



Monthly Meetings

General meetings are normally held on the fourth Friday each month from 2pm to 4pm. **Doors open at 1.35pm**

Entry (including refreshments):

Members free, waiting list £1.50, guests £2

Friday 24th May

The Role of Forensic Investigation

Speaker David Tadd

Friday 28th June

How the 747 Got its Hump

Speaker Guy Bartlett

Activity Sessions

Entry (including refreshments) Members £1, Waiting list £1.50, Guests £2

Sessions are held Fridays between 1.30 to 4.00pm
On dates below

May

Fridays 3rd, 10th and 17th

Art Group/Cards/Games/Craft/Short Mat Bowls

May 31st Quiz

June

Fridays 7th, 14th and 21st

Art Group/Cards/Games/Craft/Short Mat Bowl

Rambles

We have been fortunate with the weather for our latest rambles. The Cliffe Pools one was very enjoyable and we discovered a very small sandy beach near the sea wall - ideal for those who don't want to travel too far to sunbathe!! However, it would be very inadvisable to bathe in the Thames if warnings about pollution levels are correct. The Six Bells lived up to its excellent reputation – it's probably one of the best pubs for food in our area. We had to avoid the muddy fields for our Lower Higham/Landway ramble and were early for lunch at the Heart of Higham where we were made very welcome and, yet again, the food was very good. Here are our plans for the next couple of months:

Sunday 28th April - Trottiscliffe.

Meet at 11.00 am in the car park of The George, Trottiscliffe, for a circular walk on good paths/lanes (maybe a very large puddle). Lunch at The **George** around 12.45 pm

Wednesday 1st May - Dillywood Lane

Meet at the top of Villa Road at 11.00 am for a walk down the main road, Dillywood Lane, across the field, up Hermitage Road to **The Heart of Higham** for lunch at 1 pm.

Wednesday 15th May – Shorne Country Park

Meet in car park of **Rose and Crown** at 11am for a walk in Shorne Country Park back to pub for lunch around 12.45pm.

Sunday 26th May – St Mary's Island

Meet at Dockside Outlet Centre outside Clarks Shoes at 11am for a walk around the island. Back to cars and on to **Kings Arms**, Upnor for lunch at 1pm.

Wednesday 5th June – Camer Park Meopham

Meet in the car park of **The Railway Tavern Sole Street** at 11.00 am for a walk Through Camer Park and across fields towards Meopham. Back to the Railway for lunch around 12.45 pm.

Janet is away for our 15th May walk. Can you please let George know if you will be joining us and what you would like to eat at the Rose and Crown

Non-walkers are very welcome to meet up with walkers for the pub lunch and prior notice would be appreciated. Please note that all ramblers walk at their own risk and non-members are reminded they are not covered by HiARA's third party insurance. If you have any queries about the walks please do not hesitate to give Janet a call on 01474 824221 or 07849884563.

Member's annual fees of £15 are to be paid by the end of May

Forthcoming Events

Monday July 22nd	Bexhill & The Star Pub	£45
Thursday August 1st	Tiptree fruit Farm & Cream Tea	£52
Thursday September 12th	The Vintage Bus Tour in Essex	£79
Saturday November 16th	Race Night with refreshments	Price to be confirmed
Tuesday December 3rd	Christmas Lunch	Details to follow
Friday December 20th	Our Christmas Party	Details to follow

Trip organised by Janet Topp - Windsor and Windsor Castle - Thursday 6th June £53 per person

Coach departs Higham 8.30am, Coach returns from Windsor 4.00pm includes coach travel, castle entry ticket & driver tip

Chairman's April Report

This month showed signs of a change in the weather and we have had a few spells of warm sunny weather. Daffodils and the blossom have all burst into life. It also is my last Chairman's report as I have stepped down from the position on the committee from the AGM. I do hope you have found my reports of use and kept you informed about the club's plans. I hope to still see you at meetings in the future and every good wish to the next Chair.

Another change was the date of our main meeting; we bought forward the Fenland Black Oak Table talk by Hamish Low to enable as many members as possible to hear of the fascinating journey of the oak tree, as several members were off for a springtime holiday. Beginning over 5000 years ago, the tree grew to an enormous height in the Fens of East Anglia to being discovered in a field submerged in a bog in 2011. Its journey then took another 10 years of careful preservation and craftsmanship in to what is known as the Jubilee table. However, the late Queen did not have the opportunity to see it. The table was in Rochester Cathedral for over a year, but has now moved on to another venue.

We also presented The Stroke Association with their donation of £446.00. Their representative Amber was delighted with the amount and thanked everyone. We welcomed her to stay for the entire afternoon, which she enjoyed. We also elected the new charity. There had been six suggestions put forward and each one was read out and voted on by a show of hands. The one chosen was SENSE, which is a charity for deaf and blind children. They do have a charity shop in Gravesend for dropping unwanted goods into. I have contacted their head office and have received some leaflets.

Our 21st Anniversary party took place on March 23 and over 70 people attended. Our ploughman's supper was popular and the celebration cake made by Higham resident Lisa was spectacular and delicious. We were entertained by singer and musician Andy Robinson, who had come all the way from Tankerton to be with us. His music soon had everyone up dancing and great fun had by all. The evenings raffle in support of our new charity raised £116. which is a great start to the donation. Many thanks go to the committee and helpers, too many to mention, for all their efforts in making the evening so successful. The expected guests from KentARA did not arrive, later we discovered due to ill health so our certificate will be received on another date.

Seven members have shown an interest in a private guided tour of Cobham Hall. This tour will be led by Christoph Bull on Thursday August 15. Cost £13.20p payable by the end of July to HiARA and is non-refundable. Please advise of any allergies on paying. Tour group is minimum of 10 people. See board for more details.

Liz



HiARA Committee Members

Chairperson	Liz Jeffery	01474 747090	Treasurer	Rita Hunter	01474 823868
Secretary	Joan Summers	01634 297414	Membership	Jenny Mount	01474356785
Activities	Rod Stockford	01634 221956	Events	Jan Morriss	01474 822775
Newsletter	George Tharby	01634 221579	Committee Member	Percy Scudder	01474 335719
Committee Member	Mary Martin	01474 332256	Committee Member	Mick Mount	01474 356785

If you have any comments, please contact the relevant committee member.