

HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

September 2021

From the Chair

Hello everyone,

It was really nice to see some of you back at the Haverhill Art's Centre last Tuesday and to have the opportunity to welcome you in person. The Art's Centre has taken their role of public host very seriously during this pandemic and it is a venue we can trust to have considered the risk elements for us.

Did you notice the hand-sanitisers, complementary face masks and 2m markings on the floors? I am out and about a little bit more, now that my 25-year-old daughter has had both her vaccinations. It seems topsy-turvy that us oldies are now at risk to the young but it's because the vaccinated can transmit Covid to the unvaccinated. Still, I am sure we are on the right track and our health-care system is doing its best for us. That's my eternal optimism showing through.

What did you think about Dick Turpin? What a scoundrel!

Did you picture him as a hero, or did you suspect all along that he was a bit of a thug? Stephen Poulter talked to us expertly through the way that the stories about a real live outlaw developed into the lovable rogue of comics and afternoon TV. I don't know if it is just me, but I like to believe the 'nice' stories. The worst villains prompt the thought 'was he really all that bad?' I like to wander through the world believing that any stranger I meet is helpful and kind and that is what I inevitably find to be true. It is only now and again that someone is rude and

hurtful and it's best to just assume that they were having a bad day. I guess I have been lucky, and it would be very different if we lived in Turpin's day. Life sounded truly brutal and horrendous.

Now, the downside of meeting back at the HAC is that we are not currently broadcasting these events on Zoom. It was great for the 40 or so who attended, but we have nothing to offer the vast majority of you who do not attend for whatever reason. I have been researching some other u3a groups who have managed to combine the 'Zoom plus live event' successfully and I will let you know if we manage to overcome the technical difficulties. Please let one of the committee know if you have any expertise to offer in this regard.

Keep well now and stay away from those highwaymen.

Your Chair, Lesley Metcalfe

Speaker's Corner

Our August speaker was Stephen Poulter from Diss.

Stephen currently runs an online antiques and vintage business and is a part-time tutor teaching WEA leisure courses for adults. In his long career he has also chaired and made presentations at numerous conferences, seminars and debates, at national and international level.

His talk was entitled "Dick Turpin, the Myth and the Man". It was very well received by an audience of more than 70 u3a members.

The Myth was, predictably, more exciting than the Man but it was put over very well with plenty of pictures to support the story.

Our September meeting will be the Open Morning on Tuesday 28th September from 10.30am until 12.30pm. In the Arts Centre café you will be able to enrol or pick up your membership card and programme, then you can go into the hall upstairs and chat with the group leaders. Tea and coffee will be available.

Alison Dickens will be speaking about "Strange Tales from the Dust: Finds From Beneath the King's College Chapel Choir Stalls" on Tuesday 26th October. I can thoroughly recommend this speaker as I saw her talk during Lockdown and it is very interesting.

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

Learn to Play Bridge

Bridge is described as the King of Card Games and is a whist based game where the decision regarding whether each hand is played in a suit or no trumps is decided by each person bidding.

The Beginners' Bridge Course provides a weekly 2½ hour session spread over approximately a year giving systematic teaching of the Standard ACOL Bidding System. We practice set hands and provide easy to read, short handouts.

At the end of the course all players should be able to participate in the U3A Bridge Club.

The next teaching course will start in October.

I will be at the open day on 28th September to answer any question you may have alternately please e- mail me on: barbaralavender1944@gmail.com.

Barbara Lavender

London Originals

London Originals had a splendid day on 17th August visiting Oxburgh Hall in



Norfolk. We all met up for a welcome drink and bite to eat after an hour and half journey before we made our way inside the beautiful moated country house. Unfortunately there was renovation work being done which restricted our viewing of the rooms. Afterwards we made our way to The George Hotel in Swaffham where we had a delicious meal.

Linda Steff

Strollers

For our first outing for 18 months, seven members of the Strollers took part in "Bridge the Gap" charity walk in Cambridge.



We did a circular walk of approximately 4 miles exploring public spaces and iconic sites. There was also an "I spy challenge" of various objects to look out for. On a glorious sunny day, we stopped for a drink at the Anchor pub and observed the punts venturing off. We then continued the circuit back to Parkers Piece before late lunching at the "spoons" Regal to end a pleasant stroll.

Peter Cundell

Sunday Strollers

Our latest walk at Long Melford, attended by 12 Strollers in very pleasant weather, took us on a 3 mile stroll along Hare Drift, along Chad Brook and through the grounds of Kentwell Hall. Everyone said how enjoyable it was.

Our next walk is at Clare on Sunday 10th October, parking at Hermitage Close. The walk is 3.5 miles and we leave at 10.30am.

David Jefferies

Music Night

Saturday 28th August at The Haverhill Arts Centre saw Friends and Family of David and Marie Caulfield come to together to perform for an invited audience of over 70 people. The Arts Centre technicians had made sure the lighting, sound and stage presentation were set to perfection.

David, as many of you will know, began and still runs the u3a Guitar Group so they were invited to be part of 'The Lockdown Party' as the show was billed.

After an introduction from David, he and Marie kicked things off with a song called 'Home' which highlighted both David's guitar skills and Marie's beautiful voice. There then followed other friends and family performing new and old material, all delivered with consummate skill and professionalism.

A mention must be made of young Thomas Caulfield whose effortless guitar skills wowed an already impressed audience. During the evening he played the acoustic guitar while accompanying his Father Anthony in a rendition of 'Blackbird', played Eric Clapton numbers on the Electric Guitar and played Wipe Out on the drums to great applause.

The u3a Guitar Group's 'Forever Young' closed the first half and although very nervous in such exalted company, they performed admirably. John McGee opened their set with 'The Prettiest Thing'. John Lupton followed with 'San Francisco Blues' and Long John Elliot enthused the audience with 'Sloop John B'. The other members present: John Cahill, Michael

Johnstone and Ken Hainsby made up the line up on the night.

The second half took on a much more rock 'n roll feel and numbers such as 'While my Guitar Gently weeps', 'Summer Time Blues' and 'Nights in White Satin' went down really well. Frank Dooley and Marie Caulfield performed a beautiful number called 'The Water is Wide' and Frank and Joe Dooley paid tribute to The Everley Brothers with some of their best known numbers. The whole evening reached a fine climax when a rendition of 'Forever Young' was performed by all the evening's performers on stage together.

Ken Hainsby



Graeme Gee

Short Walking Group

This is a photo of the short walking group at Brags Mill near Ashdon.



The windmill, one of the few remaining post mills, dates from the 18th century and was restored by the Ashdon windmill trust in 2006.

Well worth the climb.

Maura Green

Luncheon Group 1

A meeting for Luncheon Group 1 will take place at the Haverhill Bowls Club Tuesday 26th October at 12:30 p.m.

The menu will be from the board. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Aldine Horrigan

Singing for Pleasure Group

There will be a meeting at St. Mary's Church Hall on Monday 25TH October at 2:30 p.m. for the Singing for Pleasure Group to discuss the Groups future. It is hoped that members who still wish to be part of the group will come along and any new members who may be interested.

Aldine Horrigan

Come from Away

It is almost 20 years since 9/11 and here is a wonderful story about that terrible day.

Jerry Brown Delta Flight 15:

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic. All of a sudden the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit immediately. The Captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta's main office in Atlanta and simply read, "All airways over the Continental United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination."

We decided to lie to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to the U.S.

The Captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason." Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the U.S.

The Canadian Government was in charge of our situation and no-one was allowed to get off or to come near any of the aircrafts.

In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world; 27 of which were U.S commercial jets.

Sometime in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Centre buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm. We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes, one plane at a time. At 6pm Gander airport told us that our turn to de-plane would be 11am the next morning. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took really good care of her. The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 next morning we got off the plane and had to register with the Red Cross. We learned from them that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander!

Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days. What we found out was incredible. Gander and all the surrounding communities had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travellers. Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 km from Gander where they were put up in a

high school. Women-only facilities were arranged. Families were kept together and the elderly passengers were taken to private homes. Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility.

During the day some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbours and others went for hikes in the local forests. Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests and food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools.

When we were told that the US airports had reopened we were taken back to the airport and reunited with our passengers. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

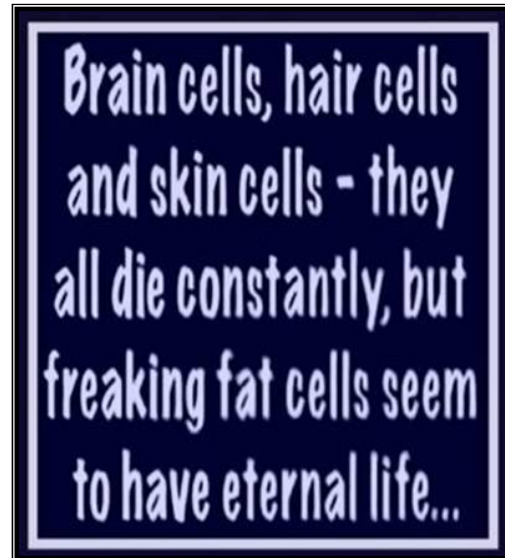
And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. He reminded everyone about the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He said that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewisporte. He suggested setting up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewisporte. He asked for donations from his fellow travellers and collected promises of more than \$14,000!

He also said that he would forward this proposal to the airline Delta Corporate to donate and, as I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has helped 134 students in their college education.

It reminds me how much good there is in the world.

Richard Evans



Winter – so true

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is - the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is, my friends are retired and getting grey, they move slower and I see an older person in myself now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore - it's mandatory! Because if I don't on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know that though the winter has come and I'm not sure how long it will last this I know that when it's over on this earth it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done, things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so, LIVE FOR TODAY and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: "It is Health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

Your kids are becoming you but your grandchildren are perfect!

Going out is good, coming home is even better!

You forget names but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything - especially golf.

The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.

You tend to use more 4 letter words - "what?"..."when?"

Now that you can afford expensive jewellery it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless".

What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Everybody whispers.

You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet - 2 of which you will never wear.

But "Old" is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies and best of all, our dear OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!"

Be kind, be calm, be safe and above all else be blessed.

Jan Frindall

Next Meetings:

Open Day: Tuesday 28th Sep 2021

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday 26th Oct

Deadline for the Rolling Screen

Tuesday 19th Oct 2021

e-mail: lesleyiris@aol.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 15th Oct 2021

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