

Hickling Broad u3a – June 2024 Newsletter



Diary Dates: July 2024

Mon 1 July	Country Dancing
Tue 2 July	Croquet
Wed 3 July	Walking
Wed 3 July	Bookworms
Thu 4 July	Creative Crafts
Mon 8 July	Country Dancing
Tue 9 July	Croquet
Thu 11 July	Crib
Fri 12 July	Members Meeting
Mon 15 July	Blurr
Tues 16 July	Croquet
Wed 17 July	Dining Club
Thu 18 July	Wildlife
Thu 18 July	British History
Mon 22 July	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 23 July	Croquet
Mon 29 July	Country Dancing
Tue 30 July	Croquet
Thu 1 August	Craft Club
Mon 5 August	Country Dancing
Tue 6 August	Croquet
Wed 7 August	Walking
Wed 7 August	Bookworms
Please see Group reports below for details of meetings	
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 14th June, Sarah Doig presented **The A to Z of Curious Norfolk**. Local historian Sarah Doig returned to tell of strange stories of mysteries, crimes and eccentrics from our County. Sarah is a renowned speaker, presenting to many institutions in East Anglia, including at the Southwold Arts Festival this year. We are most grateful to her for coming to present to our u3a.

After Sarah's presentation we enjoyed, as always, home made tea and cakes provided by our ever generous cake bakers, and we chatted and caught up with each others news and the activities of our interest groups.

Next month's meeting is at Hickling Barn at 2pm on Friday July 12th, when Greg Powles presents "**Behind The Microphone**". Greg has presented breakfast radio shows, and has been able to combine his love of broadcasting and sport. He recognises how privileged he has been to do a job many people would love to do, but his show 'Behind the Microphone' sets out to reveal the reality of life when things go wrong. An honest exposé of success, disaster and starting afresh, as well as letting us in on his best, and worst, celebrity encounters.

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.

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 library list and the member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting. The group met on 5 June to discuss Kath A's book choice – 'The House of Silk' by Anthony Horowitz – and this is Kath's review:

"The House of Silk is an historical mystery novel by Anthony Horowitz. Set in London in 1890, the story follows Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson. This is the first time the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate has authorised a Sherlock Holmes storyline that was not penned by Doyle himself.

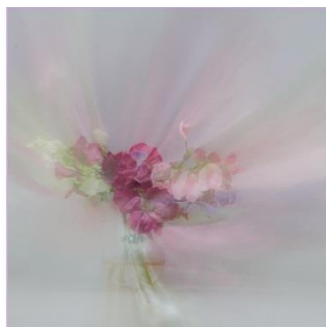
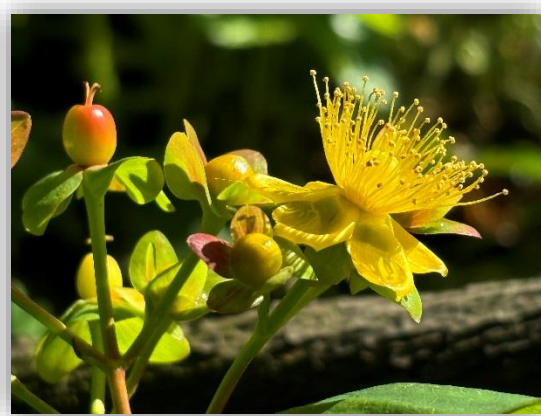
Holmes and Watson receive a visit from Edmund Carstairs, an art dealer, who says he is being targeted by an Irish gang out of Boston USA, known as the Flat Cap Gang. This sets off a series of investigations involving murder, robbery, abuse and trickery. Holmes saves the day by solving all the crimes in his usual ingenious and seemingly effortless way. The group gave the book a tentative 8/10 and would recommend other books written by the author." Our next meeting will be on 3 July when we will discuss my book choice, 'Away with the Penguins' by Hazel Prior. If you would like to join us please give me a call, drop me an email or just turn up and share a cuppa and cake and some good company! You'll be made welcome by one and all.



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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

This months subject was flowers and who could have guessed the response would be so enthusiastic? Far more entries than for any other subject recently and with it quite a lively discussion, some of it very informative, sometimes a little heated. Next month we are doing the exact opposite what the old handbooks tell us about having the sun over your shoulder. Silhouettes and contre-jour.





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

Dinah Slatter:



British History

Steve Whitby:

Our June meeting saw a small group of us head to Yarmouth where Janet treated us to another of her excellent guided walks.

This time she told us the history of the Venetian Waterways in the town. The talk was fascinating and the waterways really are a hidden gem. In addition to the history the paths meandered through the linked areas of water fringed by a beautiful selection of easy care planting. The weather also played its part with a lovely sunny day (virtually the first this year) .

July sees us return to the Barn on the 18th at 2 p.m. when Elaine will tell us "The history of the Judiciary". All are welcome, existing and would be group members,

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

Roy Smith: roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

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



Croquet Group

dianafossett1@gmail.com or
keith_burton@hotmail.com

A month of two halves! The first half was quite challenging. Will we be able to play croquet and dodge the rain? In the second half, we had the sun and played on our newly rolled courts which look good. The 'team', Keith, Phill, Paul had worked hard with the hired 'Beastie'. Joan provided sustenance to keep them going and to keep an eye out for any health and safety issues. As usual, games in the Barn as required. If you would like to join us, please contact keith_burton@hotmail.com or dianafossett1@gmail.com



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett: dianafossett1@gmail.com

Our June lunch venue was the Filby Bridge Restaurant and we welcomed two new members, Chris and Will, to the Dining Club. The sun shone for us and we were able to see out onto Ormesby Broad, a lovely setting. There were twelve of us and we all enjoyed the choices we had made from the varied menu. The service was good and we were made to feel welcome. As usual, there was a lot of chatting and catching up.



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

Rose Pigula:

At our June meeting we knitted or crocheted squares for people in care with dementia. The squares are embellished with various items such as sequins, buttons, bells etc as dementia patients can find it calming to handle them.

If anyone would like to help with this please contact me on the above email. Our next meeting is Thursday 4 July and everyone is welcome to join our friendly group.

Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

This month we took the wildlife boat from Martham. Many will know this boat as it used to start from Horsey but it has relocated to Martham. A great starting point as it is up stream of Potter Heigham bridge so devoid of all the large cruisers. It is an excellent trip as the helmsman goes out four times a day and knows exactly where to find the wildlife. The swallowtails made an appearance and they shone in all their glory. It was also interesting to see all the damage done to the reed beds by the struggling boats in the rivers race 2024.



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

Jane Brooker: and

Kate Fletcher:

This month Gourmet Diggers welcomed a speaker. Ann Holloway is the instigator of Hickling Broad Community Garden and she gave us a talk on how she got it going. Ann first got involved in Community Gardens when she lived in Buxton, Derbyshire and, having always loved gardening, she saw an opportunity to create one on some unused land. When Ann moved to Hickling in 2020 she was looking for something to do and in 2021 was eventually offered the small piece of land opposite the entrance to the Barn to create a garden in Hickling. This land is owned by the Barn Trustees, and so with the help of some volunteers the plan began.

Ann also gave us an insight to the history of Community gardens which date back to the early 1900s. This interest fell away in the 60s with the onset of Supermarkets. Now though they are coming back as people are more keen to feel involved with not only growing fresh food, but the health benefits it gives people socially and physically. She said sometimes they don't get a lot done as chatting takes over.

Ann is a very interesting lady and to this end I have invited her to attend our August Social when she will hopefully get some more volunteers to help the six that keep the garden going.

For the food side we had reached the letter 'N'. Sadly Rose had to drop out at the last minute with Covid. Sheila agreed to give it a go and delighted us with Chicken Curry with Noodles. When asked for the recipe, she told us it was her own and very nice it was too. Thank you Sheila.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

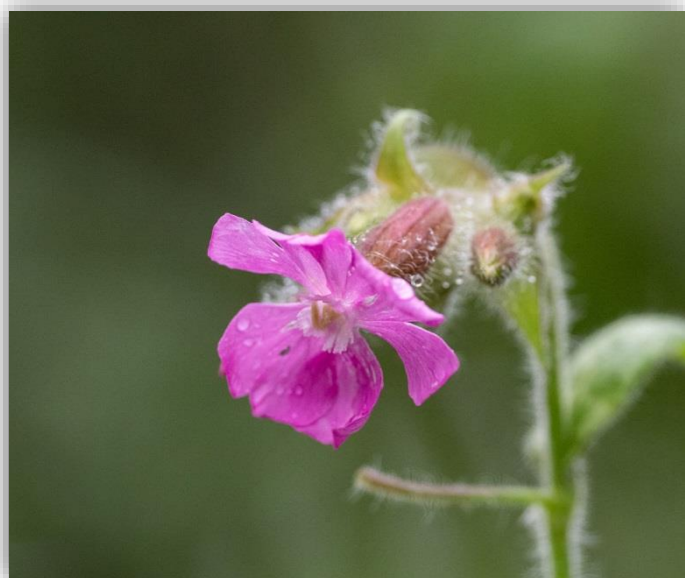
John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

A popular activity, but we are on the lookout for more new members.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.



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

Roy Smith: roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

For our June walk, seven of us gathered just off Boudicas way to start a 5 1/2 mile walk around High Ash Farm, Caistor St Edmond's. We enjoyed the acres of wild flower fields showing at their best and particularly pleased to see several bee orchids among them. The towering foxgloves were impressive through the woods.

We completed our walk by following the wall on the site of the Roman town reading the notice boards and enjoying different flower species growing there.



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

Various locations

Chris Foster:

With some trepidation we went to Pensthorpe Natural Park (Pensthorpe.com) - which is a commercial wildlife centre and has a quite large entrance fee. However it was money well spent with lovely garden, lots of lakes, woodland and marsh habitats and an abundance of wildlife. The highlight for me was the cranes who are part of the breeding programme and whom we studied and followed last year in the wildlife group. The group then enjoyed a lovely lunch outdoors while we discussed what we had seen and tried to understand how Paul had yet again managed to get lost.



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.

What's on at your next meetings

Friday 12 July 2024	Behind the Microphone with Greg Powles
Friday 09 August 2024	Summer Social with Pat Nearney
Friday 13 September 2024	Table Quiz with Jane!
Friday 11 October 2024	Maggie Prettyman – Hickling Mills and Drainage Systems

All items for the newsletter should be sent to hbu3anews@gmail.com