



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn, laugh, live News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

July 2022

From the Chair

Saturday 2nd July was a sunny if slightly breezy day and perfect for our Picnic in the Meadow. I was delighted to introduce The Mayor of Haverhill Councillor Bruce Davidson and his consort Councillor Elaine McManus.



The entertainment in the morning was by The Rinaldi Express Band who played a lively compilation of 1960/70's popular music.



There was a slight hiccup regarding the afternoon entertainment as one of the

members of Reunion Barbershop Quartet had to withdraw due to the loss of his voice. Our Membership Secretary Steve promptly phoned his daughter Angela Rowland who fortunately was free and able to entertain us for the afternoon. She is an excellent singer and entertainer who had us mesmerised with her talent



I would like to thank Caroline and her events team for organising the day and to all the u3a members who helped to set up and clear away on the day.



I look forward to seeing you at the speaker meeting on Tuesday 26th July.

Barbara Lavender

Speakers Corner

Our speaker in June was Alison Giles from the Whipple and Burwell Museums. Sadly I could not attend but from the following anyone who, like me, could not attend will see what a treat they missed. I make no apology for the length of this article as both Barbara's and Mark's reports deserve to be included.

Alison's subject was "seeing science" with objects from the Whipple Museum, Cambridge. She started by explaining the entrance and then continued with a brief virtual tour of the museum, which included a 10ft telescope and an *orrery*, (you will have to visit the museum if you don't know what this is). The museum was originally the Perse School which at the time was a free school. She also included the Learning Gallery and the Exhibition Gallery.

The items in the museum are almost exclusively the collection of Robert Whipple, whose main interest was optics. The Globe collection is nationally recognised. Alison then went on to show us her 10 favourite items (partially selected as they all fit into a small case which fits the pannier on her cycle, essential in Cambridge). These ranged from the earliest, such as an abacus and an astrolabe, through other scientific and optical items, to more modern instruments such as a currency converter (from our decimalisation days – remember them!) and a solar pocket calculator. The ten items were:

1. Abacus – this is still in use in Japan and China and can be very useful for blind and partially sighted people.
2. Astrolabe
3. Inclining Dial
4. 4 Drawer Telescope
5. Botanical Microscope
6. Monocular Spy Glass
(Her particular favourite)
7. Opera Glasses
8. Rotating Currency Converter
9. McArthur Microscope
10. Electric Pocket Calculator

Thank you to Barbara Lavender

"Don't make fireworks in a greenhouse" was only one of the interesting facts that we learnt from our June speaker. Alison is the Learning Coordinator at the museum and an excellent speaker. With free admission (donations always welcome) it seems a very worthwhile place to visit. One more fascinating fact to finish with; they are planning a scale model of the solar system which will be at least 10km long!

Thank you to Mark Pollington

And now for something completely different! At our July meeting we will welcome Captain Karl Lumbers, foreign-going Master Mariner and Marine Surveyor consultant, who will be telling us The Trinity House Story.

The meeting will start at 10.30am. Entrance to the Arts Centre will be via the front or rear doors which will open at 10.00am.

Wendy Foster

Walking Talking Munching

Sixteen members of the Walking Talking Munching group met opposite Melford Hall, Long Melford, for June's circular walk.

Melford Hall with its red brick buildings and Edwardian gardens of box hedge and old yews and famous in later years for visits from Beatrix Potter, a relation of the current family.

The walk began and continued along narrow field-edged paths that skirted first, kale and then barley before running alongside golden billowing corn. Much interest was generated by a site being developed for Glamping experiences. These included Shepherds Huts, Cabins and Yurts.

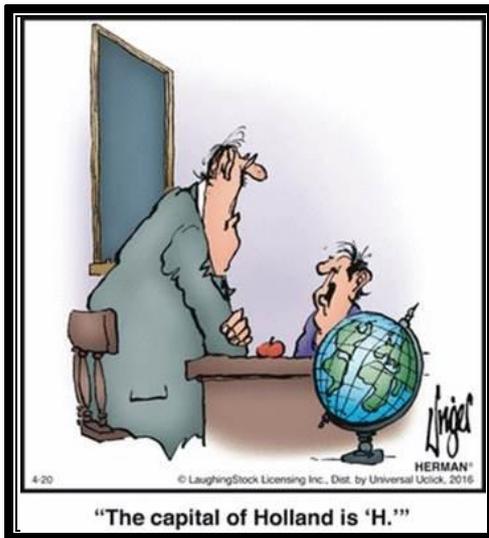
Continuing on, the route entered wilder terrain and much dodging of fallen boughs and avoidance of pot holes took everyone's attention. The wild flora was in abundance with thistles, teasel and dog

roses replacing the cultivated agriculture of earlier.

As Melford's Holy Trinity Church appeared on the horizon the walkers knew their route was nearing its completion and passing through the churchyard and its attached almshouses they headed back to the starting point.

A good lunch was had by all at The Cock and Bell.

Ken Hainsby



Canary

The stroke had whittled her:
no more now than a weight of air,
of restless air, her voice a husk
in a dry corner of blown dust.

"They didn't shut the old plant down.
They commandeered it....and us girls,
we were paid five quid a week! Pearls,
stockings, nights out on the town,
music-halls.....and better stuff to eat!
The work was hard. And there were risks.
Some girls were burned. One broke her
feet when stacked shells fell.
We learned new tricks to while away the
boredom – sang rude songs
(those chaps too old for war would sing
along!)"

The stroke had shrivelled her:
no more now than a breath of air,
of freighted air, her voice a blade
of desiccated grass..spent..dead.

"Funny, now, to think of yellow faces!
We thought nought of it. We were paid
more than our blokes! Off to Ascot Races!
Ponds Cold Cream! Loads of powder
made our faces whiter than a flippin'
fairy's!

Phosphorus, they said, won't do you
harm.

Sam, back on leave, called me his canary,
his little yellow idol...golden charm!

The work was hard. The days were long.
We did our bit!.....Now, get along!"

The stroke had wizened her.
No more now than the slow....slow....air.

Jim Lindop

**(In memory of my Gran...Ethel Mary
Neal...1890 - 1970**

Country Casuals walk on June 21st

Karen Kowalski kindly organised the walk
in June for Country Casuals. We met at
The Crown in Little Linton at 10.00am
where we ordered our lunch before setting
off on a pleasant walk lasting just over one
and a half hours. The day was warm and
sunny with the walk being fairly easy
going with no steep hills or stiles. We took
footpaths and field edge paths for the
most part with a little on quiet unmade
roads.

The views across the fields with all the
crops green and vibrant were spectacular.



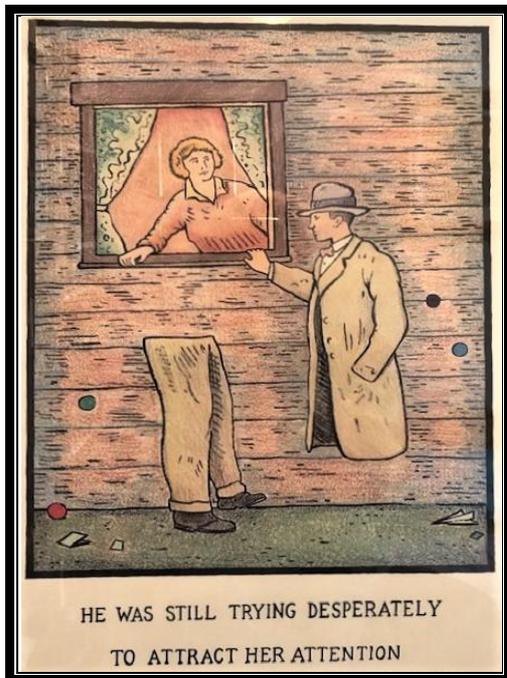
A cool drink and a hearty meal were most
welcome back at the pub which does do
excellent fare.

Peter Tatam for Karen Kowalski

Art Appreciation Group - June 2022

This month's theme was "Love", obviously a rich area for art, but as is often the case with this u3a group, it's always entertaining as to what members will come up with other than the more obvious.

One contribution was a cartoon by Glen Baxter, an Englishman largely based in the USA. He is not only an artist, but a draughtsman and this shows in his amusing drawings and the example we looked at was a photo of a print which hangs on the bedroom wall of our contributor and thus greets him each morning. What a nice way to start the day ... with a smile.



I didn't know this, but apparently the term love, as used in tennis for zero, is allegedly derived from the French for egg. We therefore looked at two paintings which were egg related. Firstly, "The Metamorphosis of Narcissus" (1937) by Salvador Dali which has been reproduced in poster form en masse, and thus larger scale, and was a favourite seen on student's walls in the 1970s if not before. Narcissus famously loved himself and Dali uses the egg motif in the painting twice.

Our second egg-themed painting was "Broken Eggs" (1756) by Jean-Baptiste Greuze and shows a tense family scene which has been interpreted as using the broken eggs as a metaphor for the young girl's lost virginity. I don't think the group members quite agreed on that score and there were many observations made of what was going on in the painting. Such a bittersweet pleasure not fully knowing the answers!



Finally, we looked at some works by the Pre-Raphaelites. Always a rich source of colour, detail and intriguing metaphor, these quintessentially Victorian paintings frequently used the wives and lovers of the artists as models and the story of the artists and their muses intertwined love lives still sounds racy.

Neil Dickinson

Concert: Singing for Pleasure

The Singing for Pleasure Group were warmly welcomed by the Women's Fellowship at St Mary's last Tuesday. Everyone praised our programme which included many songs known to the audience. Our new Group Leaders did a wonderful job and brought a lot of fun to all the members and the audience. A selection of many musical songs old and new were included in the programme Swing Low - When the Saints Go Marching In - Edelweiss - Who will Buy and finishing with All Kinds of Everything and Haverhill U3A. It was great that many members joined in the many songs they knew.

Thanks to all the u3a members who came along and gave their support. The afternoon finished with cups of tea and cake which was most welcome. A fun raffle took place with the proceeds going to the Children's Hospice.

Our group continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall at 2:00p.m. Anyone is still able to join - don't forget SINGING is good for you! Our next concert will be for the Sunshine Ladies Club at The Chalkstone Community Centre on Tuesday 9th August at 10:00a.m. They would also like to invite members from the u3a who might like to support the group and whom would be most welcome.

Aldine Horrigan - Admin



Sunday Strollers

Six strollers enjoyed a 3 mile walk around Withersfield on a hot Sunday morning; even though the walk leader managed to lose his way at one point, the path was regained and everyone arrived back at their cars.

The next walk is at Denston on 14th August at 10.30am, parking at the green by the church, post-code CB8 8PP. The walk is 3 miles and there are no stiles or road walking. If this hot weather continues it would be sensible to carry some water.

David Jefferies

Craft Group

Our small group is looking forward to Christmas, yes already, and we intending to make tags and sell them as we did last year. We hope to make something else too but we are undecided yet as to what it will be.

I am sorry but currently there are no spare spaces as we meet in my dining room.

Wendy Foster

Country Strollers - Vacancies

Although a number of new members did sign up at last year's, Open Meeting, many of those did not subsequently take up their places. In addition, we have also lost a few people from our existing membership.

Therefore, we have a number of places available now for anyone who would like to join us. The walks take place monthly on the 2nd Thursday morning and are up to a maximum of 4 miles stopping at a pub or cafe for lunch afterwards. Members also take it in turns to organise a walk but it does not work out to be more than once a year.

If you would like to join us or simply would like to come along to meet us please contact me either by email:

johnsenior@btinternet.com or mobile: 07909 222540.

John Senior

Cycling Group

Six intrepid riders from the cycling group set their ambitions higher with the first ride of the month by heading for Balsham where group knowledge suggested a roadside watering hole existed. The weather was surprisingly cool for early July as the group headed west to pick up the road to Withersfield.

Motorists fall into two distinct groups, those who respect that other forms of transport exist and those who think cars take precedence over all else.

The recent change in the law regarding cyclists being allowed to ride more centrally on the road obviously angers certain drivers. Group leader Peter Thomas is always quick to remonstrate with those who show no regard for cyclists.

The ride continued down Skippers Lane and on to West Wrattling with a steady breeze against the riders. It's a strange phenomenon when cycling that only hills and a wind against are noted whilst free wheeling sections and gust-assisted sections are quickly forgotten. Arriving in Balsham the group dismounted and sought refreshment in The Olde Butchers Shop Cafe. For those not on diabetic watch there were some scrumptious cakes on offer.

Back in Haverhill it was noted that the route had been 16 miles, more than usual but well worth it.

Ken Hainsby

The Journey

The day is breaking and the birds are awake
The alarm clock is shaking we must not get up late

Preparations are finished all the packing is done
Milk and papers are cancelled today we head for the sun

All excited and merry we hitch up the van and head for the ferry to catch Seafrance, Cezanne

The crossing is short so we explore the ship
Then tie up in Calais and continue our trip

First stop on the journey we must fill up the car
With fuel that is cheap and will take us quite far

We get up to speed on the fast autoroute
And passing some lorries we give them a toot

Onwards and southwards we continue our run
Down the black tarmac road on the route to the sun

After hours of hard driving on this the long haul
We descend into Lyon the capital of Gaulle

Past vineyards and chateaux onwards we run
And fields full of sunflowers as we head for the sun

We follow the river the mighty La Rhone
And head for the campsite that will soon be our home

We enter Provence what a wonderful view
Of fields full of lavender all purple and blue

Where flamingos abound in their lovely pink garb
And white wild ponies run free in Camargue

The area we head for La Bouches du Rhone
And camping Val de Durance which for two weeks will be home

We are now quite excited as our journey is done
We have reached our small campsite and the holiday's begun.

David Jefferies

Next Meetings: Tuesday 26th July
Tuesday 30th August

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 23rd August
e-mail to havu3agen@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition:
Friday 19th August
Please either post to:
The Editor U3A
c/o Haverhill Arts Centre
High Street
Haverhill CB9 8AR
OR
e-mail to havu3anews@gmail.com