had inspired poetry from his friend Ted Hughes.

Finally, we looked at a series of examples of cave art as being the oldest roots of art we know of. These images dated from over many thousands of years and despite our ability to nowadays only speculate as to their meanings and inspiration, the beauty of design, natural earthy pigmentation and wonderfully accomplished execution retains tremendous impact.



By way of more modern analogy, we finished with a photo of Pablo Picasso creating an image of a bull with just a few curved strokes of the brush, and thus the passing millennia simply melted away.

Neil Dickinson



This was sent in by Richard Evans

"He who stops to ponder and think will generally come out ahead."

When Gandhi was studying law at University College, London, a Caucasian professor, whose last name was Peters disliked him intensely and always displayed prejudice and animosity towards him. Also, because Gandhi never lowered his head when addressing him, as he expected, there were always arguments and confrontations.

One day, Mr. Peters was having lunch at the dining room of the University, and Gandhi came along with his tray and sat next to the professor. The professor said, "Mr. Gandhi, you do not understand. A pig and a bird do not sit together to eat".

Gandhi looked at him as a parent would a rude child and calmly replied, "You do not worry professor. I'll fly away", and he went and sat at another table. Mr. Peters, reddened with rage, decided to take revenge on the next test paper, but Gandhi responded brilliantly to all questions.

Mr. Peters, unhappy and frustrated, asked him the following question. "Mr. Gandhi, if you were walking down the street and found a package and within was a bag of wisdom and another bag with a lot of money, which one would you take?"

Without hesitating, Gandhi responded, "The one with the money, of course".

Mr. Peters, smiling sarcastically, said, "I, in your place, would have taken wisdom, don't you think?"

Gandhi shrugged indifferently and responded, "Each one takes what he doesn't have".

Mr. Peters, by this time was beside himself and so great was his anger that he wrote on Gandhi's exam sheet the word "idiot" and gave it to Gandhi.

Gandhi took the exam sheet and sat down at his desk trying very hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move. A few minutes later, Gandhi got up, went to the professor and said to him in a dignified but sarcastically polite tone, "Mr. Peters, you signed the sheet, but you did not give me the grade".

Wit always wins over anger.

Country Casuals

Twelve members of Country Casuals completed a four mile circular walk at Ousden, one of the highest villages in East Anglia. The route followed public rights of way and some quiet roads along a terrain that was a mix of flat and hilly, enjoying lovely views of Cambridgeshire and passing some picturesque houses.



The Fox Inn does not usually do food on a Tuesday, but Sue, the proprietor did us proud and had the pre-ordered meals ready for when we returned, so many thanks Sue.

Peter Cundall

Strollers

After a difficult start, with the Haverhill to Cambridge bus being cancelled due to 'lack of drivers', 10 of us eventually met with the other 7 strollers at Drummer Street to board the same guided bus to St. Ives, where we met with our town guide, Richard Carter, an hour later than planned.

From the banks of the Great Ouse we saw the Old Mill, which was the Clive Sinclair factory back in the 70's & 80's that produced the world's first pocket calculator followed by the world's first affordable computer. Oliver Cromwell was also associated with St. Ives. The tour ended at the welcoming Norris Museum where we observed the artefacts of times gone by and in the courtyard with a beautiful wisteria in full bloom.



After free time, we ate locally before making our own way back on the busway.

Peter Cundall

Sunday Strollers

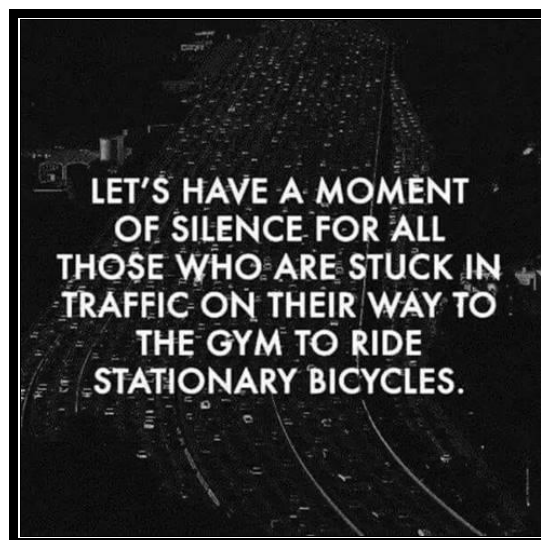
Our walk on 6th May took 7 strollers on a 3.5 mile circuit from the Reading Rooms at Weston Green. The weather was good, as well as the company and we walked via Willingham Green and Carlton.

The next 2 walks are as follows:

Sunday 12th June meeting in Audley Way, Horseheath. 3.5 miles and Lian has kindly volunteered to lead this one with a 10-30am start.

Sunday 10th July meeting at the car park to the church at Wickhambrook CB8 8XH 3miles with some stiles commencing at 10-30 am.

David Jefferies



Next Meetings: Tuesday 31st May
Tuesday 28th June

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 21st June
e-mail to havu3agen@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition: Friday 17th June
Please either post to:
The Editor U3A
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Haverhill CB9 8AR
OR e-mail to havu3anews@gmail.com

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