



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live  
**News and Views**



**October 2021**

## **From the Acting Chair**

As you can tell from the header there has been a change in the committee. Lesley Metcalfe has decided to offer her resignation as chair due to the pressure of also working on a short-term contract. We thank her for her hard work whilst in the post and wish her well for the future.

It has been a hectic month in our u3a. Enrolment Day, or Open Day if you prefer was a brilliant success. The committee feared that it would be a low turnout, but we were honestly surprised at the numbers in the Arts Centre. The membership team was constantly busy, so our membership is once again climbing towards 500.

Many groups picked up new members with some now overbooked, and suggestions were made for new ones such as Badminton, Calligraphy, and Football. As groups co-ordinator I have searched for somebody within the wider u3a to help with the calligraphy start up and eventually found a lady in Thetford u3a willing to come to the new group to provide some assistance. Badminton is waiting on finding a suitable court and I am in contact with Abbeygate Leisure to negotiate a space.

Our speaker for October will be Alison Dickens with Strange Tales from the Dust. A talk on discoveries beneath the Choir stalls in Kings College Chapel. In November Henry from the charity Reach will speak about the Haverhill Food Bank. I know Henry and he is an eloquent and passionate speaker on his subject. I expect that a collection of non-perishable food stuff will be appropriate and I am sure

Haverhill u3a will be generous in aiding this worthwhile charity.

2022 is the u3a movements 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and as it falls at almost the same time as the Queens Jubilee the committee are considering creating a massive party to celebrate both occasions. As the Xmas Party cannot go ahead holding an open-air event in June seems appropriate. More on this as time passes.

I will need to continue as acting chair until the AGM next March, so expect a contribution from me each month until then while I do a job I thought I had seen the last of when I stood down in April. Never mind, it is only one, two, three, four.....five months to go!

***Peter Tatam***

## **Open Day – Membership Renewal**

Membership renewal was very busy on Open Day and I would like to thank all members for their patience and understanding when they had to queue.

I still have some membership cards for people who joined prior to Open Day and I will bring these to the meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

***Barbara Lavender***  
***Membership Secretary***

## **Speaker's Corner**

Our September meeting was the Open Morning on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>. I understand that we had a considerable number of visitors who decided to join Haverhill u3a. We even had a speaker during the morning, with Haverhill Town Mayor, Liz Smith giving us a talk. She is very keen and interested in furthering one's education and thoroughly supports Haverhill u3a in their endeavours.

Following her speech Liz was presented with a certificate for complimentary membership of Haverhill u3a for one year.



Personally, I believe Liz really deserved the certificate as she then stayed for most of the morning, having a chat with most, if not all, of the group leaders who attended.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October Alison Dickens will be speaking about "Strange Tales from the Dust: Finds From Beneath the King's College Chapel Choir Stalls".

Alison Dickens has worked in Cambridgeshire archaeology for over 30 years. She recently left the University Archaeology Unit to set up a small company specialising in buildings archaeology and is Cathedral Archaeologist at Bury Saint Edmunds. As I have seen Alison give this talk at a zoom meeting, I can recommend it as being interesting and entertaining. I just hope that I shall be there to welcome her. If I am not, Peter Tatum will stand in for me.

The meeting will start at 10.30am. Entrance to the Arts Centre will be via the rear door, which will open at 10am.

**Wendy Foster, Speaker Secretary**

### **Great Day**

What a lovely Enrolment Day. A wonderful turnout from all members and visitors was great. The hall was full of chat and was such a happy place to be. I understand that we have many new members we hope they will enjoy all the U3A offers. Many congratulations to all who took part and did such a splendid job, you all made the U3A in Haverhill and villages proud.

***Aldine a very long standing member and thrilled to see the U3A thriving.***

### **Patchwork and Quilting**

The Patchwork & Quilting group met on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and donated 28 quilts to Sheila Walker of Project Linus. This is a charity who give quilts to vulnerable children and young adults who may be bereaved, sick or just in need of a "hug".



Our group have supported Project Linus for a number of years now and have donated many quilts to them. Sheila was very grateful for them. We also used the afternoon to raise funds for the Macmillan charity. We took donations for tea and cake and raised £47.50 for them. I salute the members of the group for their hard work and charitable hearts.

It is a *delightful group to belong to.*  
**Janet Berriman**

### **An Old one but a giggle.**

An old nun who was living in a convent next to a construction site noticed the coarse language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways.

She decided she would take her lunch and sit with them, so she put the sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to the spot where the men were eating.

Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked: "Any of you men know Jesus Christ?"

They shook their heads and looked at each other, very confused. Then one of the workers looked up into the steelworks and yelled out, "Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?"

One of the steelworkers yelled back down, "Why?"

The worker yelled back, "Cause his mum's here with his lunch".

### London Originals

The London Originals had a most enjoyable day out, doing a self-guided historical walk, and a boat trip on calm waters in bright sunshine. However with 11 sets of traffic controlled roadworks it took us an hour and a half to get to our destination but as the U3A is based on fun and learning, how many clues including the picture, will it take you to work out where we were?



This town in Essex is only 48 miles from Haverhill. It has a Grade 1 Listed Guildhall, formerly The Bear public house, then a prison, where in the 1800's the prisoners carved pictures in the wooden walls.

At the Mayor-making ceremony small cakes are thrown by the new mayor to children in the street from an upstairs window.

The town has the only surviving treadwheel crane, where two men walked inside a wheel, to power its lifting apparatus.

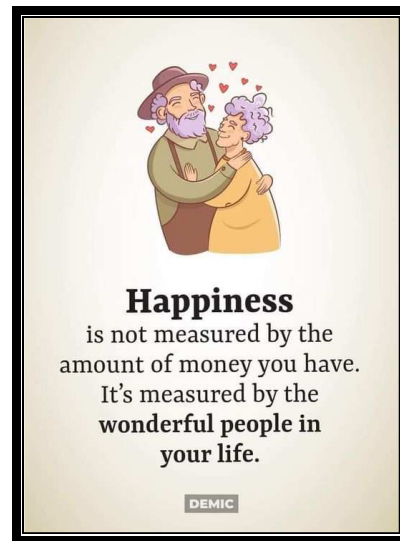
The town produced the Captain of the "Mayflower" and the Captain of the ship which sailed in 1607 to found the first British colony in the US called Jonestown.

It has a giant redoubt fort above the town with many cannons, and outstanding views over two rivers and an estuary. It has a pier, only half as long as it used to be, where a "platform ticket" cost a ha'penny.

If you haven't got it by now, see me at the next meeting and I will tell you the answer!

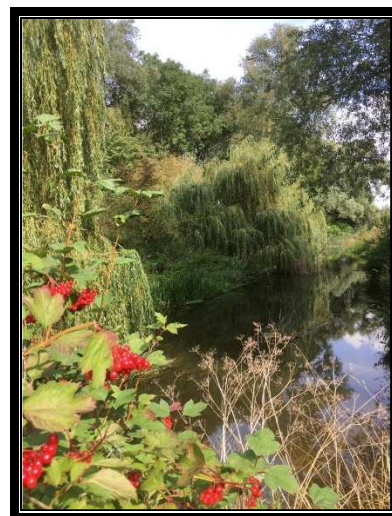
**Ian Johnson**

This was sent in by Greame Gee



### Walking Talking Munching

The Walking Talking Munching group met for the September walk in the picturesque village of Cavendish with its Suffolk Pink houses overlooking the green. The walk planned for the group was one that had been undertaken before but given its merits worth doing time and again. The walk started alongside the village pond known locally as The Waiver, this apparently being an old English word for Swamp. Taking a turn further along that took the group down onto a path that ran parallel with the River Stour, its water levels high and soil-coloured due to the recent heavy rain.



A series of wooden bridges led to views of The Stour Valley and fields of various shaped hay bales. Harry and Fay Clarke who had planned the walk talked of seeing

Oxford Sandy and Black pigs but the group were denied this particular delight but glimpsed horned sheep across the river. Passing St Mary's Church back in the village where In the 1300s Sir John Cavendish sought sanctuary from his pursuers during the peasant's revolt. Sadly for Sir John he lost his head shortly after in Bury St Edmunds.

The group had to head back to the Clare Swan for lunch as none of the Cavendish pubs open on a Monday morning, a problem the group are encountering a lot of late.



**Ken Hainsby**

### Strollers

Our 'local' day out was first to the Ashdon Village Museum. 12 of us perused the wonderful mix of rural and domestic bygones. A fantastic collection for a small village. The curator, Glenn, opened it especially for us to view.....and some repaid him by buying from the collection of books, puzzles and discs.



Next we had a coffee in a Saffron Walden arcade before strolling on a self-guided town tour taking in a visit to the Bridge End Gardens with its varying sections, although no one ventured into the maze.

Continuing the tour, we ended at the 'Spoons' for a well-earned late meal to conclude a pleasant day.

**Peter Cundall**

### Eating in the 50s

1. Pasta was not eaten
2. Curry was a surname.
3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
5. Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
12. Fish didn't have fingers.
13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
15. Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
18. Cooking outside was called camping.
19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
21. Prunes were medicinal.
22. Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!

shared by silversurfers.com

### Sunday Strollers

This months' walk at Clare attracted 13 walkers, 6 of them were newcomers who signed up on "open day". Proof indeed that open day was a success.

We walked from Hermitage Meadow towards Houghton Hall, then on towards Poslingford and back to the start, approximately 3.5 miles.

The next walk will start from Station Road Linton, at 10-30 a.m. on the 14th of November, and is 3.25 miles long

**David Jefferies**

Next Meetings: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Deadline for next edition: Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
November

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