

Hickling Broad u3a January 2025 Newsletter



Happy New Year!

Diary Dates: January 2025

Wed 01 Jan	Bookworms
Thur 02 Jan	Blurr
Mon 06 Jan	Country Dancing
Tue 07 Jan	Croquet/Games
Wed 08 Jan	Walking
Thu 09 Jan	Crib
Thu 09 Jan	Art and Craft
Fri 10 Jan	Members Meeting
Mon 13 Jan	Country Dancing
Tue 14 Jan	Croquet/Games
Wed 15 Jan	Dining
Thu 16 Jan	Wildlife
Thu 16 Jan	British History
Mon 20 Jan	Blurr
Tue 21 Jan	Croquet/Games
Mon 27 Jan	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 28 Jan	Croquet/Games
Mon 03 Feb	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Feb	Croquet/Games
Wed 05 Feb	Walking
Wed 05 Feb	Bookworms
Thu 06 Feb	Art and Craft
Looking forward to seeing you all in 2025!	

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 10th January, our speaker topic will be "Hickling Mills and Drainage Systems"; in a further part of our exploration of local history. Maggie Prettyman will present an account of our local mills and drainage system. Without these structures the land could not have been drained and Hickling would have been a very different place - or maybe not here at all! Stories of storms and smuggling as well as some unseen family photographs of the restoration of Hickling Tower Mill will make this an afternoon of unique insights into our local landscape.

At our December meeting we enjoyed our usual festive season celebrations. Professional actor and all round musical entertainer Greg Powles presented his Christmas Show for us. As usual, everyone had a jolly time enjoying hot spiced apple juice with a tot of rum for some, as well as our customary share a plate buffet, tea and coffee. Thank you to our tea team and to all those who brought along such a range of treats to share.

This has been a better year in many respects, but we know that it has not been easy for everyone. So we wish everyone well, and while thinking of those in difficult times, we look forward to another year of meeting together and enjoying the friendship and learning that our U3A gives to us all.

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.

There was no Bookworms in December as the group had Xmas lunch at Wayford Bridge Inn. The group will be discussing Keith's choice in January, 'Dark Town' by Thomas Mullen. If you would like more information about Bookworms, please drop me an email.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

In December the subject was 'food' in all its guises, from burnt toast to fish heads, the images were fairly wide ranging. Next month takes us outside the kitchen and focusses on 'technology'.



Ūĕf. *Ströh*; cf. *strae*, *strew*.] Parents. [O.E. *strewu*;
straw² *strö*, v.t. an archaic form of *strew*:—*pa.t.* *strawed*;
pa.p. *strawed*, *strawn*.
strawberry *strö'bæ-ri*, *-bri*, n. Originally the
enlarged receptacle of the plant
genus *Fragaria*, bearing it.—*adj.* of the
of strawberries.—*strawberry*
dish-yellow
strawberry plant:
duke or duchess,
leaves on a duke's
straw'berry-mark
shrub *Calycanthus*,
straw'berry-toma'to
straw'berry-tree *Arbutus unedo*
arney) of the heath family, with
strawberry a *Potentilla* distinguished from the wild
strawberry by its



British History

Steve Whitby:

The group return after the Christmas break with a varied programme for the coming year.

It starts with our January meeting when Janet tells us of the life and works of Thomas Fowell Buxton the MP, brewer, abolitionist and social reformer. The meeting is at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 16th January. **Please do note the change of venue** - because of maintenance work at the Barn we will meet at Janet's house in Martham. I will send details of Janet's address to existing group members, but if you wish to come to the group for the first time please contact me (details below) for Janet's address and any other details you need.

All are welcome.

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

Dinah Slatter:

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

Rose Pigula:

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different art and crafts. At our December meeting we made Christmas decorations. **In January we are meeting on the 2nd Thursday (9th)**. If you would like to join us just contact Rose on the above email.



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

Roy Smith:

What a successful year it has been in the Crib group. We started with a few members and now has grown into quite a large group.

We welcome all abilities to join us, as tuition is given for beginners.

Seasons greetings to everyone, next crib meeting 9th January 2-4pm at the Barn, cost £1-50.

Croquet/Games Group

We all had a great time at the Boathouse for our annual Christmas lunch; lovely food and service. We sat on two tables of eight and there was lots of chatter and laughter. Thank you to Michael for the game of Heads and Tails which was won by Janet. We look forward to the New Year with our Games and then when the weather warms up it will be back to Croquet. Games will continue for those who want to play. If you would like to join us, please contact Keith or Diana



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

The last Dining Club of 2024 was held at Filby Bridge. 14 of us attended and all enjoyed our last get together of the year. A few chose traditional Christmas meal with others going for fish or other alternatives. The staff made us very welcome and had no problem in handling the odd change or addition. Certainly a place to visit again in the future

Discovering the Broads/Norwich

Chris Foster:

This month we experienced the magic of Christmas with a festive walking tour! From Roman times to the present day we discovered quirky traditions and how Norwich celebrated throughout the ages... This tour led us through the scenic and sparkly illuminated streets of Norwich.

Starting outside All Saint's Church on Westlegate (opposite the twinkling allure of John Lewis) and finishing at the Royal Arcade, this 90 minute enchanting walking tour was a voyage of discovery through the centuries and quirky traditions of the festive season.

We learnt of Christmases long past, from the year of a regal celebration fit for a king to the astonishing era when Christmas itself was almost forgotten!



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

The Group doesn't have a meeting in December due to its proximity to Christmas but our first meeting in 2025 will be on Monday 27th January.



IT and Computer Learning

We meet at 12 noon on Monday 27th January in the Barn to look at all things to do with our mobile phones! Again - a busy and complex agenda, but we hope to learn from each other ways to get more out of them. Do come along if you want to know more. Please bring your fully charged phone with you and £1 to cover the Barn hire.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.

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

Various locations

Roy Smith:

Nine of us met at Sheringham Park. We made our way to Weybourne Station taking in the wonderful views of the the Norfolk coast.

We were accompanied by a very large military plane/helicopter (v22 Osprey) which seemed to be practising vertical landing and taking off .

The cafe stop at Weybourne was a welcome break serving hot drinks. We then continued back to Sheringham park through the woods admiring all the trees; we were blessed with a cold but sunny sky throughout our walk completing 7 1/2 miles. We ended up for our lunch in the New Inn .

Welcome to 2 new members Janet and John ,hope to see them again. Thank you to Glenda for leading the walk.

January's walk will be on 8th January.



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

Chris Foster:

This month everybody was too busy and the weather was a bit dodgy to get together for an outside visit. However we did enjoy the Broadland NWT Group talk on Toads (they would a whooing go).

However the wildlife group did come together for the Monday of the Christmas Tree Festival in Stalham to help run the canteen and to raise money for the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Lots of tea, coffee and soup was served and plenty of washing up completed. Many thanks to all those who came to help and those who came to support.

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 our next meetings:

January 10th: Hickling Mills and Drainage Systems

In a further part of our exploration of local history, Maggie Prettyman will present an account of our local mills and drainage system. Without these structures the land could not have been drained and Hickling would have been a very different place - or maybe not here at all! Stories of storms and smuggling as well as some unseen family photographs of the restoration of Hickling Tower Mill will make this an afternoon of unique insights into our local landscape.

February 14: Wally Webb - Adventures on the Norfolk Broads

Following on from his very popular presentation in October, retired radio broadcaster Wally Webb will return to tell us of his 40 years of boating on the Norfolk Broads. This illustrated talk will reveal interesting facts, unusual sights and amazing wildlife. Educational, amusing and sometimes tragic, Wally will take us on a trip that we will never forget.

March 14th : The pre history of the NHS - Cedric Halliwell.

Ced will come to tell the story of the history leading to the birth of the NHS. This talk will shed some light on the emergence of social welfare as a concept in an ever-more complex and populous society.

April 11th: Norfolk Wildlife Trust plans for the Hickling Estate - Andrew Pettit

Following local consultations, Hickling Broad Project Manager Andrew Pettit will return to give his eagerly awaited update on the NWT plans for the future of our local reserve.

May 9th: AGM Greg Powles performs Jimmy Stewart - A Wonderful Life!

James Stewart was an Oscar-winning actor and one of the first true Hollywood superstars. He was also a decorated war veteran who was stationed in East Anglia during WW2. Greg will appear in character as Jimmy himself, to talk about his life, his movies and his wartime experiences.

June 13th: The Work of the Chaplaincy at the N&N Hospital - Pastor Mark Taylor

Pastor Mark will come to tell us about his story and about the wide ranging duties and work of the Chaplaincy team at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

July 11th: On the Bottom - Neil Hunt

Neil was a Commercial Diver during the 1970's & 80's whose work included underwater construction in the notorious North Sea, the Middle East and also salvage in the strong tidal black waters of the River Thames. In fact he ended his career as Diving Superintendent (air), overseeing diving operations to a depth of 165 feet. Neil speaks frankly about jobs he has done, the dangers faced and touches on the remarkable history of the Commercial Diver. Neil was one of the last British divers to work in traditional surface-supplied equipment and audiences are enthralled (and left gasping for breath) as demonstrates its use by using a real traditional 'hard-hat' (Standard Diver's Helmet) as a prop.

August 8th - Summer Social

Come and join your friends at our u3a summer social to share a plate and talk about our year of activities and learning together.

September 12th: Norfolk Wherry Yacht Charter - Judith Keogh

Trustee Director Judith will come to tell us all about the Wherry Yachts her charity keep afloat, including their history and how they continue to work in the present day.

October 10th: TBC

November 14th : Stephen Poulter - Stories and Myths from Supernatural Norfolk.

As the evenings draw in, Stephen will come to tell us all about the supernatural myths and legends from our county. Prepare to be well and truly spooked!

December 12th: Share a Plate Buffet with Jane's Table Quiz

As a finale to our year, we will enjoy our share a plate celebrations along with Jane who has kindly agreed to return with her popular, challenging and fun fact filled table quiz.

2026

January 9th: Andrew Pettit NWT

In the finale of his trilogy of presentations, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Hickling Project manager Andrew Pettit returns to tell us how their strategic development of the Hickling Estate has progressed.

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