



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live
News and Views

Supported by



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2021

From the Acting Chair

November already and our thoughts were occupied by Remembrance Day and the opportunity to commemorate the day both nationally and locally.

It was surprising that local authorities took such different decisions regarding processions and collective worship. Some banned commemorations completely while others allowed full participation. I visited Saffron Walden where crowds came to watch the armed services march to the memorial, whereas in some towns no meetings were permitted. Very strange!

This month we have Henry Wilson from Reach speaking to us at the Arts Centre. Henry is a committed and passionate advocate for the poor of Haverhill and I am sure his talk will be inspiring.

December being Christmas there is no Arts Centre meeting with the next being January 25th when Bryan Thurlow visits us again. His talks are always very popular and I am definitely looking forward to hearing him speak on the 'Story of Billy Jackson an Evacuee in Suffolk'.

The Events Committee are working hard on organising various events for 2022. The pandemic curtailed so many events and we intend to make up for that next year.

In early December you will all receive a picture quiz on Haverhill with the answers given in the January News & Views. It will be sent out by email to most members, but those without internet will have a copy posted through their letterbox.

Earlier this year I asked for your memories and we had a good response. These have now been collated into a magazine which you can read on the website. I am sure you will enjoy them.

As this is the last News & Views for this year I wish you all the very best of Christmases and hope that you all enjoy a fit, healthy and happy 2022.

Peter Tatam

Speaker's Corner

Our speaker in October, Alison Dickens, spoke about the dust that had collected under the choir stalls of King's College Chapel in Cambridge.

From the time the chapel was built, between 1446 and 1515, until January 1993 when Alison started to investigate, 100 sacks of dust had been retrieved. Around 455 years' worth of dust! She sorted through 50 of the sacks.

The dust was collected with a small Hoover by a very small workman, very few could have fitted in the space.

We had a potted history of the chapel as well as the tales from the dust. 544 objects were found. Some had slipped through cracks in the wooden floors, before a carpet was fitted and some, the larger finds must have been thrown there through the small hatches along the back of the stalls.

Among the articles found were pins, combs, parts of books, music sheets, even a scrap of Latin homework.



As you might expect there were many pieces of plain and coloured glass and maybe, less obvious, were playing cards and a more recent place card for "The Mayor". These last two can be seen in the photos.



Our November speaker will be Henry Wilson from Reach Community Projects who will tell us some of the history of Reach and what they do for people. It is not just about giving out food!

At our last committee meeting we had a representative from u3a Central Office, who approved of us putting a box at each entrance for food donations and also a cash donation box in case you forget to bring a donation for the food bank and would still like to donate.

While the u3a is a charity there is nothing preventing members donating as members of the public and no cash will go through Haverhill u3a books. Reach has asked if we could give: luxury biscuits, nice crisps, savoury snacks, chocolates, etc. Anything to make Christmas a little bit special for people. I guess, if you are feeling generous, a Christmas cake or pudding would be welcome!

The meeting will start at 10.30am. Entrance to the Arts Centre will be via the front or rear doors which will open at 10.00am. BUT please follow the ONE-WAY system which will be well marked.

Wendy Foster, Speaker Secretary

Walking, Talking, Munching Group

For the October walk, twenty one members met at The White Hart, Fulbourn, walk under the guidance of Helen and Brian Fernihough.

The majority of the walk took place within the Fens and Old Meadows of Fulbourn involving both wet and dry terrain. With the mixture of ground composition the area contains a high diversity of plant life with orchids in early summer and lush Fen vegetation from the chalk streams later in the year.

Two superb Oaks stand within Ox Meadow where the group stopped for the obligatory photo shoot beneath the tallest of them.



There was a fun moment which could have come straight out of Dads Army when the group leaders issued an about turn causing the Corporal Jones amongst the group to issue new orders amid cries of 'Don't Panic'.

Entering Moat Meadow the defensive earthworks of a Medieval Manor House were visible. It was suggested that this was Dunmowes Manor and with it that of an older village of Fulbourn which may have existed on the site. Heading back for lunch and refreshment there was time to investigate the Environmental Agency's bore hole which checks on the groundwater levels at a depth of no less than 30 metres.

A really fine lunch was enjoyed by all in the comfortable surroundings of the White Hart Inn.

Ken Hainsby

Guitar Group

On the 18th November, Forever Young the stage name of the Haverhill u3a guitar group, gave a charity concert at St Mary's Church raising funds for the church and St Nicholas Hospice.

The audience of around 200 enjoyed music and songs from down the years. David Caulfield kicked off the show's first half with an early rock medley accompanied by the group and there then followed contributions from other members of the band which included country, pop and blues songs.

Much was made of there being five members of the group called John, these being Lupton, McGhee, Elliot, Steff and Cahill, all of whom sang excellently. During a break for the group Marie Caulfield, formerly a member of The Dooleys, beautifully performed two numbers, one being the haunting 'Going Back'.

This was followed by their grandson, Thomas, who although being only 15 is a master of the electric guitar and did The Shadows proud with his version of Apache.

The second half kicked off with a Beatles medley followed by laughter and sadness themed numbers. The group's signature song, Bob Dylan's Forever Young, led into a rousing version of Singing the Blues which brought the afternoon's entertainment to a close.

The church offered tea, coffee and cake in the interval and a large raffle was picked at the end of the performances.

A great afternoon, and it shows what u3a groups can do when driven by a leader with a passion like David's.

Ken Hainsby & Peter Tatam

Wild Walkers

On a lovely October day the Group were, at long last, able to get together for a full walk and lunch. We welcomed three new members who had signed up at the Open Morning so 16 of us set out from Steeple Bumpstead for a 6.5 mile circular walk organised by Tim and Anna Dowling.



At this time of year with ploughed fields and margins the walking can be quite hard going but the ground was dry and the only obstacle we encountered were a group of schoolchildren who were enjoying Forest School and who looked somewhat bemused as a group of 'older' walkers went past their camp. We walked past Bower Hall, Garlands Farm and Wiggins Green before returning to lunch at the Fox and Hounds. Not easy to find pubs open for lunch at the moment but we were well looked after with very generous portions of good pub grub.

John Senior

Sunday Strollers

Ten of us set off from Linton on an overcast Remembrance Sunday, walking down the Grip and onto Chalky Lane, which at this time of year becomes quite muddy after heavy rain.

Reaching the Bartlow Road, whilst donning our high viz jackets front and rear, Leanne, suggested a detour, known to local residents, to avoid a road section, through a wood along a field verge and across a park. This was a case of on the spot practical alternative risk assessment which thankfully should never be lost in our world of insurance back-covering exercises. We returned to Linton by noon, having enjoyed a stroll of slightly more than three miles. Thanks to Ian Johnson for leading this walk.

Please remember that there is no walk in December.

The next walk will start from East Town Park on 9th January 2022 at 10-30am and is approx 3 miles.

David Jefferies

Walking, Talking, Munching Group

For the last walk of the year it fell to David and Jean Boxall to provide the route and guidance for the group as they met at Duxford Village Community Hall on a fine autumn morning. After giving an outline of the possible hazards that might lay in wait, the group started out in fine spirits.

The first point of interest was when The Lodge, now a hotel and dining establishment, was passed by. One of the group who had worked on refurbishing the building felt it had connections with Douglas Bader during the Second World War. Bader was certainly at Duxford but there was no record of him staying at The Lodge. There was, however, a record of no less a personage than Winston Churchill doing so during that period. A bit further along The Plough Pub was passed, one which Americans from the airbase would drink dry during the war years.

Clearing the village the route turned off from the main through road and headed down leafy avenues of gold and russet where children had hung wooden hearts decorated with messages of hope and cheer. The unusual sight of sheep somehow free from their field and on the same track as the group provided an unusual episode as the main flock became audibly excited by the sight of us. Luckily nobody in the group suffered from Ovinaphobia and those amongst us who had gained shepherding skills from 'Our Yorkshire Farm' managed to encourage the strays back into the flock.

Trains on the Cambridge line rattled past as the route ran alongside the embankment for a while and level crossings were crossed to continue on and alongside the River Cam before coming to the beautiful 17th century Water Mill at Hinxton. The Mill was restored in the 1980's and saved from demolition by the Charity 'Cambridge Past Present & Future'.

Autumn in all its colourful glory was on view as the walk turned towards its beginnings burnished amber, carmine and maroon fluttering down like confetti at a woodland wedding.

Too soon the group were back in Duxford Village and preparing for the short drive to Babraham for lunch at The George.

Ken Hainsby

The Senior Brain at its finest

A 70-year-old man is having a drink in Harpoon Harry's. Suddenly a gorgeous girl enters and sits down a few seats away. The girl is so attractive that he just can't take his eyes off her.

After a short while the girl notices him staring and approaches him. Before the man has time to apologise, the girl looks deep in the eyes and says to him in a sultry tone: "I'll do anything you'd like. Anything you can imagine in your wildest dreams, it doesn't matter how extreme or unusual it is, I'm game. I want \$100, and there's another condition."

Completely stunned by the sudden turn of events, the man asks her what her condition is. "You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words." The man takes a moment to consider the offer from the beautiful woman. He whips out his wallet and puts \$100 dollars into her hand. He then looks her square in the eyes, and says slowly and clearly:

"Paint my house."

Our needs change as we get older and we tend to look for bargains.

Alice Landsman

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Tuesday 25th January 2022

Please note:

There is no December meeting

Deadline for the Rolling Screen:

Tuesday 18th January 2022

e-mail to havu3agen@gmail.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 14th January 2022

Please either post to:

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