



# HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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

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HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

May 2023

## From the Chair

Our speaker last month Ben Ashenden spoke about will trusts and powers of attorney and offered free individual advice. Please consider his advice carefully as there is no such thing as “a free lunch”.

I recently attended a charity concert organized by David Caulfield, the u3a guitar group leader, in aid of Reach. Reach is a Haverhill charity whose aim is to provide practical help and support to people in need. The concert was very well attended and very enjoyable.

I hope you all enjoyed your Coronation celebrations as much as I did.

**Barbara Lavender**

## Speakers Corner

On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Ben Ashenden from BPA Associates spoke to our members at the Arts Centre on the subject of powers of attorney and will trusts. The talk gave “food for thought” on one’s tax affairs, the cost of care and inheritance. In true BBC fashion of being unbiased, other sources of accurate advice on these specialized subjects are available from your legal professionals locally on the subjects of making a will, updating wills, tax planning, trusts and powers of attorney.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May when a volunteer will be coming along and speaking about “Medical Detection Dogs & Medical Alert Assistance Dogs”. Doors open 10.00 a.m.

**Sue Dickinson - Speaker Secretary**

## Walking Talking Munching

Twelve group members met at Steeple Bumpstead on a lovely spring day for their monthly walk. Heading off across the playing field and entering the churchyard of St Mary's where the Norman tower of the church, minus it's Steeple, displayed some fine Tudor brickwork. The church porch is 14th century, beaten only in age by an 8th century bronze boss, once on the chancel door but now in the British Museum.

Heading across the Walden Road and uphill past the new Poppy Fields housing complex, the group got panoramic views over the village and beyond. The trill of a Skylark ascending captivated everyone and lifted all but the hardest of hearts. Skirting large fields of broad beans and wheat in their early growth the happy wanderers entered Garlands Farm where the last of the daffodils still managed to please the eye. The farm is picture book and besides the lovely farmhouse and small lake the planting and landscaping is perfect.



On the way back into the village the small disappointment of not seeing the llama's and rhea in their usual field was offset by

encountering a Turkey and Peacock in the farm's enclosure.

Before returning to base and lunch at the renovated Fox and Hounds the group admired the 16th century Moot Hall, the earliest known school in the village and still in use for other activities to this day. A good lunch was had by all in the welcoming Fox and Hounds.

**Ken Hainsby**

### **Book Club Three**

Kate Mosse was appearing at The Apex in Bury St. Edmunds in April. Our book club had read several of her books, so some of us decided to listen to her talk on "Warrior Queens and Quiet Revolutionaries". The subject was, in fact, the title of her new book, which she was promoting. She arrived on stage, a slight figure wearing huge platform boots, to an enthusiastic reception. Kate spoke for an hour, without any notes, just some artefacts as aide-memoires and a screen illustration. Her theme was of remarkable women who had been erased from, or forgotten about, in history. Throughout her entertaining talk, she interspersed it with her own family story. The second half, "The Quiet Revolutionaries", was equally fascinating, and, again, she spoke without "repetition, hesitation or deviation". After sustained applause at the end of her talk, she signed many copies of her book.

Unsurprisingly, our book club choice was a Kate Mosse one, "The City Of Tears," the second in a trilogy. This book centres on the Joubert/Reydon family, and, in particular, Minou, wife of Piet, and mother of Marta, who, at the beginning of the book, live in a chateau in rural France. After witnessing the marriage of Henri of Navarre to Marguerite in Paris, the family was trapped in the St. Bartholomew's Massacre of the Huguenots by the

Catholics. The family had to flee Paris to become refugees in Amsterdam. This beautifully-written, absorbing book is full of intrigue, violence, despair and romance.

**Sue Lindop**

### **Art Appreciation Group**

Our theme for the month was "Carnival" and the group looked at examples of paintings, many relating to Caribbean derived perceptions of what carnival involves, such as recent works of eye-popping colour and form created by Florida retiree and former New York policeman Weldon Ryan or by the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century Haitian artist Wilson Bigaud and how his work was influenced and encouraged before the despotic Duvalier regime plunged the country into chaos. However, whilst appearing initially to look something like a Caribbean carnival, "The Procession" is a stunning installation by contemporary sculptor Hew Locke that was commissioned by, and on display at, Tate Britain last year and which is now on display at the Baltic Centre in Newcastle until June.



There is perhaps some irony in that the Tate Gallery was established for art by sugar magnate Henry Tate as there are visual connections with colonial enterprise, for instance flags and other fabrics used based on original share certificate designs. A little nearer to home, a favourite painting held by the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge is the "Village Festival" by Pieter Brueghel the younger, dated 1632 in which a serious procession to the village church in honour of two saints is clearly an excuse for many of the villagers to let their hair down. The painting contains numerous entertaining and bawdy scenes. A work of art that repays many repeated viewings.

The group will no doubt explore this theme further.



**Neil Dickinson**

### The final set of underground stations for you to identify

1. Tea Party's establishment.
2. Wide road in an overpopulated village.
3. Her Majesty owns this road.
4. Evil Monks.
5. Do something about this conurbation!
6. Pretty good chop!
7. Constructed of beer.
8. Load up enough.
9. Pure coloured Church.
10. Bird's field way.

**Mick Smith**

### London Originals

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the London Originals Group took their long-awaited trip to see the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden near Biggleswade. Our original trip was aborted because it turned out to be the hottest day of last year. The trip was rescheduled for March this year but a couple of members fell foul of Covid. The people at Shuttleworth were very understanding and helpful allowing us to move the visit again. I am pleased to say it was well worth the wait.

A beautiful sunny day greeted us on our journey. Shuttleworth has something for everyone. 5 hangars of planes, cars, motor bikes, coaches and other machinery dating back to WW1. On certain days of the year, some air displays are held in which some of the vintage planes can be seen flying.

If that is not your scene, then there is the Swiss Garden and Lakeside Parkland to explore with various trails, a couple of peacocks and other features to look at and explore on the way.



Some of the members were lucky enough to have a short trip on the White Rose Motor Bus



Unbeknown to us, our visit coincided with a 'flying day' where pilots were topping up their flying hours, so there were planes on the field and in the sky with lots of pilots in their flying suits and 'Biggles' flying helmets having lunch in the restaurant.

A very enjoyable visit after such a long wait.

**John Cahill**

### Nature Group Field Trip

Blessed with reasonable weather, about a dozen of the group visited Bradfield Woods and then Mickfield Meadow; both Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserves. Enlightened by Assistant Warden Cormac Adlard, we learned Bradfield Woods has, dating from 1252, the oldest written records of woodland usage in Britain and we were shown a great deal including areas that had been coppiced this last, and in previous winters for comparison. To prevent deer from eating and killing or stunting the new growth, "dead hedges" have been made from waste brushwood, with metal gates to



allow us into the coppiced stands. The spring flowers were delightful, from bluebells and violets through less common species like Water Avens and Early Purple Orchid, to the much scarcer - and stranger - Herb Paris. From the edge of the wood, we spotted a group of six hares in a field whilst in the wood we saw a lovely fresh Speckled Wood butterfly. The light and airy coppiced areas and rides will boast much rarer and stunning butterflies in the summer. We must return! Some of us then ventured farther onto Mickfield Meadow, Suffolk's oldest (1923) nature reserve, and what an absolute delight of a place we found. In this square, damp 5-acre field that has never seen plough or fertiliser, we beheld hundreds of scarce Snake's Head Fritillaries, their papery, tulip-like deep reddish-purple chequered flowers pointing downwards as if too shy to look upwards.



No photograph could really capture the enchanting delicacy of the scene, which was complemented by pale pink Cuckoo Flowers and bright yellow Cowslips and Goldilocks buttercups. Although these oases of peace and beauty underline how our natural world has been abused and marginalised, it had been an uplifting day, and in good company too.

**Neil Dickinson**

### **Cycling Group**

An octet of riders turned out for the first of the May rides in an assortment of brightly coloured lycra befitting of the pageantry of the Coronation. Fittingly, the colourful procession proceeded in the direction of Clare Country Park; the aim being to step back in time at the Platform One Cafe.

The trip there on the familiar route of Sturmer, Wixoe, Stoke by Clare was a joy, as blue bells and cowslips fought for dominance in the wooded shade. The juxtaposition of their colours was a constant reminder of the Ukrainian national flag and the trials and tribulations of its people.

Platform One is always a welcoming rest stop and a fitting one for the Royal weekend as it's themed interior would have been de rigueur at the time of the Coronation of the late Queen.

By the time the group had made its way back to Haverhill 16 miles had been completed and a good many calories shed.

**Ken Hainsby**

### **Concert May 2<sup>ND</sup> – Singing For Pleasure**

The Singing for Pleasure Group were once more invited by the Women's Fellow of St Mary's Church to give a concert at their Tuesday meeting. As always we were delighted to perform. The program included songs from some film and theatre shows including Oom-Pah-Pah from Oliver and from Mary Poppins, Chim Chim Cherie. For the last song our leaders invited the audience to join in, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", which was great fun. The group finished with our end of programme song Haverhill U3A which was sung with great gusto. A vote of thanks was given by the Chairman of the Women's group who was for many years a member of the u3a theatre group "The Cheerups" run by Les Wood,

This was followed by tea, cake and biscuits and a raffle. The raffle was well supported and the funds raised was donated to the charity REACH.

The Singing For Pleasure Group continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall at 2:00 p.m. Anyone is still able to join – don't forget SINGING is good for you! Look forward to seeing you!

**Aldine Horrigan - Admin**

## Sunday Strollers

Twelve members enjoyed a pleasant 3.25 mile walk at Hundon, along Steeple Chase and Cock Lane before returning to our cars at the village hall.

Our next walk will be led by David Green. It starts at Balsham Village Hall car park at 10.30am on Sunday 11th June. The walk will be approximately 3.5 miles.

The hall is known as the Church Institute and is close by the church, post code CB21 4DS

**David Jefferies**

## Walking Talking Munching

A dozen members gathered at the Old Red Lion, Horseheath, for their May walk. Led by Brian and Helen Fernihough the group wandered down the main road and stopped at the village sign on which is depicted the Derby winner of 1834 'Plenipotentiary' which was trained at Horseheath Lodge. There are two crowns above the sign, one being of Elizabeth the First who visited in 1578 and the other of George the Fifth who came to the village in 1912.

The route then took one of the many footpaths out of the village and emerged on surprisingly high ground. The Linton wind farm and water tower were clearly visible on the horizon. We passed through Streetly End with its many thatched houses. The variety of animals atop the thatch were noted, put there to deter birds, who love the straw for nests and in olden times to ward off evil spirits. Although a more likely explanation is that like stone masons who leave their mark on their work, thatchers do the same.

Traversing a section of the Roman Road that skirts the village and crossing open land again, the site of what was once Horseheath Hall was pointed out. The original Hall was home to the Alington family and guests included Elizabeth the First. A vast renovation took place in 1664

which included 300 hundred new windows the Hall was demolished in the 1700s and a lot of the bricks were used in the foundations of a new house, Horseheath Lodge, now home to Sir Arthur Marshall.



The history lesson over, the group returned to the village and wandered into the churchyard of All Saints before returning to the Old Red Lion for a super lunch.

**Ken Hainsby**

## London Originals

On Tuesday 16th May the London Originals had an amazing day out to Titchmarsh Marina in Walton on the Naze to see the seals. 10 members and our driver, Keith, left East Town Park in the mini bus on a beautiful sunny morning. It was an early start due to the tides and we arrived at the marina at 10.00 am.



Tony, our skipper for the two hour trip, had a wealth of information on the

wildlife and the seals in the backwaters of the area. We saw many Common and Atlantic grey seals with one putting on a show of porpoising for us alongside our boat! Some of the seals were heavily pregnant and expecting their pups in a few weeks' time.



Afterwards we all enjoyed a delicious lunch in a Grade 2 listed restaurant, The Ship in Kirby Le Soken. This was followed by tea and cakes in the sunshine at the Mill Race Garden Centre. We all agreed it was a great memorable day out.

**Linda Steff**

### **Cycling Group**

D'Thomas and the three muskateers , Portly, Amis and Thermos met at the Centre Sportif for the second of the May rides.

The first of the challenges to present themselves to our bold heroes was none other than Richie Lieu mounted upon a one wheeled electric uni cycle. The intrepid foursome engaged with the interloper, causing him to flee in fear of being unseated. Our gallant heroes

continued on to Withers Field, combating four wheeled foes at every turn. Pausing for refreshment from their flagons the adventurers turned their steeds to the South East and descended at pace into the treacherous territory of Ketton. It was here that our heroes confronted their biggest tribulation when an armoured steed of monstrous proportions threatened to unseat them all. D'Thomas showed his mettle and single-handedly secured the safety of his comrades. 'All for one and one for all' came the cry as the gallant riders returned to the safety of Haver on the Hill.

**Ken Hainsby**

### **Quiz Answers**

1. **Boston Manor**
2. **Fulham Broadway**
3. **Queensway**
4. **Blackfriars**
5. **Acton Town**
6. **Fairlop**
7. **Maida Vale**
8. **Stockwell**
9. **Whitechapel**
10. **Finchley Road**

Next Meetings: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Deadline for the Rolling Screen  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June  
e-mail to

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

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