



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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



February 2022

## From the Chair

February and, so far, we have avoided the snow and ice that some were forecasting. Instead, we have had strong winds causing havoc in some areas, but Haverhill has survived almost unscathed. Let us all look forward to spring which is not far off now. The snowdrops, daffodils and primulas are all blooming; a sure sign of warmer weather to come.

All groups are now meeting as normal with some members preferring to maintain mask-wearing, which I agree with. The newspapers are talking of fresh variants of Covid surfacing almost on a daily basis, but so far none have caused any serious problems. A situation which we all hope will continue.

There are many new members who want to join groups, but all groups have a maximum capacity. In the past each group ran a waiting list, with some being more proactive than others. At the last group leaders' meeting it was decided that we would hold the lists centrally to give a little more control, so if you want to join a group that is full, please make sure the leader notifies the committee or you can do so yourself using the website.

At the AGM next month, we may have a member of the regional committee visiting us to see how we run the event. Please be prepared for the meeting to possibly be a little more pedantic than usual as we want to be seen to be running a tight ship!

Take care and keep safe.

**Peter Tatam, Acting Chair**

## Speaker's Corner for January 2022

Our speaker in January, Bryan Thurlow, gave a cameo of "We'll meet again", the story of Billy Jackson, from Bethnal Green. It covered his time as an evacuee in Suffolk.

Bryan has a background in professional theatre. During the 1970s and '80s his music hall company, The Berkeley Squares, toured its beautifully costumed shows to many parts of the country. As a great fan of the late Roy Hudd OBE he was delighted to contribute songs to Roy's BBC radio programme on the history of music halls. He has been involved in many TV productions and played the lead in a BBC drama, 'The Nicest Parson we Never Had'.

Bryan is an extremely proficient actor/speaker who has visited Haverhill u3a before and again he was very entertaining. I hope to book him again.

Our speaker for February will be David Williams, a City of London guide and lecturer, who will be giving us a talk entitled MIND THE GAP.

It reveals the history of the London underground – the Tube – since it became the world's first subterranean rail system in 1863: its heroes and villains, triumphs and disasters and its essential role in moving millions of passengers around the capital 24 hours a day.

As he will be travelling from Leigh on Sea that morning we wish him a safe journey and hope the weather is kind.

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. Please follow the **ONE-WAY** system which will be well marked.

If you have any requests for topics or speakers please let me know and I will do my best to fulfill them. A note on the back of the feedback form will do.

**Wendy Foster, Speaker Secretary**



**Sent in by Graeme Gee**

### **Cycling Group**

On a bright and cold morning, seven members of the Cycling Group met as per usual outside the Sports Centre. The start was delayed whilst group leader Peter Thomas delivered a lesson on good driving where cyclists are concerned to a less than friendly lorry driver. Finally starting out, the group rode westward along the railway path to join the Withersfield Road.

The recent change in the law regarding cyclists being allowed to ride further out in the road was not implemented as it was considered too risky. Passing the White Horse and turning right into Skippers Lane the group continued into a head wind before turning left and passing through West Wickham and taking Streetly End to Horseheath.

It was heart lifting to see the snowdrops and aconites in and among the hedge rows defying winter's grip and giving a sneak preview of spring to come.

Crossing the busy Cambridge Road to the quieter one of Mill Green, the group pressed on to Nosterfield End and Hazel Stubb before free-wheeling down Camps Road and across The Rec to return to base.

The tachometer read exactly thirteen miles and a well earned coffee in Subway allowed time for a general chit chat before the group dispersed.

**Ken Hainsby**

### **Sunday Strollers**

This month's walk at Thurlow, unfortunately takes place after the deadline for News and Views. The walk will be 3.5 miles and take in some of the local history.

I will comment on this in the March edition of News and Views.

The next walk will commence from the village hall car park at Swards End at 10.30 on Sunday 13th March and is 3.5 miles long.

**David Jefferies**

### **History Group**

The first meeting of the History Group for 2022 took place in February today at the East Town Park Visitor Centre.

Jackie Tatam gave an illustrated talk entitled a 'Salmagundi'. This is either a collection of articles, subjects or qualities, or a dish of chopped meat, anchovies, onions etc.

It gives a good indication of the subject of the talk which was about various foods and food producers and their histories.

We heard about the beginning of Kellogg's in America, the reason for Tottenham cake with its lurid pink icing (being a Tottenham lad I remember it well), where Hamburgers originally came from (the Mongols!), Bombay Duck, Oyster Sauce and Lee Man Tat, who heads the family business of LKK which has a net worth of twenty billion pounds.

We then moved on to Fisherman's Friends originally made for a few North Sea fisherman with sore throats and which are now being produced at over 5 billion each year. The audience were then introduced to traditional recipes for Bukkenade and Wet Nellie as recommended by the National Trust.

This was followed by a short history of Fortnum & Mason before we were told about the life of the Tunnock family and their tea cakes; the owner rises at 05.15 and is in work by 05.50 at the age of 88!

The meeting finished with tea and a chance to try a Tunnocks Tea Cake or Caramel Wafer.

**Peter Tatam, History Group Leader**



**Sent in by Graeme Gee**

### **Mud and Grub Mud**

The walk from Finchingfield when reced in mid January was very muddy, so sections were changed to avoid the worst caused by tractors gathering the beet, and sections churned up by dog walkers in wellingtons round the popular village circuits. That was the practical action side of health and safety, not the routine paperwork. However the tailwinds of storm Corrie were, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, possibly our biggest hazard. Conversation was difficult on exposed hillsides, and the noise of the occasional car on the country lanes, was drowned out. In the event we did so well avoiding the mud that Helen's shiny boots, came through still gleaming at the end, and oven-ready for the next walk.

### **Grub**

On a Tuesday it is always difficult to find pubs with their kitchens open at lunchtime, and this was no exception. Many thanks go to the landlady of The Three Tuns at Finchingfield who opened just for us. Eight of us dined, and the freshly cooked food did not have to be pre-ordered.

### **The Five Mile Walk**

We set off from Finchingfield church through the Guildhall arch and onto the footpath behind the windmill, then turned towards the pond, which was very full of water and ducks. We walked through the village to the recreation ground and joined Winsey Chase to walk to Beslyns Farm, and down the lane of the same name into Little Bardfield.

After the bridge over the river Pant we cut through the houses on our left to follow the course of the river to the old watermill, and paused to enjoy the willow fringed mill pond. We had the option of following the Finchingfield brook back, which would have been a favoured option in summer weather, but instead chose to cross a couple of footbridges over the brook and up the hill to join Mill Road, and back to the Three Tuns.

**Ian Johnson**

### **Art Appreciation Group**

This month's meeting focussed on commercial art. To many aficionados of art, this area is not classed in the same league as "fine art", but it has certainly provided images as memorable as much of the fine art adorning the walls of galleries.

We started with the very recognisable painting usually known as "Bubbles" which was used by Pears Soap to advertise their product. The proper title is "A child's world" and it was painted in 1886 by Sir John Everett Millais using his 5 year old grandson as the model.

After a copy appeared in a newspaper owned by the purchaser of the painting, it was bought by the managing director of Pears and altered, with Millais' permission, to show a bar of soap and with added wording.



Interestingly, the young subject shown in the painting later rose to the rank of admiral in the navy, but his nickname "Bubbles" stuck. He died in 1973 and having just seen a photograph of him in much later life, I can tell you he remained easily recognisable.

The interesting legacy of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland stories was presented. Carroll's own deft illustrations were deemed not quite adequate and so the famous images by Sir John Tenniel were commissioned, thereafter spawning a whole gamut of artistic interpretations, including those from Disney.

We looked at images that had been created specifically for advertising. Often the artist's names have been lost, but on considering examples by luminaries such as Dali and Picasso, fame as an artist did not necessarily outclass the works of lesser artists when it came to advertising impact and memorability.

A well-known character is the Michelin Man whose real name (if you can imagine such a thing) is Bibendum. Appearing in 1898 he had a rather sinister appearance and was depicted smoking a cigar and holding a cocktail glass, but over time, his image has been cleaned up and become more "cuddly".



Originally created for a rejected brewery advert, the logic of his glass and invitation to imbibe becomes clear. I'm not sure we would find the connection of drinking and driving acceptable nowadays though!

**Neil Dickinson**

#### **It pays to be kind**

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 83-year-old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.

Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope... Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went and a few days later another letter came from the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?

Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift.

By the way, there was \$4 missing. I think it might have been those bastards at the post office.

Sincerely, Edna  
**Richard Evans**

Next Meetings: Tuesday 22/02/2022  
Tuesday 29/03/2022

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tuesday 22/03/2022  
e-mail to: [ptatam46@gmail.com](mailto:ptatam46@gmail.com)

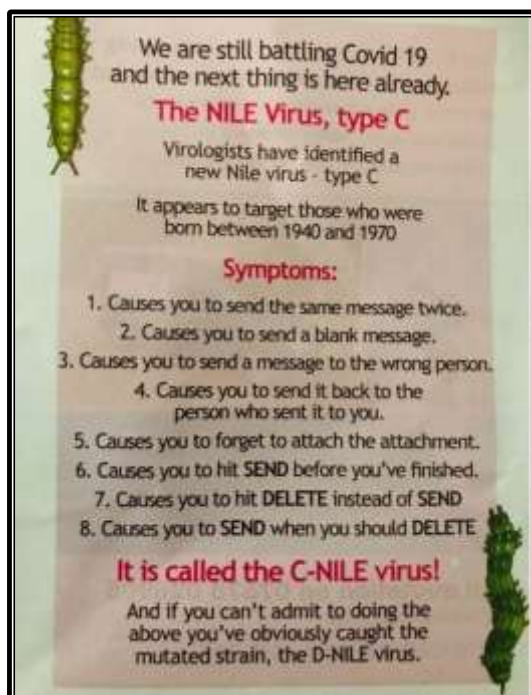
Deadline for next edition: Friday 18/03/2022

Please either post to:  
The Editor U3A  
c/o Haverhill Arts Centre  
High Street  
Haverhill CB9 8AR

Or

Email to: [havu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:havu3anews@gmail.com)

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**Sent in by Barbara Lavender**