



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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laugh,  
live

## News and Views

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### Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year

June 2024

#### From the Chair

The Picnic to celebrate our 30th Anniversary is getting very near and I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Tickets for the picnic will be available at the next Speaker meeting on Tuesday 25th June but please note that this meeting will **NOT be at the Arts Centre but at the Old Independent Church in Hamlet Road**. We had a couple of meetings there last year so I am sure you will remember that it is only a few minutes' walk from the Arts Centre.

I would like to thank all the members who sent me very complimentary emails regarding the 30th Anniversary Booklet. I would also like to extend my thanks to everyone who contributed either with an article or in the design and layout of it.



Last month I mentioned that the rhododendrons were showing buds but unfortunately they are over so my photo this month is one I took at Oxborough Hall which I visited in the last week of May.

**Barbara Lavender**

#### Speaker's Corner

On the 28th May we were pleased to welcome to the Arts Centre, Alex Mair who presented his talk "Forensic crime scene search". Whilst Alex lives reasonably locally now, his career was as a Metropolitan Police Officer latterly working as a police search advisor with his team "Viking" tackling various crimes which included the sad murder of 12 year old Tia Sharp (her body was found in a loft – killed by her grandmother's boyfriend).

In 2005, four bombers with rucksacks full of explosives attacked central London, killing 52 people and injuring hundreds more. The bombers were seen on CCTV dumping various items around London and Alex's team were tasked with seven weeks of digging into mountains of rubbish in the August heat until they found the rucksack tying them into the bombings.

We learned about improvised explosive devices and how it's not exactly as you see on Silent Witness.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th June when Charmian Thompson will be giving a talk entitled "A Poor Start in Life" which is the tale of two brothers brought up as orphans in Risbridge Workhouse and their lives thereafter.

**PLEASE NOTE:** As the Arts Centre cannot accommodate us on the 25<sup>th</sup> June due to maintenance work, we shall be at the **Old Independent Church** in Hamlet Road – usual time - doors open 10.00 for 10.30 start. Unfortunately, we will be unable to provide hot beverages in the church.

**Sue Dickinson**

### **Walking Talking Munching**

In stark contrast to last month's wet and cold outing, the May walk was completed in warm sunny conditions. Meeting at The Bull, Borough Green, group members pre-ordered their lunch requirements and set out under the direction of group leaders David and Jean Boxall.

Crossing the Newmarket Road, the group emerged on to a path running parallel to large fields of maize shoots, which were just emerging from the rich soil. Vast open vistas of unspoilt countryside in every shade of green was pleasing on the eye, but like H.G.Wells Martian Machines, the wind turbines in the distance looked both sinister and threatening.

Emerging out of a shaded pathway the group entered the village of Brinkley. Famous for no more than inviting anyone with the surname Brinkley to the village fete, it was however very picturesque. Crossing the road and, once again, taking a footpath out into the countryside many large birds of prey were evident in the sky. Their wheeling and gliding, whilst observing all below, was to be admired and a small rodent was spotted diving for cover in some haste.

The interestingly named Westerly Waterless was the stopping point for a group picture and discussion on the name of the village. Research shows it was recorded as Westle Waterles in the Doms Day Book, and means a Western Wood with Wet Clearings.



Another pleasant shaded track led the group back into Borough Green and a well deserved drink and lunch.

***Ken Hainsby***

### **Patchwork & Quilting Group**

Our latest project departed from the usual quilts when we all made bags. A beautiful variety of fabrics and colours showcasing the talent of our ladies.



***Janet Berriman***

### **Nature Group**

In May, Ellie and Humphry Mills welcomed us to their Walnut Farm with tea and cake in their wood. Ellie and Humphry had previously been sheep farmers in Norfolk. A number of years ago they came to Suffolk with their sheep but found arable farming was more suitable to the land here.

They have embraced regenerative farming as a way of improving the soil and being more sustainable. In regenerative farming soil disturbance is minimised, living roots are maintained with their mycorrhizal connections and the soil surface is protected by always being covered with living plants. There is rotation of crops and diversity of crops so that nutrition for plants is maintained without the need for artificial fertilisers.

In addition, careful use of livestock is used. The use of chemicals on Walnut Farm is reduced by growing herbal leys in the field margins and by undersowing wheat crops with clover which reduces

weeds and fertilises the soil. They don't plough the soil, (for ploughing releases carbon into the atmosphere) they just leave the stubble of the wheat crop and drill the next crop into it.

They have a small herd of cattle which encourage beneficial insects and provides nutrients to the soil.

Their small wood has been neglected in the past, but they are now starting to coppice to encourage healthier trees and a wider variety of undergrowth.

As a bonus this form of farming encourages a wide diversity of flora and fauna - more birds and insects and small mammals.

***Fran Armes***

### **Sudbury Artist**

#### **John Aloysius Rimmer 1888-1968**

Before lockdown I was volunteering in a care home in Sudbury as a befriender. During my time there I met some lovely people, one in particular was a gentleman called Colin. On the days that I volunteered, my time was spent going into the residents' rooms and talking to them and helping them in any way that I could. When going into Colin's room we would talk about different subjects such as art, where he was born, football and various other subjects.

One day whilst talking to Colin we got onto the subject of art and he then started to tell me a fascinating story about his father who was an artist in Sudbury. His father was born in Wallasey, Cheshire, in 1888 and when old enough attended Liverpool School of Art. He left Liverpool for London and the way that he travelled was surprising because he walked all the way. He stopped at various pubs during his journey for food and drink and the way he paid for lodgings was by drawing a picture and giving it to the host. It took him two weeks to arrive in London where he found employment at the Central School of Art.



He moved to Sudbury and in 1922 started to exhibit his work in various shops around the town. He met and married his wife, Dorothy, in 1934 and lived in Sudbury until he died in 1968. John was often seen riding around town on his bike and was said to have been a bit of an eccentric.

I was told by Colin that as a boy he used to visit his dad's studio and do a bit of painting himself. Sadly, lockdown arrived and I had to stop volunteering at the home and during this time Colin passed away so our little chats came to an end.

***Brian Sullivan***

**Another short quiz for you. Answers are on the last page.**

**All answers are London tube and overground stations.**

1. Ancient Highway
2. Poor team got found in this street
3. Envious field
4. Cheesy Street
5. A Lord is apprehended
6. She is small and sweet
7. Slaughter Hot
8. There's a load of rabbits on this road
9. One of the games in I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue
10. Stuck Road

## Wild Walkers

The Wild Walkers group set off from Hundon on their May walk lead by Tim Dowling.

We were blessed with a perfect day for walking but a few less hardy members (me included) still donned gaiters and jackets in case there was a reoccurrence of the recent inclement weather.

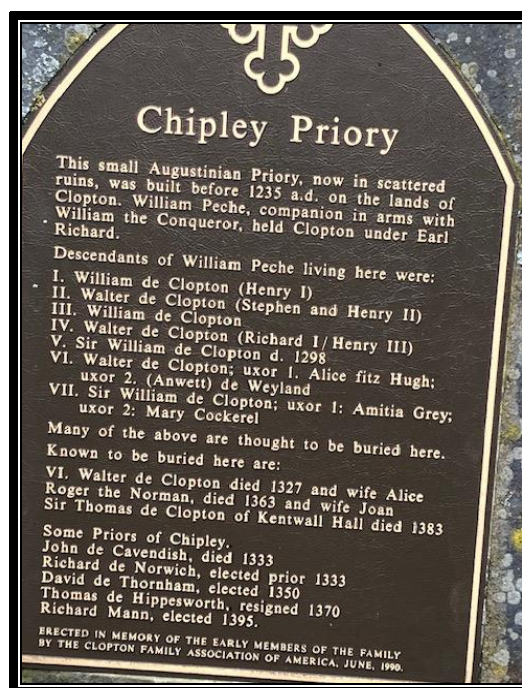
Along field edges and paths that were lush with new growth we ascended hills and had wonderful views of the Suffolk countryside.

Tim had told our group of 14 walkers that the route would be heading to Poslingford and back to Hundon, approximately 6 miles.

As we walked nearer to Poslingford we came upon a memorial stone depicting the site of Chipley Priory and Tim gave us a talk about the history of the area.

Here is some information I retrieved from the internet regarding the site and a photo of the stone:

*'In the early 1100s there was a great push by the Catholic Church to establish places of worship in England. The great Norman Lords of England demonstrated their piety and devotion by erecting cathedrals, monasteries and priories. The earliest surviving documented building connected to the ancient Cloptons is found at the ruins of Chipley Priory, located on land granted to the Cloptons. The exact date of the foundation of the priory is not known however the earliest records pertaining to it are to the year 1235. It seems likely that the priory was built much earlier as the stones have come from Caen, Normandy. A large part of the original structure, and probably the adjoining church, seems to have been incorporated into the farmhouse, which now occupies the site of the priory.'*



*The owners of the house, which is known as Clopton Hall, once discovered numerous human bones when digging a new garden beside their farmhouse. They re-interred the bones in the garden. They also discovered a chapel bell and a stone sarcophagus, which have been placed in Poslingford Church'.*

Further on and through a muddy patch (which seems inevitable these days) our group had a "slurp stop" while taking advantage of some handy large diameter blue water pipes, just the right height for weary walkers. The pipes are part of Anglian Water's works to instal water pipes between Hundon and Great Wratting to secure future water supplies, this is all part of Anglian Water Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA).

While sitting we could take in the beautiful view towards Hundon and in the foreground the "tree but not a tree" (mobile communications mast).



Our walk concluded with an enjoyable lunch at the Rose and Crown which was promptly served by the landlady and landlord.

Many thanks to Tim (and Anna who liaised with the pub for our menu choices) for an enjoyable walk.

**Jill Smith**

### **u3a Art Appreciation**

#### **This article is connected to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet**

Ted Capell started this group about 20 years ago and, with his wife Paddy, ran it very successfully in his home until, sadly, he died. In those less-techy days we relied on art books, photos, postcards and cuttings from newspapers and magazines for our source material.

So it was a bit of a culture shock when Sue Berridge kindly took us on and introduced us to her smart television where, for the first time, we could all see the same thing at the same time.

Then, when Sue moved away, Neil Dickinson took over and now hosts our meetings with the support of his wife, Sue, and their even bigger and smarter television.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month to look at and discuss art in all its forms. The format varies – we might look at work by one artist, or art from a particular country or era, medium or theme (work, travel, nature etc). And no pressure – we're not experts, we're out to learn not to impress!

Following the last Open Day, and with the support of Peter Tatam, we'd gathered enough of a waiting list to be able to start

a second group, Art Appreciation 2, kindly hosted by Nicola Randall, which met for the first time in January 2024.

The two groups will operate separately but look forward to joining forces for outings to galleries and exhibitions. And perhaps the next anniversary booklet will be reporting on Art Appreciation 3 – watch this space!

**Pat Worthington**

### **Cycling Group**

With a break in the recent inclement weather, the Cycling Group reconvened at the Sports Centre for hopefully the first of the June rides.

With group leaders Peter and Hilary Thomas back in the saddle after their Eastern European adventure, the decision was taken to head for Helions Bumpstead. A climb up and through the industrial estate, reminded all of their working days in the town, and that happily they were a thing of the past for them now.

With the Steeple Bumpstead Road closed, the Helions Road was busier than usual, making side by side chatter a difficulty. The hedgerow's having been left uncut, either mistakenly or on purpose, provided us with a delight of wild flowers. Wordsworth wrote famously of the daffodil, but it was a smaller, more reticent yellow flower

that truly captured his poetic heart: "There is a flower that shall be mine, 'Tis the little Celandine."

This small yellow flower was a delight along with the

common Daisy, but it was only the Bee Orchid that could make the riders stop and admire it.



Through Helions, the riders headed for Nosterfield End, before turning in the direction of Haverhill and Camps Road.

Crossing the Recreation Ground there was a chance to see the Circus tents erected there, and memories of childhood visits to similar attractions became the topic of conversation, which continued when all were enjoying a coffee in Subway.

***Ken Hainsby***

**And here are the answers to the quiz,  
how did you get on?**

1. Old Street
2. Tottenham Court Road
3. Green Park
4. Gloucester Road
5. Barons Court
6. Angel
7. Kilburn
8. Warren Street
9. Mornington Crescent
10. Bond Street

***Mick Smith***

Next Meetings: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
**at the  
Old Independent Church,  
Hamlet Road**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

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