



learn,
laugh,
live

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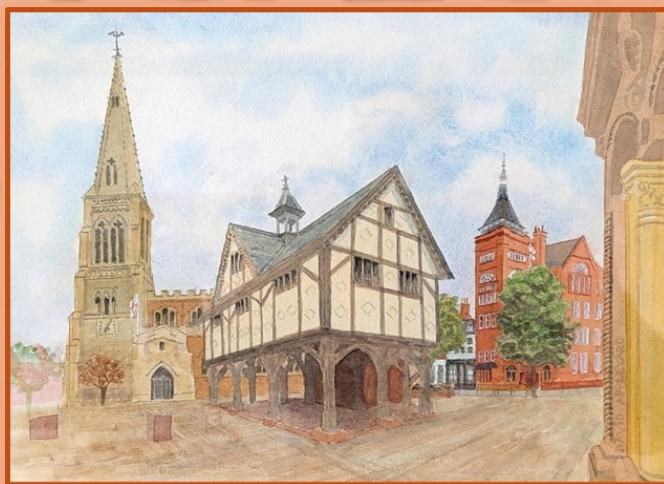
HWu3a

Magazine of the
Harborough Welland u3a

Issue No. 57

 **Creative
Harborough**

September 2026



Diary Date
September 19th, 10.30
Symington Building



Welcome and Committee news

Welcome to the September edition (No. 57) of the HWu3a magazine. We asked for examples of members' creativity and frankly, we were surprised at the quality and variety of what we received. NINE pages! For you to judge. *Ced Bufton and David Martin, Publishing team.*

Cover photo credits: Clockwise from Top Left; Anne Appleyard, p.4, David Turner, p.14, Sorrell Kinley, p.6, Barbara Slater, p.12, Dave Martin (photo), p. 12, David Appleyard, p. 6.

Contents

P. 2	Welcome, Committee Report	Ps 11-14	Creative Harborough
Ps 3-6	Creative Harborough	P. 15	Speakers' Corner
P. 7	Holiday news 2027	P 16	Upcoming events,
Ps 8 – 10	List of Group Details		Committee contact details

News from the Committee - Sept. 2026

Creative Event at The Symington Building, Saturday 19th September: For the past two years, HWu3a has been involved with 'Creative Harborough', a local initiative working with voluntary groups and creative businesses. In September, more than 80 creative events are taking place in Market Harborough and surrounding area, including the HWu3a Creative Groups Showcase on Saturday 19th September (see our flyer on p3. I'd like to thank Helen Salisbury for designing it). This also coincides with National u3a Week, making it a joint celebration and the theme is continued in this September edition of the monthly magazine showing what a creative lot we are! I would encourage you to come along on the 19th to support our groups - it's FREE! Please bring friends and family to spread the word about who we are. The 'Creative Harborough' September Events programme has already been shared with our members and you can also check out its website for further details: [Home | Creative Harborough](#)

I'd like to thank all those who have volunteered to help with refreshments and those who will be welcoming visitors and handing out flyers on the 19th.

Beacon Guide: Our Group Coordinators use the Beacon database to manage their group membership lists and, in order to ensure they are confident with this, Ced Bufton and Peter Saunders are looking into producing an improved user-friendly version.



Louise Elsome, Chair, Harborough Welland u3a.
chair@hwu3a.org.uk

By the members, for the members.

Website: hwu3a.org.uk

Harborough Welland u3a Creative Groups Showcase

FREE ENTRY AND REFRESHMENTS EVERYONE WELCOME!

**Saturday 19th September 2026
10.30am - 12.30pm
in the Council Chambers (Room219),
Symington Building, Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough**



**Displays of Quilting, Film,
Drone Photography,
Creative Writing, Magazine
Publishing, Vegetarian &
Vegan Food**



**Demonstration of Country Dancing at 11am with
opportunities to learn and join in**



Email: enquiries@hwu3a.org.uk



The Quilty Pleasures Group

Lolli's quilt was the culmination of two years' sewing one inch hexagons to produce a quilt of which we were very proud. After piecing, it was tied to secure it to the wadding and backing. It was raffled and £4000 was donated to LOROS and Cransley hospices.

Diane Miles



Creative Harbourough's September Celebration brings together music, theatre, comedy, family performances, film, heritage, literature, art, craft, dance and workshops, with more than half of the events completely free. Visitors can try tango, catch a film, see a show or enjoy something they weren't expecting. But top of the list must be the HWu3a event on Sat. 19th. See poster above. D.M

Anne Appleyard - The dinosaur quilt (see cover)

I never really got to grips with sewing lessons at school; I seemed to start each lesson by unpicking at least some of the work I had done the previous week.

Despite this, after leaving school I started doing dressmaking and over the years made a variety of clothes for myself and family and friends. Around 1980 I discovered patchwork and quilting and dressmaking soon went out of the window, when its replacement overtook everything.

This dinosaur quilt was made using instructions from a book of children's quilts by Margaret Rolfe. She used a method of assembling the pieces using straight seams to make up the blocks. It was very easy and straightforward.

The quilt was entered into an exhibition and was awarded a 'Judge's Pet' rosette, with the comment 'good use of a difficult material' referring to the turquoise jungle print (well where else would a dinosaur live!).

I continued quilting until about the early 1990s when I changed to doing cross stitch and then hand embroidery.

Stitching is a short, ordinary word but it covers a vast array of types of needlework and skills. After all, we all need stitching in our everyday lives!

Anne Appleyard



The Swinging Rainbow

This is the title of a book of 'poems for the young'.

By way of confession, there is no quilting on this quilt! The pictures are all done in machine applique.

The layout is based on the front cover of the book, with the rainbow coming in from the top right hand side.

The poems are:

Old Man Platypus

Don't care (in his stewpot)

The Kangaroo

The Vowels

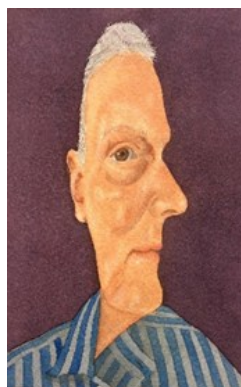
I Remember (the house)

Choosing Their Names (the cat and three kittens)

Weather

How Many Miles to Babylon (The candlestick)

Not to be outdone, we feature David Appleyard's artwork and background on page 6.



Creativity – and why I don't have it! *Mike Goldsmith*

Consulting the OED, it seems to suggest that creativity involves something like originality; imagination; producing something new and even being godlike! Only in the sense of being productive might I just about qualify, assuming I get to the end of this piece! So I don't think of myself as being creative, even if I have managed the *Listening to Jazz* group since its inception many years ago.

Why do I think of myself as not being creative? Well, unlike Leonardo da Vinci, I haven't invented anything. Unlike Rembrandt, Turner, Monet or Picasso and all the other great artists, I can't paint – covering a wall with emulsion would now be some achievement for me! Unlike Shakespeare, Moliere or Stoppard, I couldn't write a play, nor could I write poetry like Wordsworth, or a book like Dickens! I'm sure most readers would agree that all those I've mentioned would be regarded as creative!

When I was a first-year university student I followed a course in psychology. Most of the practicals associated with the course involved taking intelligence tests. I scored reasonably well on all of them bar one – and that was the one supposedly measuring my creativity! Here my score fell far below even the average of my others, suggesting I had little sense of being creative, if any sense at all. I gave up psychology at the end of the first year....

I would suggest that at the heart of creativity is the sense of originality – of doing something others have not. That is something which would suggest all those I've previously listed had, as perhaps did previous owners of my house, even though they may not have realised it. It's an 18th century two up two down farmhouse, with its barn modernised as a separate dwelling, but with a large early 19th century Georgian extension giving the house large high ceiling rooms, and finally a small 20th century extension providing what is now a back door and laundry room! All in all, quite an extraordinary house when compared to neighbouring ones! But I've added nothing, hence reinforcing my sense of lacking originality and creativity.

Which is why I have the strongest admiration for those who are creative and why I have loved jazz, which depends on its performers ability to improvise, for over 70 years. Long may such people flourish and bring things new which those of us who are less creative can admire, enjoy and from which we can benefit.

Mike and I had an interesting online conversation about creativity and originality, I pointed out that he used to edit the SLU3A Newsletter. Mike argued that this was a skill. Then we touched on Artificial Intelligence. Does it help or hinder Creativity?

Can it have original ideas?

Tricky. Dave Martin



Jack Horton and his friend AI.

Harborough Creative Couple - David

My brush with art by David Appleyard (example of Artwork on front cover)

My father Joe, a professional sporting artist, spent quite some time, when I was two, salvaging an oil painting from my hair, since when I have loved the smell of turpentine. My father's handkerchief, which he kept in his jacket pocket along with an eraser, pen knife and pencils, was my comforter.

After a one-year Art Foundation Course and a three year Degree Course in Industrial Design I found my true vocation, designing and project managing pub refurbishments.

During this time I was commissioned to paint a number of pub signs, which required the use of oil paint, a new medium to me at the time.

In 2000, I used digital art skills to build the web site www.josephappleyard.co.uk which showcases over 500 examples of his and my own work.

David Appleyard



Local Artist - Sorrell Kinley

Sorrell Kinley – Local Artist (example of Artwork on front cover)

I was a Primary School Deputy Head for over 30 years before a second late career as a university lecturer. I always had Art as my 'escape' so it was more of an all-consuming hobby.

I used to live in Sussex and was inspired by the beauty of the South Downs. Recently I have found some compelling new views to paint and print.

As I've only been in the town for just over four months, I was too late to get on the Art Windows list but most of my fellow artists are represented which is a fantastic local venture.

The Art Expo is also new in that Newcombe House is the MH Building Society HQ and a brand new venue.

Many artists will be demonstrating their art techniques over the weekend, 5th/6th September, with shuttle buses running from the town to the venue and back on a regular basis.



Holiday Special!

Spain. Andalucia. 28th November, 7 nights - 8 days.

£999 pp, no single supplement

Departure from a Midlands airport. Knowledgeable local guide provided.
Visit to the Alhambra Palace & Granada included

Visit to the Nerja and Frigiliana.

Flights included from your local airport

Transfers & Luggage included as standard.

Half Board, Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal. Staying at the Bahia Tropical.

<https://hotelbahiatropical.es/en/home/>

Jersey Wednesday 5th May - Sunday 9th May. 2027

£775 pp; Single Supplement £316

4 nights' accommodation on half board basis at The Merton Hotel, Jersey (3*)

* <https://www.seymourhotels.com/merton-hotel/>

- Return coach transfers from local pick up points to ferry
- Return ferry crossings to Jersey
- Porterage on arrival and departure (from reception to the rooms)
- Return transfers from Jersey ferry port to the hotel
- Private Coach transfers for excursions
- Welcome drink and talk on arrival at hotel. • Tour and Tasting at La Mare Wine Estate
- Full day island tour • Admission to Jersey War Tunnels

If interested, please

Contact Gerry Growney asap on: holiday.group2@hwu3a.org.uk

Harborough Welland u3a - Group Activities

MONDAY

Art History	Angela Deane	01858 431111	Congregation Ch	1 st Monday	10.00 am
Book Talk	Andrew & Nita West	07732 511572	Lounge Room, Meth Church	1 st Monday	2 pm
Backgammon	Peter Saunders	07341 528450	Youth Wing, Methodist Ch.	1st and 3rd Monday	11 am -1pm
Crafting for Charities	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	3 rd Monday	2.30 pm
Crafting for Charities 2	Judith Sampson	07724 807482	Louisa's Place	4 th Monday	2-4 pm
French Refreshers	Rosemary Holden	07799 627145	Please call	Weekly	11.00 am
French Improvers	Julie Jarosz	01536 712119	Please call	Weekly	pm
Handbells	Helen Green	07840 543379	Various	Weekly	2-3 pm
Open Book	Judy Rowley		Methodist Church,	2 nd Monday	2 - 3.30pm
	open.books@hwu3a.org.uk				
Pétanque	Kevin Millard	01858 468015	Welland Park, nr Café.	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10 am to 2pm
Quilty Pleasures	Celia Herrick	01858 468357	Gt Bowden Village Hall	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2-4 pm
Sew 'n' Sew	Helen Salisbury	07837 410575	Louisa's Place	1st Monday	2-4 pm
Songs of Leonard Cohen	Phil Aldridge	ptaldridge@aol.com	Community Church	4 th Monday	2 pm
Table Tennis 1	Keith Keeble	07795 434076	Please call	Weekly	11am—1pm
Tai Chi	Lynn Thacker	taichi@hwu3a.org.uk	Jubilee Hall, Cong'nal Church	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.30 - 12.00
Ukuleles Introductory	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	1 st & 3 rd Mon	2-4 pm
Ukuleles	David Evans	01858 463045	Community Church	2 nd & 4 th Mon	2-4 pm
Walking Football	Peter Prickett	07751 362857	Leisure Centre	Mondays	Afternoon
Wine Explorers	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Please call	2 nd Monday	7.30 pm

TUESDAY

Architecture	Colin Cohen		Methodist Ch	4 th Tuesday	2pm
	architechture@hwu3a.org.uk				
Art Appreciation	Hilary Bufton		Congregational Ch: Ashley Room	4 th Tuesday	2.30 -4.30
	art.appreciation@hwu3a.org.uk				
German Conversation	Liam Lomasley	07772 325594	Louisa's Place	Every Tues	2-3.30
Bookworms	Louise Elsome	07740 572956	Baptist Church	2 nd Tuesday	2.30
Bridge – Social	Don Collins	01858 462409	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	Weekly	2 pm
Country Dancing	Sharon Webb	07886 855931	Congregation Ch	4 th Tuesday	2-4 pm
French – Les Bavards	Sheridan New	07795 872496	Enigma Cafe	Weekly	10.30 am
Jamming Workshop	Bob Morris	07939 988595	Various	2 nd and 4 th Tues	11.15 – 13.15
Local History	Linda Swallow		Congregational Church	1st Tuesday	2-3.30
	Local.history@hwu3a.org.uk				
Music, Exploring	Kate Helm	07817 735784	Community Church	1 st Tuesday	10 am
Photography - Tuesday	Angela Lloyd		Community Church	3 rd Tuesday	2.30 pm
	photography.Tuesday@hwu3a.org.uk				
Choir - Ladies Choir	Liz Brett	07907 631529	Cong Church	2 nd and 4 th Tues	10.30 am
The Readers	Susan Trevorrow	07999 082657	Various	1 st Tuesday	2.30-4.30
Tuesday Chat & Craft	Yvonne Starkey	Tarskey2015@gmail.com	Louisa's Café	Every Other Tuesday	10-11.30
Walking Half Day 2	Diana Baxter	01162 792947	Outside	1 st Tuesday	Various

WEDNESDAY

Badminton	Stuart Irons	07969 833342	Meadowdale School	Weekly	5 – 6.30pm
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Belleplates	Pru Normand belleplates@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	NOT 3rd Weds	2-4 pm
Birding Wednesday	Linda Lawton birding.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	2 nd Wed	morning
Canasta	David Parsons 07796 816650	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Wednesday	2-4 pm
New Age Kurling	Ian Webb beacon@hwu3a.org.uk	Congregation Ch	1 st Wed	2 pm
New Age Kurling 2	Pat Middleton 07703 399432 Julia Granger 07909 330715	Congregation Ch	3 RD WED	2-3 PM
Movie Group	Dick Van Aken, Jim Tyson moviegroup@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	1 st Wed	10 am
On The Edge - Biographies	James Hobson onthededge@hwu3a.org.uk	The Activity Room, Methodist Church	4 th Wed	2-4 pm
Quilting	Anne Parker quilting@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Ch	3rd Wed	10 am
Railway Exploration	railway.exploration@hwu3a.org.uk	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	3 rd Wed	10 am
Shakespeare	Anna Wilson shakespeare@hwu3a.org.uk	Congregational Church	2nd Weds	10 -12
Scrabble for fun	Toni Parsons 01858 431944	Community Ch	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10 – 12
Table Tennis 3	Jenny Acaster 07530 999850	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	9 am
Transport Group	Michael Milsom 01858 419874	Bowls Club, Little Bowden	1 st Wed	10 am
Walking Half Day 1	Bruce White 07919 935496 walking1.wednesday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	2 nd Wed	Morning
Walking Wed Strollers	Linda Reed 07986 460319 Les Dodd 01858 462244	Various	2 nd Wed	10.15 am
Wednesday Book Club	Jacqui Crowe wednesday.book@hwu3a.org.uk	Members homes on a rota basis	2 nd Wed	1.30-3pm
Wine Tasting	Naomi /Jonathan Shaw 01858 682133	Please call	Every 3 rd Wed	Various
THURSDAY				
Birding Thursday	Bruce White 07919 935496 birding.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside	3 rd Thursday	Morning
Cribbage	Colin Smith cribbage@hwu3a.org.uk	Little Bowden Bowls Club	Every Thurs-day	10am – 12noon
Drawing & Painting	Elaine Scarlett 01858 432 029	Oxendon Village Hall	1 st and 3 rd Thu	Afternoon
Family History	Rob Green familyhistory@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Church	3 rd Thursday	10 – 12
French Conversation	Hilary Pollak 07854 120605	Please call	Weekly	2.30 pm
Garden Group	Stella Freeman 01536 760124	Meth Church (winter)	3 rd Thurs	2 pm
History, Aspects of Intermediate German	Ernie Parsons 01536 760141 Frances Parsons 07910 029273	Desborough Town FC E-mail for venue	FINAL Thurs 2 nd and 4 th	2pm 10-11.30
Listening to Jazz	Mike Goldsmith 01536 770122	Please call	Second Tues	2.15 - 4.15
Mah Jong	Pamela Costall 07803 204464 Carole Winfield 07966 442583	BAPTIST CHURCH, Coventry Road	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	9.45 am
Play Reading 1	Alan Gurr 07967 566970	Methodist Ch	2 nd Thursday	10 - 12
Play Reading 2	Alan Gurr 07967 566970	Community Ch	2 nd Thursday	2 - 4
Spanish – Basic	Peter Mothersole espanol1@hwu3a.org.uk	Community Ch	Weekly	2 pm
Spanish Improvers	Don Collins 01858 462409	Community Ch	Weekly	10 am
Table Tennis 2	Sheridan New 07795 872496 sheridan.new1@gmail.com	MH Leisure Centre	Weekly	Midday
Tennis	Neil & Maggie 01858 431 665	Gt Bowden Tennis Courts	Weekly	10 am

Thursday Ramblers	Helen Salisbury 07837 410575 walking1.allday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside, various	Last Thursday	10 am
Urban Thursday Walks	Gina and Graham Handsley urban.walks@hwu3a.org.uk	MH	1st Thursday	11 am
Thursday Pub Walks	Alan and Linda Reed walking4.thursday@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside, various	4 th Thursday	Morning
Wildlife	Diana Baxter 0116 279 2947	Outside, various	2 nd Thursday	Morning
FRIDAY				
Creative Writing	Ann Eato/Nita West 01858 461517	MH Library	2 nd Friday	2.15 pm
Cycling	Kevin Millard 01858 468015	Outside	1 st & 3 rd Fri- days	10.00am
Health & Wellbeing	Rob & Kathy Davison 07983 948392 07881 816909	Methodist Church	2 nd Friday	10.30am
Photography Friday	Phil Aldridge 07734 903737	Welland Place	3 RD FRIDAY	afternoon
Papercraft & More	Jan Collins 01858 462409	Please call	1 st & 3 rd Friday	morning
Papercraft – Beginners	Jan Collins 01858 462409	Please call	2 nd & 4 th Fri- days	morning
Discovering Poetry	Jill Hart 01858 469663	Methodist Church, Up- per Room	1 st Friday	10 am
Sequence Dance	Christine Morris and Julie Holmes sequence.dance@hwu3a.org.uk	Little Bowden Bowls Club	1 st & 3 rd Fri- days	4.00 - 5.30 pm
Singing for Fun	George Cashell 01858 467616	Methodist Church	2 nd & 4 th Fri	Afternoon
Society Today	Martin Gossage society.today@hwu3a.org.uk	Methodist Church, Activity Room	3 RD FRIDAY	2-4 PM
Tai Chi	Lynn Thacker taichi@hwu3a.org.uk	Sports Hall, Leisure Cen.	1st & 3rd Fri	10.30 - 12
Vegetarian & Vegan	Chris Hobson 01858 289784	Various	3 RD FRIDAY	12-2pm
Walking, Fri Strollers	Carol Harvey 07855 738706 Michael Parsons 07940 185429	Outside	2 nd Friday	10.15 am
SUNDAY				
Singles Sunday Lunch	Vivienne Murphy 01536 771410	Various	1 st , 3 rd & 4 th Sundays	Various
OTHER				
Do It Again Group	doitagaingroup@hwu3a.org.uk	Various	Various	Various
Drones & Photography	Terry Eato 07943 732841	Outside	Various	Various
Evening Activities	Yvonne Starkey evening.activities@hwu3a.org.uk	Various	Various	Various
Holiday Group	Maryan Richardson trips1@hwu3a.org.uk	Advertised to group	Normally 5 days	various
Holiday Group 2	Gerry Growney holiday.group2@hwu3a.org.uk		As advertised for each trip	
New Experiences	Kevin Millard 01858 468015	Various	Various	Various
Trips	Maryan Richardson trips1@hwu3a.org.uk	See Events List	As advertised for each trip	
Walking – Evening	Linda Reed 07986 460319 membership@hwu3a.org.uk Louise Elsome 07740 572956 chair@hwu3a.org.uk	Outside, summer	Various	Various

Confessions of an Accidental Local Historian— Steven Kim

There is a particular kind of vanity in believing that nobody has ever properly written about the place you live. I laboured under this delusion for some years, until I discovered - rather deflatingly - that Market Harborough had been getting along perfectly well without my help since the Anglo-Saxons turned up and named it "Oat Hill." Not Gold Hill, not Triumph Hill. Oat Hill. Even in the eighth century, this town knew better than to oversell itself.

That, in a nutshell, is my creative exploit: I write articles about world history for a Korean progressive news outlet, and somewhere along the way Market Harborough - my own front doorstep - became one of my subjects. I sat down to write about kings and Nobel laureates and ended up, four paragraphs later, writing about a corset factory. Nobody warns you about this when you take up local history as a hobby. You go looking for the sweep of empires and you come home with underwear.

The corset factory in question is, of course, the Symington Building - yes, the very one hosting our Creative Harborough event this September. I wrote about it a few months ago for readers in Seoul who had, I promise you, never previously wondered how Victorian foundation garments become Grade II listed council chambers, a library, and a museum. I explained, with what I hope was appropriate solemnity, that the Symington family built an empire on "Liberty Bodices," and that in 1980 the whole operation was repurposed rather than demolished - a fact I offered to Korean readers as a gentle rebuke to societies (mine included, on a bad day) that prefer knocking old buildings down to imagining what else they might become. I did not expect to be back inside that same building for a poetry reading and a raffle. History has a sense of humour, and apparently so does the U3A programming committee.

I also discovered that this town produced half of a father-son Nobel Prize in Physics (the Braggs, 1915, the only such pair in the prize's history), and a heavyweight boxing champion so handsome he was compared to Errol Flynn, who came home afterwards to farm apples and, eventually, to rest beneath one. Between the regicide, the physics, and the boxing farmer, I have concluded that Market Harborough's real secret is not that nothing happens here, but that everything happens here and then goes for a nice quiet retirement in Leicestershire. I find this enormously reassuring, and would recommend it to any of us as a life plan.

So that is my contribution to Creative Harborough: proof that you needn't travel far, or even leave your market town, to find material - you just need an unreasonable willingness to look closely at a building you walk past every week. If the U3A is looking for a motto for the September issue, I offer this one, tested on Korean readers and Charles I alike: mind the small places. They are rarely as small as they look, and they are far more likely than you are to still be standing in four hundred years.

* My Korean Article on Market Harborough

[왕당파 군대 본영·노벨상 부자 길러낸 마켓 하버러 <김성수 인물로 본 세계사 <기획·연재 <기사본문 - 세상을 바꾸는 시민언론 민들레](#)



Painting Pets at Harbrough Market - Barbara Reader

I'm a completely self-taught artist and I only really started painting after I retired. But since then I've painted hundreds of pet portraits and, for the past 14 years, I've been a regular stallholder at Harbrough Market.



My portraits begin with photographs, which customers either bring to me at the market or email over. I'm only as good as the photos they give me! I have customers who've been coming back for years. I've painted dogs as puppies and then again when they are older. Some of the most important portraits I paint are of pets that have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Handing

those over can be very emotional, which is why I always keep a box of tissues on my stall!

I spend a lot of time studying each photograph and, while I'm painting, I often find myself talking to the dog! After spending so many hours looking at a face, you do begin to feel that you know them. For me, getting the eyes right is particularly important. Alongside the pet portraits, I also paint comedy slates, which are the fun, relaxing side of my painting. As I often say, "They laugh at one side of my table and cry at the other."

Barbara Reader aka 'The slate Lady'

Barbaraslates@gmail.com



Country dancing.

Members of the group will be showing their skills and inviting some visitors to join in.

11.00 Room 219 Symington building.

Are you dancing? Are you asking?



Frank the Plank- the human sundial.



The **Movie group**, during research for their Canal Project, managed to track down not only the creators (Marjorie and Michael Clements) of this famous Millenium project, but also the original model for the design. Members of the Movie group will be present on Sat 19th to talk about their work. More to follow in online version.

When we moved to Market Harbourough seven years ago, one of the things which immediately impressed me was the Symington Building. Not just its impressive façade, recently renovated, but the way in which it had been repurposed.

Instead of demolition, as is often the fate of disused factories, the decision was made to incorporate the council offices including the Register Office into the iconic interior including many momentos from the building's original corset making past. The museum section is also a popular addition. Even more attractive is the library, particularly the children's section. It is totally child friendly and very well used.



Fittingly, for this issue of the magazine, the Creative Writing group meet in the main body of the library. Starting as an experiment during a national library promotion in 2022, we have occupied our special corner every month, without paying a penny. Thanks to Jake Sohanpol, library supervisor and the rest of his wonderful team.

Unfortunately, the council's creativity seemed to run out with the other side of Adam and Eve Street, where a soulless development was built on the site, with an uninviting car park area, when a second factory was demolished.

Don't even mention the architectural disgrace, **TESCO Express**. *Dave Martin*



Work commenced in 2024 to create this attractive quarter in Harbourough town, centred around the four iconic buildings featured in the poster. (HDC.)

Interestingly, despite its appearance, the Harbourough Theatre building is the newest.

In 1935, The Green Dragon, a former coaching inn was demolished and the owners of the Symington Company decided that a cycle shed for the workers bikes would be desirable. (Two storeys!).

However, as it was in line of sight of the offices, it was decided that a pleasing on the eye edifice be constructed for this rather mundane purpose. Hence the Elizabethan merchants house look complete with mullioned windows and solid oak doors. D.M

More Creativity from our members

I was heavily into garden railway at one point and, mostly to refresh the hobby, Ha! ha! I had a brief flirtation with 7/8th scale, because I could use the same track. That meant a scale of about 12th scale, the dolls-house scale. I could never understand people whose railways just went round and round, without purpose. Why have a permanent way with no job to do? My locos always needed a driver and my station platforms needed passengers and staff. That led me to making figures from Fimo and I took that further, even after the railway went.



Fimo is a lovely clean modelling clay that allows for each piece to be fired, thus stabilised, worked on with tools, added to with fresh Fimo and refined, almost endlessly. Very satisfying as a medium and not messy.

Below are some images of a few pieces I made over the years. Some are quite crude in close up but worked nicely as passengers in coaches or on station platforms, using the 6ft rule (If you're 6ft away, they look fine!)

Other subjects included me and a couple of other Harborough Singers basses, a tango band and dancers, my then cleaning lady and a viol quartet I played in. **David Turner**



Linda McCormick makes colourful knitted items for her niece who runs her own business of music and movement for babies.





Speakers' Corner

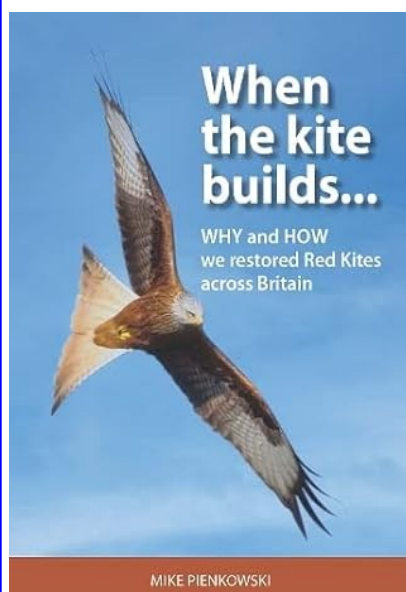


Our monthly talk in August was given by Patricia Robinson from an organisation called **Mary's Meals**.

I don't think any of us in the room had previously heard of the organisation and were left completely amazed at what they have achieved.

The charity was started in 1992 by two Scottish brothers during the Bosnian Conflict when they drove several truckloads of humanitarian relief to the country. During 2002, one of the brothers was in Malawi and met a mother of 6 children who was dying of aids. He asked one of the teenage boys what was his dream for life and the response was "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day." From that conversation Mary's Meals was born.

With the help of other agency partners Mary's Meals now provides 3 million meals a day across 17 countries. The meals, a fortified cup of porridge, are given to the children while they are at school. This has encouraged the children to get involved with education because if they are not in school then they do not get fed. Meals cost just £19.15 a year per child. *Bea Martin*



14 SEPTEMBER 2026 Dr Mike Pienkowski: "Why and how we restored Red Kites across Britain"

Mike's talk includes a 30-minute video including material filmed both in 1989-90 and around 2022, plus a shorter illustrated talk on the main outcomes of the Red Kite restoration and a Q&A section.

Mike was the chair of the group who planned and executed the reintroduction of red kites into those parts of the UK from which it had been missing for at least a century and a half, and the author of the book *When the kite builds... WHY and HOW we restored Red Kites across Britain*.

Bea Martin

Hwu3a SPEAKERS:-

12th OCTOBER 2026 Martin Lloyd - Passports, assassins, traitors, spies.

9th November 2026 Alan Rogers – "A policeman's lot ..."

Alan Rogers MBE, retired police officer

Coming up

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026

14 th SEPT.	Dr Mike Pienkowski: "Why and how we restored Red Kites across Britain"
28 th SEPT	Get together
12 th OCT.	Martin Lloyd - Passports, assassins, traitors, spies.
26 th OCT.	Get together

Theme for October edition, Best of British:- following the success of our 'Vive La France' edition, we would like to hear about your views on the best of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and of course England. Plus the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands of course. Have you one particular resort, town, tradition, celebrity, sports team... from these places. Or maybe you would like to rate them or just concentrate on one thing. We look forward to your contributions.

Original poems and quizzes always very welcome. Also photos you have taken of local interest. Please send your contributions to newsletter@hwu3a.org.uk, Dave M

You can read many more articles and see more photos in the online edition. Go to hwu3a.org.uk then click on 'What's on' and 'Newsletters'. We would welcome your comments and your contributions for this online version. *Ced Bufton & David Martin.*

Copy Deadline for October edition - Friday 25th September

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WELCOME TO THE ONLINE VERSION of the July 2026 Issue of the Magazine.

Thanks again to all members who have contributed to this edition. More Creative links, but first some group reports.

Dave Martin, Ced Bufton. Co-editors.

CONTENTS

P. 17	Introduction, New group?	P. 21	More creativity
P. 18-19,	Do it again Group	P. 22	More Artwork
P. 19	Bookworms	P. 23	Creativity? Last word
P. 20	Walking, strolling groups	P. 24-26	Local Events

We are planning on starting a new group to be named ***The Chat Room.***

It is to be a relaxed, light-hearted, entertaining evening comprising a maximum eight participants. Each month in alternating members' homes a group participant will be the host, choose a topic or two, a couple of weeks before, and provide light refreshments.

Nothing controversial, no politics, no religion.

Below is a random selection of examples of topics that could be discussed.

What was your biggest Faux Pas? Which modern convenience/item would you eliminate from existence? The most spectacular view you have ever encountered? What you did as a child that would seem bizarre today? The list is endless.

We will keep the group to a maximum of eight so that there is room for everyone and only one conversation at a time is happening.

If we find we have enough participants for a second or third group, then each group of eight would run separately on the same evening with the host on that evening leading the group. After six months, we could switch participants around so everyone gets the opportunity to meet others.

The group would meet on the second Tuesday of each month, 7.30 – 9.30pm alternating in each member's home.

All administration of the group/s will be handled by the Group Coordinators, Hilary Bufton and Peter Saunders, and no finances are required.

We would like to start on Tuesday September 8th.

If interested, please email chatroom@hwu3a.org.uk Peter Saunders

23 members of The Do It Again Group had an evening event for change. We were invited to Hallaton Museum who kindly opened up for us. This is a small but fascinating museum, packed full of information about early life in Hallaton. There are displays about The Bottle Kicking Tradition. We viewed the Hallaton Treasure with a replica of the Roman Helmet found, the Ale Tales and Hallaton Castle Display.

After we had viewed the rich history in the Museum, we were taken on a trail of the village, starting in the Church St Michael's and All Angels. This mainly 13th Century church was a haven

for Pilgrims back in medieval times and still attracts many visitors from all over the world. Inside the building there are time boards detailing the events through the centuries. Our tour continued through this medieval village, which was bigger than Market Harborough at one time.



We were taken to a field to overlook the remains of the Motte and Bailey Castle.



Do it Again Group

We learnt that Hallaton had an early welfare system to look after the poor. We were also told that there were six butcher shops, with a slaughter house in the village and approximately ten pubs.



The Buttery was where the farmers wives would sell their butter and catch up with local news and gossip. Our tour finished conveniently outside the Fox Inn where some of us enjoyed a nice drink and home-made pies. *Yvonne Starkey The Do It Again Group*

Excellent report Yvonne, and great photos. *D.M*

Bookworms Group

August meeting

Thank you to Robert Davison for writing this book review and for inviting the author to our meeting. For August our book of choice was **'City of Devils' by Diana Bretherick** who is a local author, living in Market Harborough.

From a very early age Diana was fascinated with crime and murder and her many careers have been guided by this unifying interest. She trained as a criminal barrister, then taught criminology at Portsmouth University having gained a PhD in the subject. Never one to stand still, she then studied Creative Writing and bagged another PhD. She entered her first novel to a 'Good House-keeping' competition, won first prize and this then led to 'City of Devils' being published. Diana currently runs the Writers Hub in Market Harborough, helps with Culture Café and teaches writing at Gartree prison. 'City of Devils' introduces the reader to Lombroso – the world's first recognized criminologist. He lived in Turin in the 19th century. Lombroso was a real character, as was his assistant, Ottolenghi, who also features in the novel. The plot revolves around a series of gruesome murders in which Lombroso is implicated. A belligerent, ignorant chief of police, keen to arrest and charge Lombroso, adds tension, as does the body count. A young visiting trainee and an attractive maid with a murky past add a romantic and intriguing element. '

'City of Devils' has all the ingredients of a page-turning 'who done it'. Members of Bookworms thoroughly enjoyed the book, with some preferring the historical backdrop to the actual murder intrigue. It was fascinating to hear about Diana's research, the background to her novel and her writing style. *Louise Elsome Bookworms Group Coordinator*

Walking groups

Recent weather conditions, extreme heat and thunderstorms, meant that there were several cancellations for health reasons. Hopefully everyone will be back out there soon catching up with missed walks. D.M

Friday Strollers

On Friday 9th October, Ann and Brian Knowles will lead our stroll. Meet at The Waterfront, Market Harborough. LE16 7UW. 10:15 to order lunch.

We will begin to stroll at 10:30 along the canal and through the country park. If you would like to book a place contact Ann or Brian. 20 strollers max please.

brian.knowles3333@gmail.com 07864787267

Best wishes Carol and Mike

August Stroll



The August meeting led by Paulene with Les, attracted 13 Amber heat alerts, challenging members. It was also a welcome return of Linda and Alan.

We met at the Spencer Arms in Chapel Brampton and followed the main road before walking a path with a plentiful supply of tasty blackberries, then descending into the edge of Church Brampton .

A lane led us fortuitously to La Monde Café, not quite the end of the world, where it was agreed a pit stop would be appropriate. We were welcomed warmly, no pun intended!

One member met an acquaintance. We admired the stables, the views and explored this village.

We passed through its churchyard and returned along a tree-lined road giving welcome shade. We took another path, then re-joined the same road returning to a somewhat mixed reception at our base re our prebooked orders!

Apologies but I had noted and recorded all that was requested! Perhaps a further long break may be due? Or new management? *Les Dodd*

More creativity

We featured David Turner's creative use of the modelling medium Fimo and its use with his railway. He mentioned how he had taken this further including a whole variety of subjects and here they are.



What wonderful tributes to David's friends and acquaintances! D.M

And here is a taste of what some of us used to get up to at the end of my garden. While I made the rolling stock, some of the locomotives and some of the buildings, at that time, very few of the people were made by me, but by Rob Bennet.



It appears that David is something of a film maker as well. You can click on the two images to see his railway layout and steam trains in action. D.M

More Artwork



Above, a view of the Sussex Downs, Sorrell Kinley, and one of David Appleyard's pub signs. Below, another of Barbara's slate paintings in progress



Above right, *The Clean Up, Colour Up Project* in 2025 brought unexpected bursts of colour and joy to Market Harborough through painted utility boxes. It was a simple idea with a big impact, one that showed just how much colour and creativity can lift everyday surroundings and contribute to our collective wellbeing.

Creative Writing – Missed opportunity

As I wrote in an earlier article, Eureka Moment, I trained to be a teacher at Doncaster College of Education. During my studies I followed courses in French and English. One of the English lecturers was Reg Hill, I later discovered he was an accomplished and much-admired crime writer. At the time, he took courses in Creative Writing. So, what did I learn?

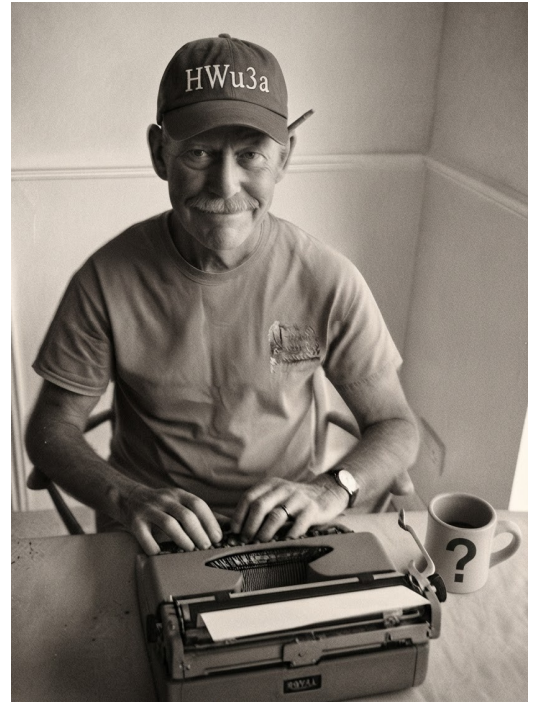
Absolutely nothing.

Why?

Because I chose a load of boring courses on Dickens, Hardy and the Brontes etc.

Missed opportunity or what?

What might have been?



Finally, in this section, a return to Artificial Intelligence and in particular, its use in generating images. You may have noticed in recent months, an increase in AI images in the magazine. This is partly because we are wary of copyright and royalty issues and as the magazine appears on the World wide web, we are very careful to use original, copyright free or AI generated images.

I was very much influenced by Jack Horton, former co-editor. Although now residing in Staffordshire, Jack still shows a lot of interest in the HWu3a and AI (Co-pilot).

If these images and other effects obtained from the use of AI interest you, click on the images below to see more. D.M.



The Jordan Jammers are back!

Join us for a fun and relaxed Halloween themed evening of your favourite songs from the 60s, 70s and beyond



Fancy dress if you wish



Saturday 31st October 2026
7.30 pm

Desborough Library and Community Hub

High St, Desborough NN14 2QS

Bar (cash only). Doors open from 7 pm

Tickets £5 each available from the Library

Event organised by Desborough Library and Community Hub

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/list-libraries/desborough-community-library>



1st -30th September 2026

Experience our street gallery, a curated collaboration between local shops and artists, celebrating community and creativity.



**NORTHANTS
& RUTLAND**
OPEN STUDIOS

**Creative
Harborough**
A celebration!





As part of the Northants and Rutland Open Studios event in September, local textile group **Aspects of Stitch** are holding an exhibition of work. "Give them all the flowers" which celebrates 30 years of Harborough in Bloom.

Our display will showcase stitched artworks representing the colour and vibrancy that HIB bring to the town . Venue: 1st Market Harborough Scout Group, [31 Coventry Road, LE16 9BX](#). 10-4 Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September.

Refreshments available in support of LOROS. *Ruth Halberda*

