



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

April 2023

From the Chair

I would like to thank all the members who attended the A.G.M. last month and re-elected me as Chair for another year. I will continue, with the support of the committee, to do my best to ensure that Haverhill and District u3a continues to be as friendly and successful as it has always been. You will find photos of the committee on the website under the Hu3a Trustees tab.

Now the weather has improved and I feel spring is definitely here I am enjoying working in the garden again, redesigning some of the flower beds and planting the troughs and pots with geraniums.

I like going out with the walking groups and not being bogged down with mud. The birds are singing loudly and there is so much colour on the trees and plants that it lifts everyone's spirits.

Take Care

Barbara Lavender

Speaker's Corner

It was lovely to have Linda Scoles back with us at the Arts Centre meeting on the 28th March. Linda is a popular speaker and did not disappoint her audience. This time her talk was entitled "The Yanks are Coming". Linda's husband, Jim, was posted to Lakenheath in 1971 by the US Air Force. The whole family was excited by the prospect of living in Britain. They saw it as an adventure and an opportunity to travel in Europe. However, Linda was not quite as well prepared for the experience as she thought, despite reading all of the Catherine Cookson novels! The family had to adjust to a very different culture when

they moved into a rental property in Great Barton. Linda told us stories of their view of village life (including her husband finding the village pub) and village locals (one of whom became a close friend for life). After being sent two small black and white photos of Linda's husband's father they set off with scant information from those photos to find where he was billeted during the second world war close to Wix (near Manningtree). Lovely heart-warming stories but told in a very comical way.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th April when Ben Ashenden the founder of BPA Associates will share his knowledge on will writing, protection of wealth, power of attorney etc. so that we can make the best choices possible for the future.

Sue Dickinson - Speaker Secretary

Hope you enjoyed the underground station quiz last month. Here are some more for you.

1. The wet Ones live along that roadway
2. Along this way one has to pay
3. Top horses cry
4. Minor's forest
5. I had one of those cars
6. Envious religious leader
7. There be rabbits along that road
8. Riflemen lay them to rest
9. It fell down!
10. Imprison 'em down there

Mick Smith

Walking Talking Munching

For their first walk of the year the group met at The Green Man in Thriplow under the guidance of new leaders David and Jean Boxall. The community run pub is a popular choice for walking groups, as beside the Haverhill contingent two other groups were

making it their starting and finishing point.



Thriplow (pronounced Treeplow) is famous for its Daffodils and the yearly festival it holds in March every year to raise money for good causes. The group were able to appreciate an early view of the flowers as they started their walk through the village. Beginning at the old Smithy which is now a working museum they traversed the main street and passed the village store before heading out on one of the many footpaths that dissect the surrounding fields. Time was taken to admire new born lambs, before the spell was broken by someone remarking that they had eaten lamb yesterday for Sunday lunch. South Cambridgeshire revealed its flatness, as the route wound its way in a circular fashion around the adjacent fields. Being at one point quite close to Duxford Airfield, a pillbox, left forgotten by time, and reminding all of East Anglia's involvement in the war. On the war theme the group observed in the drive of one house a tank and an armoured vehicle which made a change from caravan and car.

A great lunch back at The Green Man enthused all and made them look forward to next month's outing.

Ken Hainsby

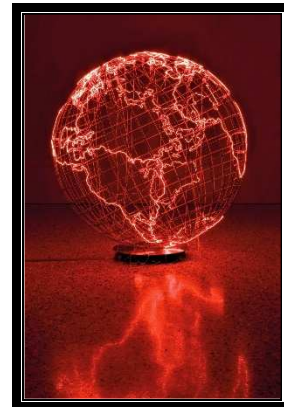
Wednesday Art Group

I would like to give a big thank you to Iris and David for keeping the Wednesday art class going. Also a thank you to the rest of the class who are so friendly and kind and who make my 2 hours a pleasure to attend. Many thanks.

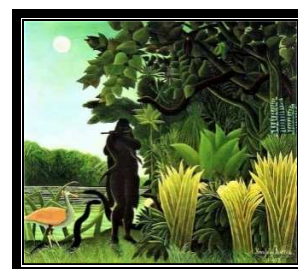
Brian Sullivan

Art Appreciation meeting March 2023

Last month's meeting was a continuation of February's theme of single colour, starting with white and a presentation looking at the troubled association of white and the sense of purity. This included Wedgwood's perfection of porcelain for the well-to-do and the ancient Elgin marbles with one man's plot to have them scrubbed clean in the 1930s to return them to their original, unsullied form – a state that had never existed, as they had originally been painted. Typical devilment came with the views of American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) and we pondered the obsessive fixation with white by the modernist architect Le Corbusier and his commissioning by Mussolini. What could possibly go wrong there?



Red appeared in the provocative works of Mona Hatoum (born 1952) where duality of meaning drew from her personal experience of Middle Eastern conflict and alluded to other unsettling conditions. Interestingly, her work often features a kind of humour to make its point such as the use of glowing and buzzing electricity. Mark Rothko (1903-1970) produced so-called color field canvases of which the dark red murals originally intended for the Seagram commission are well-known and intended to be viewed in low light levels, something their photographs consistently fail to depict!



Many tones of green formed the background colour of The Snake Charmer by Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) who's allegedly "naïve" art stops you in your tracks with its unique mystery. The Paris gallery where this painting resides accurately calls the figure "A black Eve in a disquieting Garden of Eden".

Neil Dickinson

Post COVID

What have we learned from COVID?

Really not a lot.

The FBI's still saying it looks like a Chinese plot.

Lots of jobs, lots of hurt, lots of sadness.

Many loved ones sadly gone.

Of course, we're going to miss them,

Every single one.

We were hoping for a re-set.

A chance to start anew.

A chance to pull together.

After all that we'd been through.

So, what of all our futures?

Why did the system fail?

We stuck together during adversity.

But now's a different tale.

Working from home is all very well.

But can it be sustained?

Companies can't really cope,

Services are not maintained.

We were hoping for a reset,

Can't we just get on and do it?

Society has had its chance but

From where I sit, WE BLEW IT!

John Cahill

Patchwork & Quilting Group

Our merry group of quilting ladies are renowned for their generosity and kindness and I am very proud to be a part of that group.

As a group we support a charity called Project Linus which donates quilts and blankets to children and young people who are sick or troubled and in need of some kindness. We have been supporting Project Linus since 2016 and have donated over 150 quilts to the charity since then. The coordinator, Sheila Walker, has recently analysed the donations given to her and has sent me the following breakdown of the distribution of those

quilts received from the Haverhill U3A Quilt group as of 13th March 2023.

Janet Berriman

Haverhill Quilts and blankets donated	
	Total
Action for Children	7
Bereaved Children	2
Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum/ Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign Other refugees	6
Cambridge Women's Refuge	1
Cambridgeshire Fostering Team	2
Diamond Hampers	5
Early Years Teams Cambridge City East Cambs District Council South Cambs District Council	4 7 10
Home Start Cambridgeshire Royston and South Cambs	4 6
Little Miracles	2
Neonatal ICU, Addenbrooke's	3
PaNDR Service, Addenbrooke's	12
Paediatric ICU, Addenbrooke's	17
Salvation Army Christmas Appeal	40
Sexual Assault Unit	1
School Therapy and Trauma Rooms	1
West Suffolk Neonatal Unit	6
Total	136

A Concert for Reach

You will have seen various emails and social media posts about the forthcoming concert to raise money for local charity Reach. It will be held on the 12th of May at 7.30pm. I know many of you are planning to attend and if you haven't already booked your ticket please contact the Arts Centre Box Office and reserve one (or more!). It would be great to sell out on the night and raise much needed money for Reach.

Call the Box Office on 01440 714140 or visit the website

<https://haverhillartscentre.co.uk/performance/reach-charity-concert/>

Many thanks,

David Caulfield

Country Casuals Walk

On 21st March a sunny and faintly drizzly day we set out on our two-hour walk from The Crown in Little Walden. We knew there would be mud underfoot and came suitably shod and with sticks to prevent slips. We walked up Petts Lane and turned down the footpath on the right going uphill to

Ravenstock Green Farm. We had a glorious view from there of the countryside including a herd of deer, before turning down the lane to Chapelend and the main road. This we crossed singly as we had to aim for a narrow gap in the hedge opposite and some had to be helped up the attendant slope. Then it was more walking through mud to Cloptons, where we skirted round a boggy section and at last headed south-west downhill either close to the stream or a shorter route heading towards the private Fishing Lake in Little Walden. We reconvened and enjoyed our well-deserved lunch at the pub.

Frances and Keith Armes

Nature Group Walk 23rd March 2023

Our March walk in Wandlebury Country Park was aimed at identifying trees and hedge plants in winter. Led by Hilary Thomas and armed with the FSC (Field Studies Council) photographic guide to winter trees, we set off in bright sunshine. We identified many trees by their bark, buds and remnants of leaves lying on the ground under the tree. These included beech, ash, lime, horse chestnut, birch, hazel (we especially noted the tiny red female flowers near to the spent male catkins), wild cherry, wild plum, oak, field maple and the evergreen holm oak, deodar cedar (whose cones disintegrate spectacularly), and yew.



Shrubs found were wild privet, guelder rose, spindle, blackthorn, hawthorn, wild gooseberry, spurge laurel, which is in fact a daphne, *Daphne laureola*, and not a laurel and the poisonous cherry laurel.

There were many hedgerow plants including white and purple violets, cuckoo pint, salad burnet, greater celandine and the unrelated lesser celandine, evergreen

alkanet, red dead nettle, our native stinking iris and stinking hellebore, periwinkle, cleavers and cow parsley. We passed the Belted Galloway cattle and Highland cattle used to help maintain the wild-flower meadows. A mistle thrush was spotted and a jay as well as a brimstone butterfly and the odd lichen. Altogether a good haul before retiring to the Docky Barn café for lunch.

Fran Armes

Sunday Strollers

Twelve members enjoyed a lovely 3 mile walk at Little Walden on Easter Sunday. With fine spring weather, lots of blossom and birdsong, what was not to like. The added bonus of a small herd of deer completed a rather special walk.

Our next walk will be at Hundon, parking at the village hall for a 10-30am start. The walk will be approx. 3.5 miles. The date of the walk is 14th May.

David Jefferies

Quiz Answers

1. Rayners Lane
2. Turnpike Lane
3. Upney
4. Colliers Wood
5. Vauxhall
6. Parsons Green
7. Warren Street
8. Gunnersbury
9. London Bridge
10. Clapham South

Next Meetings: Tuesday 25th April
Tuesday 30th May

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 23rd May
e-mail to

chair@haverhillu3a.com

Deadline for next edition: Friday 19th May

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