



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

News and Views

Supported by



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

July 2026

From the Chair

When Names Don't Live Up to Themselves

There is a quiet pleasure in discovering that something has been named with more confidence than accuracy. Not badly named, exactly — just labelled in a way that reality later failed to support. The London Underground's Circle line is the patron saint of this category. Once, it more or less deserved the name: a loop around central London, tidy enough for map-readers and pedants alike. But since 2009, when the continuous circular service ended and the route was extended west to Hammersmith, it has become less a circle than a lopsided spiral with excellent branding.

This is not a complaint. In fact, it may be one of the most human things about public transport: a name survives long after the facts have moved on. Renaming it the "Loose Spiral line" would alarm tourists, annoy designers and make the Tube map look like a cry for help.

Other offenders

Britain is full of similar offenders. Leicester Square is not in Leicester. Leeds Castle is not in Leeds — unless you mean the Kent village rather than the Yorkshire city most people imagine. Waterbeach, in Cambridgeshire, offers very little beach in any useful sense. The Lake District, wonderfully, contains many lakes in ordinary speech but only one official "Lake": Bassenthwaite Lake.

Food is no better

Menus are just as guilty. Welsh rarebit contains no rabbit. Sweetbreads are neither sweet nor bread. The Scotch egg, noble service-station orb that it is, may not be as Scottish as its name suggests. Food names often sound less like descriptions and more like dares issued by history.

There is charm in this. "Sausage-coated boiled egg" lacks the romance of "Scotch egg", while "cheese sauce on toast" is accurate but sadly underdressed compared with "Welsh rarebit". Sometimes a name is not there to inform you; it is there to make the thing sound as though it has a backstory, a cottage, and possibly an elderly aunt.

Why the wrong names stick

Names stick because they are useful long after they stop being true. They carry nostalgia, habit and institutional stubbornness. Once a name has appeared on maps, signs, tickets, memories and complaints, changing it can be more disruptive than simply letting everyone enjoy the mismatch.

Perhaps we should celebrate these failures of naming rather than correct them. They give the world texture, provide excellent quiz questions and remind us not to trust labels too quickly. The Circle line may not be circular, but "Circle line" still tells us something true: this is London, and things are rarely as straightforward as the map suggests.

With the threat of more hot weather, try to keep cool and keep hydrated.

With best wishes Tom Parker



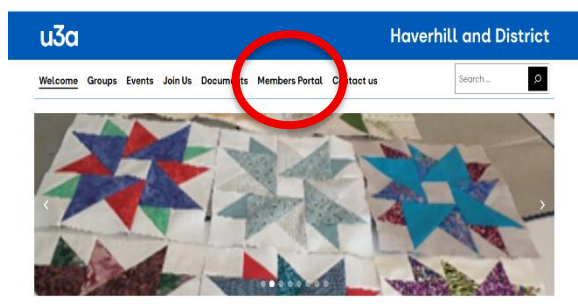
Haverhill and District u3a Membership renewal is due on the 1st September 2026.

- From the **17th August 2026** you can **renew online** and pay by credit/debit card which saves you the bother of filling in forms.
- The card payment is managed by PayPal, but you do **not need to create a PayPal account** to use the system.
- The familiar application form is on our website, and you can pay by bank transfer.



Member's Portal is on our website.

In your members portal you can:



- ☐ View and edit your personal data.
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- ☐ Request a photo of your membership card which can be saved on your phone to show when required.

After you have registered you can enter the portal with your email address and portal password.

If you registered last year or before, you don't have to do it again.

First time only



After you've registered

If, like me, you change your password every year, you will have to click "Forgotten password" to reset it.

Speakers Corner

Our June meeting welcomed the wonderfully engaging Helen Ackroyd, who shared her extensive knowledge of Lord Fairhaven and the fascinating history of Anglesey Abbey. As a long-serving room steward, Helen brought the house to life with stories, insights, and details that only someone with years of experience could provide.

Helen began by tracing the site's origins as a priory—never officially an abbey—where monks cared for the needy in the local community. Only a few walls of the early building survive. During the Dissolution, Henry VIII found little of value at Anglesey, so it was left untouched and gradually fell into disrepair.

The estate's fortunes changed in the early 1920s when Huddleston and Henry Broughton purchased it as a luxurious "*bachelor retreat*". With inherited wealth from their American mother, they transformed the empty shell into a richly furnished home filled with fine furniture, artworks, antiques, and treasures from around the world. A highlight is the library's bespoke bookcase wall, crafted from recycled timbers from John Rennie's original Waterloo Bridge. One of the mullioned windows even bears the signatures of visiting royalty.

Helen also described the specially built two-storey gallery created to house Lord Fairhaven's remarkable collection of paintings of Windsor Castle, alongside works by artists such as John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough. Among the house's most extraordinary objects is the Pagoda Clock, an intricate 19th-century mechanical artwork featuring spinning jewelled pineapples and twelve bells. Although it no longer chimes due to historic repairs, a recording preserves its original sound.

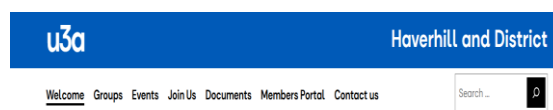
When Henry married, he sold his share of the house to Huddleston, and life at Anglesey Abbey thereafter ran with military precision. Guests arrived at 7.45 pm, cocktails (gin and grapefruit only) were

served at 8.00 pm, dinner began at 8.03 pm, and plates were cleared the moment Lord Fairhaven finished. At 9.00 pm, the butler brought in a radio so everyone could listen to the news.

Lord Fairhaven died in 1966, leaving the house and its contents to the National Trust, who continue to care for the building and its beautiful grounds. Helen's talk offered a rich and enjoyable insight into a place many of us know well.

The date of our next Speaker Meeting is Tuesday 28th July at the Haverhill Arts Centre. Doors open at 10.00 am ready for the talk to start at 10.30 am - free beverages available from 10.00 am in the bar. Our speaker will be our very own Peter Tatum. His talk is entitled *The Fen men and Fens*. A look back at bygone days, exploring the lives, work, and traditions of the people who shaped the Fens.

Margaret Ross



Haverhill and District u3a Website

We have been working on a revamp of the website.

Take a look at our new and improved website at <https://haverhill.u3asite.uk/>

Operation Repeat

The committee of the Haverhill & District u3a along with other volunteer organizations in the town who have contact with retired people were invited to attend a presentation entitled Operation Repeat. Operation Repeat is a UK initiative designed to prevent doorstep crime and scams by educating vulnerable individuals and training health and social care staff to deliver ongoing awareness messages.

The most important messages they want to get across are:

DON'T DEAL WITH COLD CALLERS -

Fraudsters will talk you into making a purchase and you'll be heading for the 'suckers list' and more callers.

DON'T HAND YOUR CREDIT CARDS OR CASH TO 'COURIERS' -

Your bank will never ask you to give cards or money to couriers.

DON'T TALK MONEY ON THE PHONE -

Your bank will never ask you to reveal details over the phone.

DON'T RESPOND - Ignore suspicious emails, letters, phone calls or SMS messages—press 'delete' or just hang up.

DON'T BUY ANYTHING ON YOUR DOORSTEP - By paying in cash you let them know you keep money in the house and they'll be back!

DON'T LET SCAMMERS PUSH YOUR BUTTONS - Scammers will adopt a personal touch and play on your emotions to get what they want.

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS - Scammers target you anytime, anywhere, anyhow.

DON'T BE CONNED BY DIRECT MARKETING LETTERS THAT CLAIM YOU HAVE WON A PRIZE / MONEY - Never send money to someone you don't know and trust. Once you make contact the floodgates will open and your details will be added to the scammers 'suckers list'.

REMEMBER - IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT IS!

REMEMBER - NOT SURE? DON'T OPEN THE DOOR!

Useful contacts:

Telephone 159 for urgent help to contact your bank for Fraud and Scams.

7726 – to report spam texts and vishing voice calls (spells SPAM on a phone keypad)

report@phishing.gov.uk – for reporting phishing email

Tell the police about cyber-crime and fraud at reportfraudpolice.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

For more information, the Operation Repeat website address is: www.oprepeat.co.uk

Sue Dickinson, Vicechair

City Walkers

It was the hottest June day since the last hottest June and a brave, some might say foolhardy, group of us stormed the castle at Stansted Mountfichet. Well, "stormed" is a bit of hyperbole, but we were there, along with a couple of school groups and their perspiring teachers, who clearly wished that they were not there, but up the pub with a glass of vintage that had been cooled a long age and with beaded bubbles winking at the rim. Or something.

Anyway, it is well worth the visit. The goose is bad-tempered. Anybody interested in our nation's history will find some fascination there and the commentaries are excellent. So is the toy museum. For those addicted to Dinky toys, but the wax models of The Beatles were of some other bunch of blokes and might be better consigned to The House of Horrors. The photo is of our hardy bunch and some bloke called Norman.



Jim Lindop

Nature Group

On one of those extremely hot days in June, 19 of us met at Lower Wood, Weston Colville, CB21 5NY, in search of the illusive Purple Emperor butterfly. Unfortunately, it remained so far for us, we were probably a week too early.

Our warden guide, Duncan, told us about the history of the wood. "The site is a rare, surviving remnant of historic woodland that escaped large-scale agricultural clearing,

with historical surveys showing its continuous existence over centuries.”

Now, it is a very well managed 9-hectare area supporting a wealth of trees, plants, birds and animals. Duncan ensures a local interest in the wood by asking the villagers to help. Sometimes by asking them to look after saplings which he then plants on and also by feeding the bird population – despite the RSPB asking people to stop feeding the birds in the summer Duncan told us the best thing to do is ensure that feeders are kept clean.

He told us an amusing tale - the wood is home to the heaviest March Tit in the country. This particular bird was caught, ringed and weighed. The record was duly submitted but rejected as the weight appeared to be drastically wrong. Subsequently the same bird was caught and reweighed. Only this time it was heavier than before! Duncan put this down to the plentiful supply of sunflower seeds in the feeders.

This picture is looking up through the branches of an ash tree that is described on the welcome board. It has 12 stems.



The woods afforded us a welcome respite from the sun and whilst not finding the Purple Emperor, we enjoyed each other's company and saw many other butterflies and heard many birds.

We regrouped at the Chestnut Tree in West Wrating, for a cool drink and an enjoyable lunch.

Jan Marrone

A Hug

What makes you laugh when you are sad
Or cheers you when your mood is bad
And calms you when you're feeling mad

A Hug

What lifts the spirits when you're blue
What heartens you and refreshes you
And brings a smile where smiles are few

A Hug

What is it that dries your tears
And soothes away your silent tears
Or lights the way when darkness nears

A Hug

What turns away the angry word
Can make the heart soar like a bird
Forgives you when you know you've erred

A Hug

What brightens up the dullest day
And chases all the clouds away
To send you singing on your way

A Hug

TFL railway map quiz.

- 1/. These salts are over there
- 2/. Applaud them up there
- 3/. Rifleman interred
- 4/. That bird was bagged
- 5/. This is a lovely island
- 6/. Type of tree
- 7/. Is this meat from Devon?
- 8/. Religious leader interred?
- 9/. Blimey, that's a tall entrance!
- 10/. Coppers learn there I believe

Answers on Page 6

Morning Quilters

The second meeting of the Morning Quilters had them working on different skills, the result being some very nice bags.



The group is a mix of very confident sewers and those just coming back to sewing after many years, and some of whom are new to patchwork.

Setting up of the group has been supported by members of the Patchwork and Quilting group, we wish them all 'happy sewing' as they continue.

Marion Senior

Quiz Answers

1. Epsom Downs
2. Clapham North
3. Gunnersbury
4. Ravens Court.
5. Cyprus

6. Poplar.
7. West Ham
8. Canonbury.
9. Highgate
10. Hendon Central.

Next Meetings:

Tuesday 28th July

The Fens and Fenmen A talk by Peter Tatam.

Tuesday 25th August

Men's Shed Haverhill by Antony Cullop. "Shed is not a building – it's the connections and friendships between its members." The Men's Shed encourages people to come together to make, repair and repurpose.

Deadline for the Rolling Screen
Tuesday 18th August
e-mail using landscape format to:
chair@haverhillu3a.com

Deadline for next edition:
Friday 14th August

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