



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

## News and Views

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HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

### March 2024 Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year

#### From the Chair March 2024

I think you are all aware that winter is not my favorite time of year, but I know spring is here from this photograph I took at Anglesey Abbey two weeks ago.

As I am sure you all know, the A.G.M. will take place prior to the speaker at the meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. You will have all received copies of the Agenda, Accounts, Treasurer's report, a report from the Chair and the Minutes of the 2023 A.G.M. either by email or letter.



The committee are all prepared to stand for another year and with your vote the committee will be:

Chair	Barbara Lavender
Vice Chair	Peter Tatam
Treasurer	Mark Pollington
Secretary	Gloria Shersby
Membership Secretary	David Campos
Speaker Secretary	Sue Dickinson
Minutes Secretary	Mick Smith
Groups Co-ordinator	Alan Smith
Events Co-ordinator	Sue Dickenson
Assistant Events Co-ordinator	Caroline Choat
Publicity and Website	Gerry Sexton

Don't forget to purchase or collect your tickets for the Picnic on June 29<sup>th</sup> from Caroline in the bar area.

I look forward to seeing you on the 28<sup>th</sup> and I am sure we will all enjoy the talk by the Hearing Ambassador.

**Barbara Lavender**

#### Speaker's Corner

It was lovely to see so many people in the Arts Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> February when Neil Hanson gave a very entertaining talk about his time as the landlord of the highest Inn in England – The Inn at the Top.

As a courageous newly married couple, Neil and his wife took on a ramshackle pub in the Yorkshire Dales with mostly farmers as his clientele. Do you remember that Ted Moulst Everest Double Glazing advert where he's in a pub high up with the wind blowing? Well, that was Neil's idea to get Everest interested in installing free windows which he desperately needed. We were told about the filming and shown the advert – and some YouTube footage of the day that Neil and his belongings (in four sheep trailers) drove through the bleak landscape moving in.

Next month a representative from the Hearing Ambassadors will be giving a talk entitled "Hear Here". The aim of the Hearing Ambassadors is to help people with good hearing become aware of the unseen effects of hearing loss so that they understand what it is like and know how to relate to those living with hearing loss. They encourage people to look after their own hearing health and not to take their hearing for granted.

The committee made the decision to no longer provide feedback forms at the Open Meetings. Following a year of monitoring, we found that over 96% reported Excellent/Good and for our bit to save the planet we decided not to print these pieces of paper. If you would like to let us know your comments (good or bad) please email me on

[speakersecretary@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:speakersecretary@haverhillu3a.com)

or speak to me or another committee member at the meetings. As we are now booking 2025 speakers, if you would like to put a name/organisation forward as a recommendation, please email me at the same address.

**Sue Dickinson**

### **The Cycling Group - By Ken Hainsby**

The weather finally allowed the cycling group to meet for what was their first ride of the year. Because of the recent heavy rain, we decided to avoid off-road tracks. To this end, group leader Peter Thomas led the riders to Hamlet Road and up to cross what was Haverhill South's old railway line to emerge at the back of the Industrial Estate.

Riding across Hollands Road into Rookwood Way and down Piperell Way, passing the large Solar Farm that has been erected on land nearby. Moonhall Lane led the group to the roundabout on the bypass which led via Copy Hill into Helions Bumpstead.

At the crossroads of Sages End, Water Lane and Camps Lane the latter was chosen.

The sun made a brief appearance to offer meagre warmth against the sharp wind. Forsythia, Cherry Blossom, and Hazel catkins were defying winter's hold on the countryside, and lifted the riders' spirits as they turned into Castle Camps High Street. On the road out of Camps the group experienced both type of motorist; those that waited patiently for a safe chance to pass, and those who for whatever reason felt the need to pass at any cost.

The ride back into Haverhill down Camps Road was a fast-freewheeling experience before dissecting The Recreation Ground to head toward Duddery Hill, Eden Road and back to Base.



One of the joys of belonging to any of the u3a groups is the interesting and enjoyable conversation between members. After each ride the group have a coffee together and a great many topics are covered in the time it takes to drink and digest the obligatory cookie.

**Peter Thomas Group Leader**

### **History Group**

The History Group is one of the oldest and largest groups in Haverhill u3a as we regularly have over twenty members attending our meetings. Each month a member presents a talk on a subject that interests them, sometimes with slides. It is amazing the variety of talks we enjoy!

Twice a year the members can present ten-minute talks if they wish to. We started these a few years ago and they are extremely popular with members. It gives members who are not confident enough to give a longer talk the chance to try presenting in a smaller way and it often leads to them producing a full length talk later.

We enjoy at least two outside trips each year, with the Sudbury Talbot Trail being visited in 2023, which included the chance to see the mummified skull of Bishop Simon of Sudbury as a gory treat!



If you have an interest in history, then you are welcome to visit us on the first Friday of the month between 10.00 and 12.00. You can be sure of a warm welcome and the chance to learn something you probably did not know previously. Isn't that what being an u3a member is all about?

**Peter Tatam Group Leader**

## THE SECRET GROUP IN OUR U3A?

Has Haverhill U3A been unknowingly hosting a secret group of members?

That is a question being asked by an undercover agent who has partially infiltrated the group.

It appears that membership is by invitation only, and subject to members not revealing their membership or its existence. For this reason, it has not got a name, does not use Beacon, is not present on our website, does not publish health and safety assessments, and does not return any monies to the treasurer.

The size of the group is unknown, and its activities are secret, although the infiltrator has learned of some of the recent unsuccessful past activities.

The pickled egg and a pint-consuming contest was abandoned after the pub limited its pensioner reduction to only the first pint and egg, and competitors refused to pay full price for subsequent rounds.

A tiddly-wink contest for the fewest flips to traverse the length of Kitten Close was being hotly contested when the mechanical road sweeper came round the corner and consumed the four leading winks.

Entries are currently being taken for its next contest, pole vaulting Stour Brook in East Town Park at midnight; date unknown. It is also not known whether any member of this group will be standing for a committee post at our AGM.

The undercover agent has secretly passed these details to two independent researchers, Mr. A.P. Rhyll and his colleague F.Owls (neither of whom are members of our u3a) who kindly revealed this unconfirmed information to me.

**Kenneth J.** (Full name withheld for fear of reprisals)

## Sunday Strollers

On a very wet Mothers' Day six hardy strollers turned up for the walk at Linton, and after a short discussion agreed we would give this one a miss.

Our next walk will be from the Reading Rooms car park in Weston Green on 14th April at 10-30am. 3.5 miles.

**David Jefferies Group Leader**

## PICNIC IN THE MEADOW Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024



To celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Haverhill & District u3a, we are organising a Picnic in the Meadow for our Members and their friends:

Date – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Venue – Kedington Community Centre  
Gates open 11.00 a.m.

Mayoral welcome 11.3 a.m.

Entertainment starts 11.45 to 15.45

Entertainment throughout the day:

### **Angie Rowland-Green (Singer)**

From singing at a wedding in Granada Cathedral, to a lockdown rooftop concert to Haverhill & District u3a

**back by popular demand**

### **The Haverhill Youth & Community Band**

With a membership of around 30 brass and percussion players, these young musicians have enthusiasm for playing to maintain the long tradition and high standard of brass playing in Haverhill.

### **The Green Dragon Morris Dancers**

Formed in 1993 with a view to creating a mixed group of men and women dancers with a different style to the other established West Suffolk sides.

**Ticket price - £5**

**Friends welcome!**



(Please present your ticket on arrival)

Tickets can be purchased at the Arts Centre on the last Tuesday in each month at the Open Meeting (in the Bar) or online (details to follow).

### **Grand Raffle**

Including cash prizes/hamper/tokens etc. Tickets can only be purchased on the day.

**Free beverages. Bring your own picnic Events Committee**

### **Patchwork and Quilting group**

Our ladies have done it again! This time there are 24 baby quilts going to West Suffolk Hospital Neonatal Unit. Thank you ladies for all your hard work.



**Janet Berriman**

### **London Originals**

For our February outing we visited the picturesque grounds of Chippenham Park Gardens near Newmarket.

The estate was created in the 17th century, with permission given by King William III to Admiral Russell, later Lord Orford and First Lord of the Admiralty.

He planted large avenues in the park to illustrate the battle formations of La Hogue, his famous navel victory over the French. A mansion house also features within the estate. It is steeped in history and has passed through many owners through the centuries.

On arrival we headed to the cafe for a warming cup of coffee and indulgent snack before setting off to explore the gardens. Our priority was to see the Snowdrop walks in the woods. We admired them in abundance as swathes of snowdrops and

winter flowers could be seen as far as the eye could see.



We walked throughout the grounds and crossed bridges over the waterways that led into a lake. So much to see. A summer visit is recommended as well.

Then off to the splendid La Hogue Farm shop and restaurant; excellent home-made lunches and cakes like no other!

A great day enjoyed by us all.

**Maureen Shipp\Sandra Culling**

### **Important dates for your Diary**

Our next Open Meetings

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

A.G.M. and Talk Hear Hear

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

Mercy Ships – Hospital ships which sail the world

Deadline for the Rolling Screen

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

e-mail to: [chair@haverhillu3a.com](mailto:chair@haverhillu3a.com)

Deadline for next edition

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Please either post to:

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