



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

July 2023

From the Chair

I hope you are all enjoying the summer.

Please note a change of venue. The meetings on Tuesday 25th July and Tuesday 29th August will NOT be at the Arts Centre but instead we meet at the Old Independent Church, Hamlet Road, Haverhill. Entrance is through the main church door from 10.00a.m.

You will all have seen the emails from David, our membership secretary, regarding the newly introduced way of renewing your membership on-line. I hope you will all look at this and give it a try. David and I are always there to help you if necessary. If you have never received a copy of the Third Age Trust magazine I can recommend you give it a try. It is about 80 pages long and will be delivered to your home five times a year for just £3.50. If you would like to receive this please contact David on membership@haverhillu3a.com before you renew your membership.

Gerry, David and Alan have been working together to update the website and have done a sterling job. Please look at the website www.haverhillu3a.com to see what you think.

Barbara Lavender

Speaker's Corner

On Tuesday 27th June our speaker at the Arts Centre was Alison Dickens from Granta Heritage whose talk was about the old Robert Sayle building in Cambridge and its history before demolition to make

way for the Grand Arcade. Many will remember the grand staircase and how disjointed the Robert Sayle building was. Selfridges bought the store from the Robert Sayle family in the 1930's but owned it only for a short time before it was sold to the John Lewis Partnership in the 1940's.

Surprisingly for many years, from the 19th into the 20th century, some staff were housed in a hostel building at the rear.

Next month our speaker will be Tony Diamond about the history of chocolate (his notes say – sorry no samples!). The meeting starts at the usual time of 10.30a.m. on Tuesday 25th July, but as the Arts Centre is unavailable the July and August meetings will be held at the Old Independent Church in Hamlet Road – the red brick building with a tall steeple. Unfortunately, we cannot provide hot drinks in the church, but will provide some water in case it's a hot day. If you know of anybody who would like to attend the monthly meetings, but are not on email, can you please pass on the change of venue details. Thank you.

Sue Dickinson – Speaker Secretary

**I've learned so much
from my mistakes...
I'm thinking of making
a few more.**

Walking Talking Munching

It seemed to the organisers of this month's walk around Great and Little Wrating, that they were in a version of Agatha Christie's 'Then there were none'. Group members were cancelling for a variety of reasons and only eleven actually started the walk from The Red Lion in Great Wrating. The pub has a long history, certainly from at least the 17th century, and is characterised by two large whale bones at its entrance. The two jaw bones which have seen better days were found in a field opposite the pub many years ago.

First stop on the walk was to admire the brick and concrete block on the village green. Built by Italian prisoners of war for Hall Farm to allow milk churns and sugar beet to be loaded onto carts. The same Italians, who were to become valued farm workers, built the walls leading into the farm and their initials and dates of construction are recorded in an inscribed block on the wall.

Continuing on down the Withersfield Road the group passed many beautiful cottages before taking the concrete path towards the Water Tower. There were wonderful unspoiled views for miles over the countryside from the highest point and the group then slowly descended down into Little Wrating. Once the village was on the main thoroughfare to Bury St Edmunds but with the building of the bypass, it is now a quiet backwater. We then took a short cut through what is now Karrow's car park and into Coronation Road where the vast gardens, to what were once Council Houses, impressed the group.

A good lunch back at the Red Lion finished off what was an enjoyable June walk.

Ken Hainsby

Camera Group

Our u3a Camera Group has been running for twenty-five years, which is almost from the birth of Haverhill & District u3a. During that time, it has had several leaders,

several venues that it called home and numerous members, some were 'serious' photographers with 'serious' cameras, but the majority were happy amateurs who just enjoy taking pictures and want to improve them if they can learn how.

Over the years, equipment has changed, from roll film requiring processing to digital cameras and now smart phones. All types of photographers have been welcomed to the group, a popular saying for photographers is that the best camera for taking any picture is the one that you happen to have with you!



The meetings throughout the year offer a mix of talks on photography, studio sessions on different subjects, slide shows of member's images and outside trips. This year we have been to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens and are soon heading to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

The group numbers around twenty, but not every member can attend every meeting, so between fifteen and twenty meet in the visitor centre in East Town Park on the second Monday in the month at 2.00 p.m. We are a social group and enjoy chatting during the coffee break and when we meet up on a trip.



If you like taking photographs, whether for social media, showing to relatives, to illustrate your hobby, or indeed just seeing what other people can achieve, why not come and meet the group? It may not change your life, but it may change the quality of your photographs.

Peter Tatam

Country Casuals

Only nine members met near Great Bradley church to begin the walk. Numbers were down a little as thunderstorms had rattled on all night and it was still raining heavily. We were all wearing waterproof coats and over trousers except Jim who was in shorts! He was ribbed about his attire, but after we had walked for twenty minutes it proved to be very hot, humid and dry. We all had to agree that Jim had got it right.



The walk was planned and researched by Karen and Elizabeth, so our thanks to them. The route was along field edge paths and through woodland for nearly four miles. We stood and watched a Red Kite circle lazily overhead for a while before following the River Stour to the finish point. After which we gathered at The Boot Inn in Dullingham for lunch and a well-earned drink.

Peter Tatam

Great Escapes - Good Bye

It is with considerable regret 'Great Escapes' is reaching the end of its road, Thursday 6th July saw our last use of TVN Mini-buses and was not without an unforeseen problem! Heading off to the East Anglia Transport Museum and on to

Oulton Broad for a Waveney River cruise in two mini-buses, only for one not reaching the first destination, giving up 'The Ghost' on Keith Choat just five miles short of Carlton Colville.

Depositing passengers at the museum, yours truly returned to pick up those stranded by the side of the A146, leaving Keith to await recovery. Whilst it became a curtailed pre-opening visit for Escapees there was still time to enjoy Tram, Trolleybus and Train rides around the site. With recovery completed and Keith retrieved, lunch was enjoyed next door at the 'Coach House'. With the replacement vehicle en-route from Newmarket, it was all aboard (well not quite all for Keith and myself) a vintage Great Yarmouth Corporation AEC Double Decker (as pictured) generously offered by the EATM to Oulton Broad for the River Waveney Victorian Heritage Cruise.



The return to Haverhill proved uneventful, with much appreciation to Carol and Di for putting together another well-balanced (if somewhat thwart) enjoyable day.

Since my last N&V's offering about the visit to the Cambridge Mosque in March, **Great Escapes** has visited the IWM Duxford on a very dull blustery day in April. Being followed in May with a visit to the Garrett - Long Shop in Leiston and The Red House (home of Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears) passing Maggi Hambling's - Scallop Beach Sculpture en-route to Aldeburgh, June Barnsdale Gardens and Rutland Water. All of which having been in abeyance pre-covid.

With thanks to Ann Waters, Tony and Lol and Anne Sherwood for their perseverance in seeing these remaining (BC) Escapes to fruition. So the Great Escape chapter of Haverhill and District u3a comes to a close, hopefully with many cherished memories.

Alan Alexander

Proposed visit to Strawberry Hill House and Garden by Coach - Thursday 7th September

Open to all members of Haverhill and District u3a

Strawberry Hill House & Garden, created by Horace Walpole in the 18th century, has been open to visitors for over 250 years. This extraordinary building is internationally famous as Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic revival architecture and home to an increasingly important collection of paintings and objects.

Generally the House is not open for visits on a Thursday, an ideal opportunity for a private guided tour. To make this a viable activity I need to add at least another dozen or so members to the 29 who have already shown their interest in this visit.

Should you wish to be included in this proposed visit please either e-mail - gillianandalan73@btinternet.com or Text 07790699126

Alan Alexander



London Originals

For our June meeting we visited Colchester castle.

Ten members parked at the Park & Ride and met for coffee before our tour of the castle which included going down into the dungeons then the parapet for a lovely view before going into the museum.



After lunch we had a stroll of the little lanes before finishing with tea and cakes at Small Talk tearooms.

Lovely day with lots of laughs.

Janet Staras

Cycling Group

Five members of the Cycling Group met at the Sports Centre for the first of the July rides.

The pleasant temperature had encouraged the riders to get their legs out for an airing, a sight that young children and those of a nervous disposition would do well to avoid. Heading up Camps Road to cross the By-Pass onto the Road to Nosterfield End, a Buzzard rose majestically while giving vent to its' annoyance at being disturbed. The countryside looked breathtakingly

beautiful and fields of Borage blue only added to its magnificence.

Onto and through the affluent looking Shudy Camps cycled the group, before leaving Cambridgeshire, circling the surrounding countryside into Essex, and entering the village of Helions Bumpstead. Entering the Industrial Estate as a direct way of accessing down town Haverhill, the familiar smells of chemical companies entered the nostrils of the riders and brought nostalgic memories back to leader Peter Thomas.

The temperamental nature of the Subway coffee machine had the riders on edge but eventually all were able to enjoy and discuss their excursion.

Ken Hainsby

Mud 'n' Grub

July's walk was organised by Brenda Taylor and was attended by 12 members of the group. We met at the Vine pub in Great Bardfield where we would dine after completion of a circular walk.

Heading off through the village and out into the fields via public footpaths we came across the remains of the watermill destroyed by fire in the 1980's which straddles the River Pant, it's a shame it couldn't be reinstated.



Continuing along the riverbank we passed several WW2 pill boxes which appeared to have guarded very little, perhaps it was the terrain that needed defending. "Unless anyone knows more wartime secrets?" Fields of blue Borage abounded, and knowledgeable members of the group enlightened the others to the benefits of the high-grade oil produced from the

seeds of this plant and the use of its leaves in salads. Still to be tried!

Eventually we entered Finchingfield, where several of the group left wealthier than before the walk started!

We then passed one of the cafes in the village and drooled over the bacon rolls and cups of tea being devoured by their patrons sitting outside, we had to carry on though! Leaving the village behind, we came across the area known as Beslyns Lane and walked gradually back downhill to Great Bardfield.

Unable to visit inside the local gaol whilst passing by and having been on our best behaviour on the king's highways, we were eventually rewarded at our destination after 6.5 miles with lunch at the Vine pub. Everyone agreed the food was exceptional and that the black burger buns were an unusual, tasty addition to their meals.

Weary but satisfied we departed, all trying to avoid pop up road closures.

Alan Smith

Sunday Strollers

On a rather dismal Sunday morning, with imminent rain being forecast, eight strollers enjoyed a very pleasant walk around Ousden.

The weather forecast did not live up to expectations and the rain decided to go elsewhere. All in all a very pleasant walk.

Our next walk is at Linton on 13th August. Parking in Station Road with the walk, of approx. 2.5 miles starting at 10.30 am. Details can be found on the website www.haverhillu3a.com.

David Jefferies

Nature Group

Our first expedition in June was in the hope of seeing see white admiral and silver-washed fritillary butterflies in Bradfield woods.

We did see many ringlet butterflies as well as meadow browns, speckled wood and skipper butterflies but only one of us saw the flash of a silver-washed fritillary. Unlike a different group which went a week later and saw white admirals and silver washed-fritillaries.

A smaller group did have a successful mission to see and hear nightjars in the Kings Forest at North Stow. After half a mile of easy walking a distant nightjar was heard starting to make its two-tone churring noise. As the light faded, the eerie sound of the nightjars became louder, stopping and then restarting, and from more than one direction. Large and small bats started to fly around in the still, warm evening. Then nightjars were seen flying as weird silhouettes above the small trees and against the still quite light sky. In shape, rather like kestrels, they occasionally circled just above the heads of the group. A pair was seen flying together as well as several individuals, and one was even harassed by a large bat.

In addition to the nightjars, the group heard stonechats (see the photo of one), an owl, larks, possibly a woodcock and saw both roe and fallow deer. The flora there was quite interesting.



On the return walk, at least three glow worms were seen. They are beetles and the larger female is the one that glows to attract a mate. It is believed that they eat snails!

Neil Dickinson
Fran Armes

The Lifeboatmen

Breakers crashing upon the shore
The raging gale with demons roar
Spindrift flying like gulls on wing
Above it all a siren sings

Maroon are fired across the sky
Sailors shouting "help us" they cry
A ship's in trouble on the deep
Tonight the lifeboat will not sleep

The stormy seas crash on the ship
Helpless seamen hang on with grit
Through the dark and stormy ocean
Appear the gallant lifeboatmen

With help at hand the sailors hope
Soon to climb aboard the lifeboat
Up to the ship the lifeboat sails
Stricken seamen leap from its rails

With danger past and land so near
These wretched sailors cease to fear
So into harbour with the men
Sail brave and gallant lifeboatmen
David Jefferies

Next Meetings: Tuesday 25th July
Tuesday 29th August
Both at the Old Independent Church
Hamlet Road, Haverhill CB9 8EE

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e-mail to chair@haverhillu3a.com

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