

Hickling Broad u3a – June 2024 Newsletter



Diary Dates: August 2024

Thu 1 August	Craft Club
Mon 5 August	Country Dancing
Tue 6 August	Croquet
Wed 7 August	Walking
Wed 7 August	Bookworms
Thu 8 August	Crib
Fri 9 August	Summer Social
Mon 12 August	Country Dancing
Tue 13 August	Croquet
Thu 15 August	Wildlife
Thu 15 August	British History
Mon 19 August	Blurr
Tue 20 August	Croquet
Wed 21 August	Dining Club
Mon 26 August	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 27 August	Croquet
Mon 02 Sept	Country Dancing
Tue 03 Sept	Croquet
Wed 04 Sept	Walking
Wed 04 Sept	Bookworms
Thur 05 Sept	Craft Club
Fri 13 Sept	Members Meeting
Please see Group reports below for details of meetings	
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

Bookworms – Reading Group: 1st Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Hickling Barn

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet up at Hickling Barn on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. Members choose their own book from the list supplied by the library and the member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

Seven Bookworms met up on 3 July to discuss 'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior, which was chosen by me. Here is my review:

"This is a delightful book, perhaps a bit of a stretch for reality but mainly fun and sometimes quite sad. 86 year old Veronica, rich, lonely and with no known family, decides to search for any family she may have and discovers she has a grandson, Patrick. Patrick thinks he is set for life with his granny's fortune but Veronica has already decided she wants to spend her fortune on saving the penguins in Antarctica and sets about visiting Antarctica to see where her money will be spent. The long suffering Eileen, Veronica's daily, organises everything as Veronica 'doesn't do computers'. The book is very eventful including the discovery of Veronica's teenage diaries which reveal hidden secrets. Also, the rescue of an abandoned penguin chick which Veronica takes under her wing (pardon the pun) and is reared successfully until his release into his natural habitat". Generally, we all liked this book and collectively gave it a 8/10.

The group will be taking August off and will resume on 4 September when we will discuss Jeanne's book choice 'Lady in Waiting' by Lady Anne Glenconner. If you would like to join Bookworms or come along for a taster just give me a call or drop me an email.

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

August's HBu3a meeting is at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) at 2pm on Friday August 9th when we will enjoy our annual "Bring a Plate" summer social. Please feel free to bring along something to share if you are able. Our August meeting is always a time that we meet together to talk about our u3a activities and adventures over the past year. Our interest groups will each have a table to display information about their activities and we will also have a sign up sheet for our proposed new Computer and IT Learning Group. We are hoping to establish this group as members have expressed interest in wanting to learn more about, and to keep pace with, new technology - from basic email and App use to safe use of internet banking, social media etc.

At our last meeting on Friday July 12th we had a last minute change of speaker due to the sudden ill health of our booked speaker. Toastmaster and Beadle, Neil Hunt, kindly stepped in at short notice to present "Tales from the Top Table". Neil is a Fellow and Past President of the National Association of Toastmasters, a Member of the Society of London Toastmasters, and Member of the City of London Beadles Guild. Neil works at all types of events, and during his career he has introduced Members of the Royal family, Prime Ministers, and Diplomats. As well as Lord Mayors, Captains of industry, celebrities, and hundreds of nervous bridegrooms. Resplendent in his full Toastmaster uniform, Neil had us captivated with his stories about the many facets of his work, a presentation much enjoyed by all present.

After Neil's presentation we enjoyed, as always, home made tea and cakes and we chatted and caught up with each others news and the activities of our interest groups. As always we would like to thank our wonderful cake bakers for providing our lovely afternoon teas, which are so much a part of our u3a members meetings.



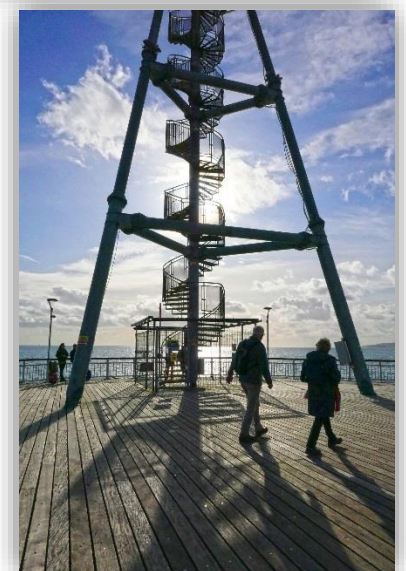
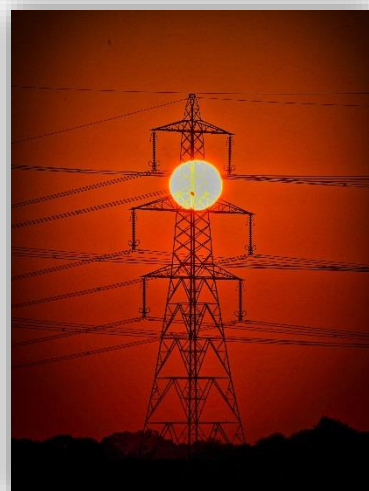
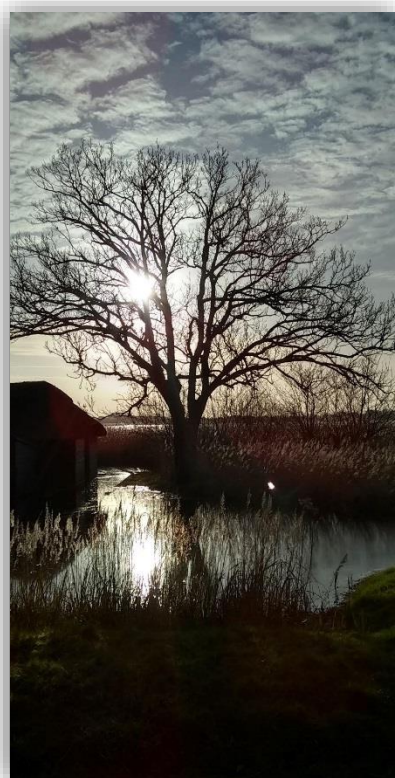
BLURR – The Photography Group: 3rd Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn

Contact:

Contre-jour was our subject matter that the Blurristas had to tackle this month.

A surprisingly large number of submissions and some super images resulted bringing to mind the thought 'are we getting better?' Well, next month we will find out because it's basically 'show and tell'. Members are invited to show us what inspires and motivates them past, present or even for the future. A completely free choice, carte blanche.

Now this could be very interesting.



Country Dancing: 1st and 2nd Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn

Dinah Slatter:

Please contact Dinah if you are interested in joining.

British History

Steve Whitby:

Elaine led our July meeting telling us about the history of the Judiciary which has developed over the last 9 centuries.

In addition to taking us through developments in the legal processes she also highlighted other changes mentioning olden day punishments (e.g ducking stool, scold's bridle) which have now mercifully disappeared. Even judges' wigs have changed - no longer made of horse hair, they now use hemp - and Elaine brought her wig, along with other items of regalia, to show us.

Our August meeting sees us forsake the Barn again as we visit the Time & Tide Museum in Yarmouth on the afternoon of Thursday 15th .- meeting time and place tbc. As with all our meetings new members of the group are welcome to join us as visitors. The admission price is dependent on numbers in our group but should be around £6.50 to £7.50. If you would like to join us please call Steve as he is compiling a booking form to give to the

Crib: 2nd Thursday, Hickling Barn (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Roy Smith:

Crib meet second Thursday of the month at the Barn 2-4 pm. All welcome. Tuition given. Contact Roy Beginners welcome.

Croquet Group

Diana Fossett: or Keith Burton:

We had a good turn out this month despite one damp week. The last two weeks have seen all four courts in use and last week five members played games. We really appreciate the support given to the group and, in fact, the number of members has increased to the extent that we have started a waiting list. So if you want to join in the fun, please add your name to the list by contacting Diana or Keith.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

Joan Burton organised The Dining Club July lunch and here is her report on The Maltsters, Ranworth.

We arrived at 12.45 for a 1.00 p.m start having pre ordered. The food came out after about 45 minutes of waiting. Unfortunately, they had run out of salmon for which they apologised and offered smoked mackerel as an alternative. This only affected 4 of us. Lots of customers were sitting outside as it was a lovely sunny day. Nice views of the boats and the Broads.

Most of the other customers were holiday makers. We sat at a long table at the back inside. The food was good quality and we enjoyed ourselves. We would go back again but not in the tourist season.

Creative Crafts: 1st Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Rose Pigula:

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different crafts. If you would like to join us just contact Rose on the above email.

Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

This month we had a wonderful trip on Albion, a carvel-built Norfolk wherry. Unlike other trading wherries that are clinker-built, Albion's hull is smooth. She was constructed in 1898 and served as a trading vessel before being acquired by the Norfolk Wherry Trust for restoration and preservation in 1949). We sailed from Cantley by the sugar factory, founded in 1912. It was not successful and closed down in 1916. After the English Beet Sugar Corporation was founded, Cantley Sugar Factory was reopened in 1920. Albion was a frequent visitor to the factory as it moved sugar beet from all areas of the Northern Broads. We sailed up to Brundle and sneaked into Surlingham Broad and moored up for lunch. Over lunch we read a chapter from Philippa Miller's book about the broads where she described a day cruise on Albion in the 1950's and she explained the history of the wherry - there were so many similarities to our own day out. The afternoon journey was equally enthralling with short breaks in the clouds to let the sunshine out.



Gourmet Diggers: 4th Monday (2:00-4:00 pm) at Hickling Barn

Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher: m

July saw us reach the letter O. Many thanks to Kathy who gave us a lovely orange cake.

With one our members being gluten free, this is setting a challenge for some of us and Kathy tried oblige with making gluten free raisin and oat cookies, sadly they wouldn't hold together. Not wanting to waste the ingredients she then made a gluten free pastry case and filled it with the crumbled cookie mixture topped with icing. A certain success as we all enjoyed the tart as well.

Next month is our Gourmet Digger social which Glenda is hosting, so fingers crossed for the weather.

This year's competition has sadly proved to be quite a challenge. What could be easier than growing a sunflower? Out of about 10 of us only 3 of us managed to actually produce a plant with flowers. What went wrong? The weather has been appalling and partially to blame, it doesn't help also if you have deer munching it's way through your garden, which is what happened in Glenda's garden.

We all talked about how to cope with the ever changing weather, which is proving to affect the way we garden. Some interesting ideas came forth.

Jobs to be done in the garden in the next month. As usual the list was long.

Finally we finished in a open discussion as to what we had, or not, done in our own gardens this last month. Some of us had done lots of things, others like Fred openly admitted to "doing nothing"

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey:

On the 16th July nine of our members enjoyed a day's sailing on the River Ant using five Yeoman sail boats from the Nancy Oldfield Trust. In the morning we sailed from Barton Broad up the Ant to the Museum of the Broads at Stalham for our picnic. During the morning the weather was fine with light winds, but once at the museum the rain came and we all huddled under a gazebo for our picnic.

In the afternoon we set off to return to Barton Broad in somewhat challenging conditions with light rain and some unhelpful winds. Of the five boats four of them had an encounter(s) with the reeds and resorted to either using the paddle or being towed out by the safety boat. The other Yeoman did not need a paddle, but one of our team did an impressive Tarzan impersonation in scaling a tree to push the boat away from the bank and nimbly reboarded.

There were a number of motor cruisers out on the river and we could see the panic on the faces of the holiday makers being confronted with five sail boats constantly manoeuvring from bank to bank. No serious incidents just had to find the most effective form of communication of telling the cruisers how to avoid us.

The day was a great success and we are looking at having another day out in September. The Nancy Oldfield Trust and the Museum of the Broads deserve a special thank you as without them our day out would not have been possible.



Walking: 1st Wednesday (usually 10:00 am) Various locations

Roy Smith:

Wildlife Group: 3rd Thursday (10:00 am) Various locations

Chris Foster:

This month we explored Catfield Fen, a site managed by the Butterfly Trust and a site with limited accessibility. However it was a warm sunny day and there was a great deal to see on a relatively short walk, mainly butterflies and dragonflies but all sorts of other inspiring wildlife.



Members Corner

Do you have something of interest to our members? A local event perhaps. Space permitting I will post it here in the next newsletter. Please send your entry to the email address below.

On Monday the 12th of August we are opening the Museum of the Broads for the exclusive use of Hickling Broad u3a. Doors open at 5.30pm and we will be running boat trips to view the Kingfishers. The Museum is suitable for those with limited mobility and wheel chair users. You may like to bring some snacks and drinks for a picnic by the river. Tea and coffee and some limited snacks are on sale at the museum. There will be a charge (£6) for the boat trip. The Wildlife and Discover the Broads groups are meeting there but all others are welcome.

Chris Foster

What's on at your next meetings

Friday 09 August - Summer Social - Bring a small plate of food and enjoy all the interest group displays