

HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

News and Views

Supported by



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

January 2022

From the Acting Chair

A new year and still we worry about Covid. The number of infections is starting to fall, so let us hope that the pandemic is slowly fading away and we can resume our normal lives soon. Personally, I believe that Covid will stay with us indefinitely and we will come to treat it in the same way as we do with flu, an annual jab and it will be just part of life!

2022 will be busy in Haverhill & District u3a. The events team are planning our activities to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement and you will know more in the coming months.

The u3a website says:- founded in 1982, u3a is a UK-wide movement of locally run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. Members explore new ideas, skills, and activities together.

There are 1,057 u3as with over 450,000 members; membership costs less than £20 on average per year and is open to everyone who's no longer in full-time work.

You will note that there is no longer any age restriction, only that any member should no longer be in full time work. This opens our membership to a much wider range of people, so if you know any younger people who are no longer working, invite them to join us. Perhaps you can bring them to a meeting to see what we do?

Our AGM will take place in March and as several committee members must stand down this year, we would welcome

nominations for members willing to help run the branch. You will receive more information and a nomination form in a separate email.

As we start this New Year myself and the committee sincerely hope that you all remain healthy and happy throughout 2022 and keep enjoying what Haverhill & District u3a has to offer.

Peter Tatam

Speaker's Corner for January 2022

Our speaker in November, Henry Wilson, CEO and founder of Reach Community Projects, is a Haverhill boy who is passionate about tackling poverty in and around Haverhill. He gave us a very interesting talk, with short films, giving us the history of Reach and what it does now. Reach does not just give out food from the food bank, although that was the beginning in 2008. In 2010 the Resource Centre opened and Reach has since helped around 1,100 families each year.

There are many outreach projects in rural areas around Haverhill. About 40% come for food but that leaves the 60% who don't. Reach endeavours to get to the underlying problems with help from the Nationwide bank, apprenticeships, supported volunteering and work experience and an eBay shop, for both donations and purchases, which can be found [here](https://www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/i/Reach-Community-Projects/187826):
<https://www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/i/Reach-Community-Projects/187826>

A great deal of their work is helping people to fill in forms which can be extremely daunting to anyone, let alone those who are suffering from hardship.

The purpose and aims of Reach are restoring and maintaining dignity and reviving hope. I believe that Henry demonstrated that those are being achieved by dedicated volunteers.

I must now say a huge thank you for



donating so generously with both Christmas food (44kg, which was a large amount as each item was mostly quite light as can be seen in the picture above) and money, £314 donated on the day and more following the talk. As that was matched by a Haverhill company, it means that more than double went to Reach following Henry's talk.

Our January meeting will feature Bryan Thurlow who will be giving a cameo of "We'll meet again", the story of Billy Jackson from Bethnal Green about his time as an evacuee in Suffolk. Bryan is an extremely proficient actor/speaker who has already visited Haverhill u3a before.

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

Wendy Foster, Speaker Secretary

Haverhill U3A Art appreciation group, November 2021 meeting summary

October's meeting had invited members' contributions on the theme of "Scotland" and we continued into November with this and the current month's main theme of "Music". We first looked at examples of some of the work of Scottish artist Will Maclean (born 1941) who had spent time as a mariner before attending art school and later becoming a professor of art. Often, his pieces are constructed from "found objects" either from the seashore

or with some connections and thus in a rather mixed media style. Colours are often easy on the eye whilst the viewer is drawn deeper and deeper into a mysterious narrative like the sea itself: huge, beautiful, fearsome, intimate, bountiful, endless, at times cruel and unpredictable and all from the inspired collection, positioning and presentation from the hands of the artist.



On more familiar ground, we looked at a variety of images of musicians as seen by the likes of Ronald Searle and Beryl Cook, and also different artists' depictions of St Cecilia, patron saint of music and musicians. She is said to have been blessed with the ability to hear the music of the heavenly choirs and was frequently (but not always) depicted with a rather dreamy face angled heavenwards. Well, she would wouldn't she?

We then looked at two works by the 17th century Dutch artist Vermeer, master of interior light coming from windows, and compared his depictions of a guitar player and a lute player and wondered about the possible relationship of the guitar player to whoever seemed to be to her right and yet was not depicted!



Finally, with a joyous blaze of colour, we looked at a 1913 work by Kandinsky. He was an artist and art theorist who linked colours, form and shapes with sound and music, something we would nowadays call synesthesia. Do you hear colours at all?



Neil Dickinson

Aging gracefully

Have you ever been guilty of looking at others your own age and thinking, surely I can't look that old? Well... You'll love this one.

My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new Dentist, I noticed his dds diploma, which bore his full name.

Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark haired boy, with the same name, had been in my High school class some 30-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy that I had a secret crush on, way back then?

Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding, grey-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate.

After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Fairview High School. "Yes, yes, I did. I'm a bulldog," he gleamed with pride. "When did you graduate?" I asked.

He answered "In 1975. Why do you ask?" "You were in my class!" I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, old, bald, wrinkled, fat-ass, grey-haired, decrepit son-of-a-bitch asked, "What did you teach???"

Sent in by Richard Evans

London Originals

Early on a very wet and windy Friday morning in late November, the London Originals group set off for the Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon. Not so secret these days, as it is signposted along the A128 and has a big brown sign at the entrance.

The bunker has quite a history. Built in 1952 as an RAF Rotor Station and using Air Defence Radar to track possible threats from Soviet bombers. Later, the bunker housed a Civil Defence Centre and more recently, it became one of 12 Regional Government Headquarters, to be used in the event of a nuclear strike. Government officials would repair to the bunkers and run what was left of the country. Kelvedon would have housed up to 600 military and civilian personnel in the self-contained bunker.

The tour was self-guided using audio handsets and gave a very good indication of how life might have been in the event of a nuclear war. The bunker was decommissioned in 1994.

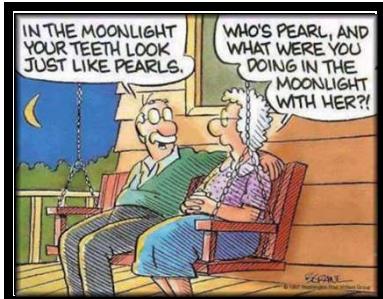
After a very welcome lunch taken at a nearby hostelry, the group visited St. Andrews church in nearby Greensted.

This little jewel is thought to be the oldest wooden church in Europe and possibly the world, with some of the existing timbers being over 1000 years old. Our tour guide related the very interesting history of the church which has the grave of a 12thCentury Crusader archer in its churchyard. It has had building work performed by Saxon, Norman and Tudor craftsmen with evidence of their work still on display.



In 1010 the body of St. Edmund, (the original Patron Saint of England) was moved to London to protect it from the Viking marauders and in 1013, St. Andrews church was a temporary resting place during the return journey of the body to Bury St. Edmunds.

John Cahill



Great Escapes Crossness Pumping Station

Surely this was most unique "Escape" in the history of the group. The communication trail which instigated this visit to Crossness dating back to 12th November 2019 with re-arrangements reaching 'Plan D'. 'A' and 'B' succumbed to 2020 Covid restrictions 'C' (ended on 4th October) Crossness in error had doubled booked Channel 4 filming on site. Then came a "Silver Lining", all our costs would be covered by Channel 4 as compensation for the inconvenience.

So at the fourth attempt on Monday 29th November, with much anticipation and relief, the group finally climbed aboard Neals Travel coach and headed off along the M11 and over the Dartford Crossing to Abbey Wood. Despite being bitterly cold it proved to be a most educational, informative and interesting day I never thought a day amongst the history of the disposal of s**t could or would be so enthralling!!

A time line presentation explained the lead up to the 1858 'Big Stink', building of London's Intercepting Sewer network by Joseph Bazzalgette, 1859-1865, opening and operation of Crossness Pumping Station and subsequent developments for the disposal of London's Sewage culminating in the new 'Thames Tideway' scheme.



Following our buffet lunch we met with our guide for our afternoon tour of the site. We saw the well kitted out Valve House and Fitting Shop, a veritable Aladdin's Cave of numerous Machine Tools and all the necessary ancillary items related to Blacksmith and Engineering Workshops, Engine Houses the Victorian splendor, the four Beam Engines with Royal connotations 'Victoria', 'Prince Consort', 'Albert Edward' and 'Alexandra' each capable of lifting 6 tons, 1,500 imp gallons of sewage per stoke at 11 revolutions per minute. With time available we admired Sanitary Ware exhibits and explore the Boiler House Exhibition Centre.



For once an absolute pleasure to spend a day well and truly not to mention taking the 'Proverbial'!

Alan Alexander

Pre-Christmas Groups Activity

The last Thursday before Christmas saw two u3a groups manage to meet up.

The Cycling Group met at 10am at The Leisure Centre for a pre-Christmas ride. Peter and Hilary Thomas who run the group led the riders out through Haverhill via Camps Road to Nosterfield End, passing many seasonally decorated gardens on the way. Taking the road to Castle Camps the riders felt the full force

of the damp wind and welcomed the protection of the village high street before heading on toward Helions Bumpstead. Once at the crossroads with Sages End the route climbed Church Hill and turned right into Steeple Bumpstead Road which allowed us to free wheel down into the village. As Peter and Hilary live in Steeple a stop was made at their house to refresh on coffee and mince pies. Seasonally replete the remainder of the group followed the End Way down into Sturmer and back into Haverhill along a muddy disused railway walk.

The Guitar Group met at the East Town Rangers Hut for the last time this year in the afternoon of the same day. David Caulfield who leads the group let the group members decide the playlist and an enjoyable strum and singsong ensued. Christine the head Ranger provided Christmas goodies for the interval. All the guitar group members thanked David for his tuition and leadership skills throughout the year and all looked forward to continuing as soon as is possible.

Ken Hainsby

No loud talking in the library! PLEASE! It is best to whisper!!

A man was looking for a place to sit in a crowded university library. He asked a girl: "Do you mind if I sit beside you?" The girl replied, in a loud voice "NO, I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOU!"

All the people in the library started staring at the man, who was deeply embarrassed and moved to another table.

After a couple of minutes, the girl walked quietly to the man's table and said with a laugh: "I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking; I bet you felt embarrassed, right?"

The man responded in a loud voice: "\$500 FOR ONE NIGHT? I'M NOT PAYING YOU THAT MUCH!"

All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock. The man whispered to her: "I study law, and I know how to screw someone."

Sent in by Richard Evans

Bridge Group

Having re-started face to face bridge in September, after a long period of isolation, it is good to report that attendance has held up well.

This year's Christmas gathering was held on 16th December when we played for the Terry Keogh memorial trophy, which was won by David Green.



Unless Government Covid policy prevents us, we will take all sensible precautions and continue to play in 2022. I wish all members a happy and safe New Year

David Jefferies

Luncheon Group

40 members of the Luncheon Groups got together for our Christmas Luncheon held at the Haverhill Bowls Club. How lovely it was to get back together again after the lockdown. We received a warm welcome from Debbie and her team and an excellent three course luncheon was served. What a great end to a most difficult year when we could all see each other again and have a good old chat.

Aldine and Sandra

Singing for Pleasure

The Singing Group finished the year with Christmas Carols supported by our new leaders Diane Pannel and Ros Seeley with Jim on the piano. They also welcomed guests from the U3A who came along for support. Little did our guests know they would be asked to join in the fun that our leaders had for us all with the carol "A Partridge in a Pear Tree". This turned out to be so much fun with the group being divided into sections singing different parts of the carol. Even our guests were surprised to be asked to join in. After break was taken for tea and warm mince pies, raffle tickets were obtained with many members winning

prizes. Many thanks to all who helped with the preparations and bringing prizes for the raffle. To finish the meeting a few more carols were sung with great gusto and the meeting closed with our favourite closure. We hope you all enjoyed the songs we sang for you today. Singing for Pleasure is who we are from Haverhill U3A. We continue to welcome any member who would like to join us. Our meeting is the fourth Monday of each month at St Mary's Church Haverhill at 2:00 p.m. Don't forget singing is good for you. Come and join the fun.

Aldine - Admin

Sunday Strollers

Eleven strollers walked a 3 mile circuit from East Town Park on the 9th January. The weather was nice, the company was great and the conversation stimulating. Unfortunately the going underfoot was not so good. We finished the walk without incident and everyone agreed it was good to stretch our legs.

The next walk is at Thurlow, parking by the tennis courts on 13th February. The walk will commence at 10:30am and is approx. 3.5 miles.

David Jefferies

Congratulations

Ken Hainsby, a member of Creative Writing Group 2 has had a story accepted for an anthology of stories for Suffolk Writes E-books which is available on their Overdrive app. The story is entitled "The Door". I am sure we can all remember the short stories Ken wrote for the Lockdown News and Views and we all send our congratulations.

Photo Quiz Answers

Part 1

1. Clock on Jubilee Walk
- 2 Picture ad in Aldi
3. Fire Station
4. Steps outside Tesco
5. Numbers etc. painted on Sturmer Arches
6. Foundation stone on Old Independent Church

7. Boyton Terrace is on The Pightle
8. Hanging baskets outside the Queens Head
9. Royal Exchange pub sign is on the High Street
10. Windows at the Sports Centre
11. Roof at KFC
12. Weathervane at Gurteens/Chantry Mills
13. Windows at the Library
14. Lamp outside Anne of Cleves House
15. Front window in Arts Centre entrance

Part 2

16. Owen the cat (Jubilee Walk)
17. Heazworth House is in Hamlet Road
18. Picture of beach huts in (former) Henderson's window
19. Steps and railings outside Observatory Opticians
20. The Corn Exchange
21. Window and wall at Cineworld
22. Mario's on Hollands Road
23. Coloured houses up Mill Road
24. Sanofi factory (now known as Euro API but formerly Genzyme)
25. Argos (formerly, but now empty. Originally the old Co-op building)
26. Sturmer Hall
27. Sculpture outside the Library
28. Glasswells
29. Nine Jars/Suffolk Hotel
30. Year 1921

Next Meetings: Tuesday 25th January
Tuesday 22nd February

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 15th February

e-mail to havu3agen@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 11th February
Please either e-mail to
havu3anews@gmail.com

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

OR

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