



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

## u3a learn, laugh, live News and Views



April 2022

### From the Chair

Hello to you all

The A.G.M. on 29<sup>th</sup> March went well although not as well attended as the normal monthly meetings. Barbara Cordina and Marilyn Walker from the East of England Regional team joined us and they were very impressed with how friendly our u3a is. You will find photos of the current committee on our website, [haverhillu3a.com](http://haverhillu3a.com), as well as a copy of the minutes.

The current committee is:

Chair – Barbara Lavender

Vice Chair – Peter Tatam

Treasurer – Mark Pollington

Secretary – Gloria Shersby

Membership Secretary – Steve Green

Ass. Membership Sec. – David Campos

Groups Co-ordinator – Peter Tatam

Speaker Secretary – Wendy Foster

Minutes Secretary – Fran Armes

Events' Organiser – Caroline Choat

Publicity – Gerry Sexton

Gerry is working very hard improving and updating the website so please have a look at it and let us have any comments you wish to make.

I am looking forward to working with the committee all of whom I know and am confident we will all be able to work well together to keep Haverhill and District u3a the friendly and successful u3a it has always been.

This year we are celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the u3a movement (see the

report in this edition of News and Views) and I look forward to seeing you there.

I am always happy to see u3a members around town and please do not hesitate to come and speak to me if you wish.

**Take care**

**Barbara Lavender**

### Picnic in The Great Meadow

We are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the u3a by having a "Picnic in the Meadow" on The Great Meadow in Kedington on Saturday, 2 July between 11.30am and 3.30pm.

This is a great opportunity to gather together with family and friends of the "third age", but also to include some members of the "first age" as children are welcome, so long as they are accompanied by adults!

The Haverhill u3a will provide the entertainment throughout, with David Rinaldi's local band "The Rinaldi Express" and barbershop singers known as Reunion Quartet, who have performed both on the national and international stage. There will also be a Grand Raffle, with many lovely prizes to be won!

**All you will need to do....** is bring your own picnic with drinks and we will provide tea, coffee and soft drinks free of charge. You may find it more comfortable to bring your own picnic chairs, tables - and blankets, to make it a more traditional affair! However, some furniture will be available with a couple of marquees as protection against the weather - come rain or sunshine! The Kedington Community

Centre will be a wet weather option if the need arises on the day!

Tickets will be £5.00 each (with accompanied children under 12 free of charge) and will be on sale from Tuesday, 26th April, at our next Haverhill u3a Monthly Meeting or online via the website from 1st May. Further details will be circulated shortly.

My Committee and I look forward to welcoming you all on the day!

**Barbara Lavender - Chair**

### **Speakers corner for March 2022**

Our speaker in March was Jenny Marks who is the National Garden Scheme (NGS) county organiser for Cambridgeshire and is based in Duxford. Jenny's talk entitled '*Beyond the garden gate*' gave us a glimpse behind the aims and history of the NGS and what charities are supported.

It started in 1859 when William Rathbone, a Liverpool merchant, employed Mary Robinson to nurse his wife at home in her final illness. After his wife's death William employed Mary to help people in Liverpool who could not afford a nurse, to have nursing care in their homes. Later, with the help of Florence Nightingale, William developed the service and so the 'District Nursing Service' began. This later developed into the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI). Then, in 1926, a QNI council member and leading socialite, Miss Elsie Wagg came up with the idea of gardens opening to the public for a "shilling a head" which would go towards the District Nursing Service and so the garden scheme really got going with its gardens and home-made cake.

In 1948 the National Health Service was founded, and local authorities took on the home nursing service, but money was still needed for retired nurses and the QNI. In 1980 the NGS became independent of the QNI to fund a range of nursing charities including Macmillan cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson's UK. Other beneficiaries are

charities that promote the physical and mental health benefits of gardens and gardening. In 2021 over £3 million was donated by the NGS to its charities.

Today there are not just single gardens in the scheme but there are 31 allotment gardens, 18 community gardens and 16 hospice gardens and many group village gardens. All the gardens and their opening times are detailed in the NGS guide affectionately known as the '*Yellow Book*' because its cover became yellow in 1949 to symbolise regeneration.

Jenny then went on to give an illustrated talk about many different gardens local to us in Haverhill. To mention but a few:- Clover Cottage in Streetly End, with snowdrops in winter and roses in summer; The music maze and garden in Balsham, which are open by arrangement only.

In Linton there will be seven group gardens, open for the first time on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

In Duxford, group gardens open on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Many other gardens were detailed.

Next month's speaker is a local lady, Amanda Sutherland, who is talking on "My Creative Journey in Fashion". She has had an exciting career journey through film, television and theatrical costume design with an insight into running a successful accessories business. At the end of the presentation the ever-popular gift shop will be open for members to browse the latest collections of Amanda's handmade accessories with the opportunity to buy a range of fabric jewellery and eco-accessories at a members group discount. 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.

*Once again my thanks to Fran Armes for this article as I could not be there, I hope to be back for the April meeting.*

**Wendy Foster**

## Walking Talking Munching

18 members of the WTM group met in wonderful early spring sunshine for a walk on and around the disused railway lines of Haverhill.

Heading off from The Baltic Amber car park, the group wound down the Bumstead Road to pick up the Old Railway line of Haverhill South Station and then cross the junction bridge known to all as Sturmer Arches. Built to connect the Great Eastern line which included Haverhill North Station to that of the Colne Valley and Halstead Rail network. Continuing on in an Easterly direction the group did a circuit of The East Town Park following the nature trail and passing the site of Coupals House formally a home to a member of the Gurteen family before being rebuilt following a fire in the 90's. Following the Stour Brook to rejoin the railway line crossing Chalkstone Way the group then walked up Meeting Walk and Colne Valley Road to join the railway line once again and return to the Baltic Amber for a fine lunch.

**Ken Hainsby**



## Strollers at Beachy Head

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 14 Strollers gathered at the bus station for the coach journey to Eastbourne for a long weekend break.

We stayed at the East Beach Hotel, where Sarah and her team made us most welcome. There was entertainment on each of the 3 evenings, so we were up dancing and drinking and making merry.



A visit to Hastings on the promenade and the quaint old town and then onto Battle, where there was a lack of information about the battle because the museum of local history was closed.

At Sunday's visit to Lewes, we strolled down the steep twitten of Keere Street which led to Anne of Cleves House and then through the Southover Grange gardens. Onto Alfriston, a pretty village, which is home to the Alfriston Clergy House, the first property bought by the National Trust.

We stopped off at Beachy Head on the South Downs on the way back. With non-stop sunshine we were certainly blessed.



**Peter Cundall**

## Guitar Group

'Forever Young' the name of the U3A Guitar Group met as they usually do at East Town Park on a Thursday but this time it was for something special. David Caulfield who runs the group had arranged for Richard Young, a musician and recording technician, to come along and record and produce the group playing and singing three numbers. 'Prettiest Thing' sung by John McGhee was recorded first and fed into the earphones of the guitarists who could then lay down their sections. This was repeated for 'San Francisco Blues' sung by John Lupton and 'Sloop John B' sung by John Elliot.

The other members, David Caulfield, John Cahill, Neil Piper, John Steff and Ken Hainsby provided chorus and harmonies. Richard Young pointed out that the equipment which was being used and laid out upon one table was more versatile than the Beatles had had at Abbey Road, a sign of the advances made in recording techniques. It is hoped that the finished recording will be able to be viewed via You Tube and a CD made available. In keeping with the rock n roll spirit plenty of drugs were taken, all prescribed by doctors on prescription of course.



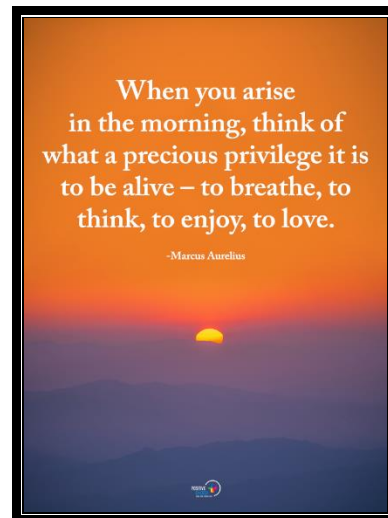
## Ken Hainsby

### Sunday Strollers

Fourteen Strollers set off from Ousden Village hall on Sunday 10th. We walked a circular route of 3.5 miles via Lidgate and Bury Lane, The weather was good, the scenery was good and the company was excellent.

The next walk is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May at Weston Green and is 3.5 miles.

### David Jefferies



Next Meetings: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
e-mail  
[tohavu3agen@gmail.com](mailto:tohavu3agen@gmail.com)

Deadline for next edition: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Please either post to:  
The Editor U3A  
c/o Haverhill Arts Centre  
High Street  
Haverhill CB9 8AR  
OR  
e-mail to [havu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:havu3anews@gmail.com)  
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