

Hickling Broad u3a February 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: February 2025

Mon 03 Feb	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Feb	Croquet/Games
Wed 05 Feb	Walking
Wed 05 Feb	Bookworms
Thu 06 Feb	Art and Craft
Mon 10 Feb	Country Dancing
Tue 11 Feb	Croquet/Games
Thu 13 Feb	Crib
Fri 14 Feb	Members' Meeting
Mon 17 Feb	Blurr
Tue 18 Feb	Croquet/Games
Wed 19 Feb	Dining Club
Thu 20 Feb	Wildlife
Thu 20 Feb	British History
Mon 24 Feb	Gourmet/Diggers
Tue 25 Feb	Croquet/Games
Mon 03 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 05 Mar	Walking
Wed 05 Mar	Bookworms
Thu 06 Mar	Craft Club

HBU3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 14th February, our speaker and topic will be **Wally Webb - "Adventures on the Norfolk Broads"** Following on from his 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.

At our last meeting on Friday 10th January, Maggie Prettyman presented "Hickling Mills and Drainage Systems" In a further part of our exploration of local history we heard an account of our local mills and drainage system from medieval times to the present day. 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 historic maps and family photographs of the restoration of Hickling Tower Mill made this an afternoon of unique insight into our local landscape.

As ever we extend our usual heartfelt thanks to our tea team and to all those who brought along cakes for us all to share.

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster: Helencfoster@outlook.com

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

Kathy Cooper: Kathy_villacoronada@hotmail.com

Bookworms meet 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. On 4 December the group had their Christmas lunch at the Weyford Bridge Hotel. Our first get together for 2025 was on 8 January to discuss 'Darktown' by Thomas Mullen. This was Keith's book choice and here is his review:

"Set in Atlanta in 1948, 'Darktown' is a story of extreme conflict between eight newly appointed African-American police officers and their white counterparts. It follows the plot of two Negro policemen trying to do the best possible job in very harrowing circumstances. Even though their remit is so constricting, they help solve the murder of a young Negro girl. This book is a startling reminder of life as an African-American in the Southern States."

'Darktown' created an excellent discussion within the group and most enjoyed it. Some thought it was a bit depressing but, after the discussion, have decided to go back and finish it! Most enjoyed it and some have even bought the next book in the series.

The group meet again on 5 February to discuss 'The Cat and the City' chosen by Rosemary.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

The Blurr camera club meets every 3rd Monday 2 – 4 in the afternoon at the Barn We are a friendly group and new members are always welcome.

This week we brought our cameras in and equipment and had a practical session with our cameras trying different techniques out. Such as macro and portraits.

Our next meeting is on the 17th February when we shall be showing our monthly theme challenge. We have two themes this month. Technology and bad weather.

I will be at the u3a monthly meeting if you want more information.

Keep snapping, Joan.



British History

Steve Whitby: whitbyfamily2003@yahoo.co.uk

Janet kicked off our new year of meetings by not only hosting (and providing two beautiful cakes) but by giving a fascinating insight into the life and works of Thomas Fowell Buxton who, despite being MP for Weymouth, had many local connections around our area - notably Cromer, Northrepps and Martham - his links included the Gurney family. He campaigned actively for the abolition of slavery and for penal reform, notably to reduce crimes warranting the death sentence.

Our February meeting, which is back at the Barn, is on Thursday 20th at 2 p.m. when Steve will tell us about "The Longest Strike" - the details of which may surprise you.

If you like British social history why not come along and give the group a try? All are welcome.

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

Dinah Slatter: robins@broadlandnet.co.uk

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

Rose Pigula: rosepigula@gmail.com

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different art and crafts. We usually meet in Hickling Barn. 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: roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Eight of us at Crib this month. We all had a good time and ate all the cake! Beginners and regular players are welcome. We meet on the second and third Thursday of the month in Hickling Barn.

Croquet/Games Group

dianafossett1@gmail.com or keith_burton@hotmail.com

There was an air of anticipation when we arrived at the Barn ready for our Mexican Train Tournament, some members suitably dressed in Mexican style as you will see from the photographs. There were fifteen of us and the final winner was Brenda Steward. Congratulations to Brenda and thanks to everyone for making it an enjoyable occasion.

Games continue in the Barn every Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. so if you would like more information or would like to join us, please contact dianafossett1@gmail.com or keith_burton@hotmail.com



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett: dianafossett1@gmail.com

As it was January, we decided to stay local and booked the Wayford Bridge Inn. There was a good turn out, 21 of us. We had two tables in a private room. The food was served on time, nice and hot and it seems that the liver and bacon was very popular. Everyone got a free chocolate at the end of the meal. More than happy to recommend this restaurant.

Our next venue is the Fur and Feather Inn, Woodbastwick Road, Norwich on Wednesday, 19th February 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. For more information or if you would like to join us, please contact me - dianafossett1@gmail.com



Discovering the Broads/Norwich

Chris Foster: ChrisPFos@outlook.com

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

Jane Brooker: jane.brooker@ymail.com **Kate Fletcher:** mrskatefletcher@gmail.com

This month we had reached the letter R. Rice came to mind so I made a rice salad with peppers, petit pois, spring onions and tomatoes. Mixed with a dressing of olive oil, mayonnaise and lemon juice. We then nibbled on Rocky Road. This made me wonder where the name Rocky Road came from and it appears that the Australians first made claim in the 1850's as it came from the difficult journey the gold miners took to the fields. The Americans came into the picture in the 1920's when a William Dreyer, ice cream maker, is said to have invented Rocky Road by mixing it into icecream to cheer people up affected by the stock market crash. Take your choice.

Various gardening topics were discussed this month.

Trends for 2025 according to RHS. Some seemed a bit far fetched others perhaps worth following.

Super foods. This caused quite a lot of laughter. They claim to slow down ageing, raise spirits, increase physical strength and even boost intelligence. We were all up for that, so I think seeds growing on all of our windowsills. An American site said that eating super foods could increase hair in your eyebrows, so if you see quite a few U3A members walking round with bushy eyebrows you will know that they come to Gourmet Diggers.

We then went onto gardening terms and what they meant.

We finished off with jobs to be done in the garden in the month of February and also what everybody had done in their own gardens in the last month. Most of us had not done too much as it has been too cold.

Roll on spring.



IT and Computer Learning

We meet 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

The summer sailing will resume in April on a date to be confirmed once this is available.

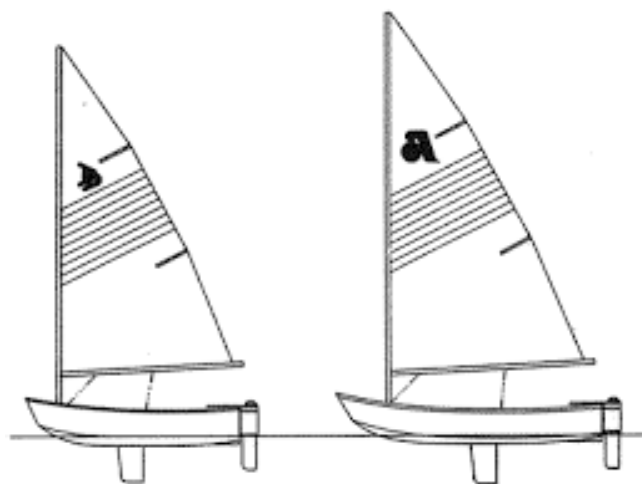
Taster Session

Nancy Oldfield Trust have organised a taster session for those who would like to try sailing but not sure if it is for them. The session will be on Thursday 4th April 2025 at 13:15. It will be in the normal Yeoman keel boats and with a fully qualified instructor. If you would like to book a place or need further information please contact either Ros or John by email. It will be on a first come basis and will be £20.

Beginners Course

We have a few places available on the 3 day beginners course commencing on 30th April. The course once completed will allow you to join the main group for Tuesdays and/Fridays weekly sailing sessions at which you will be supported by instructors and experienced sailors. We sail on Barton Broad with the Nancy Oldfield Trust who supply all the boats and safety equipment.

The cost of the course will be £120.00 and if you would like to book a place or require further information please contact Ros or John.



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby: whitbyfamily2003@yahoo.co.uk

Although the group is not actively recording any more we met in January to decide how to complete and maximise the access to recordings stored at the Norfolk Records Office and to discuss our proposed application for a grant from the Parish Council to fund the ongoing cost of a platform for our website. If you are not familiar with this why not visit us at www.voicesofhickling.org.uk and listen to recollections of past times in Hickling.

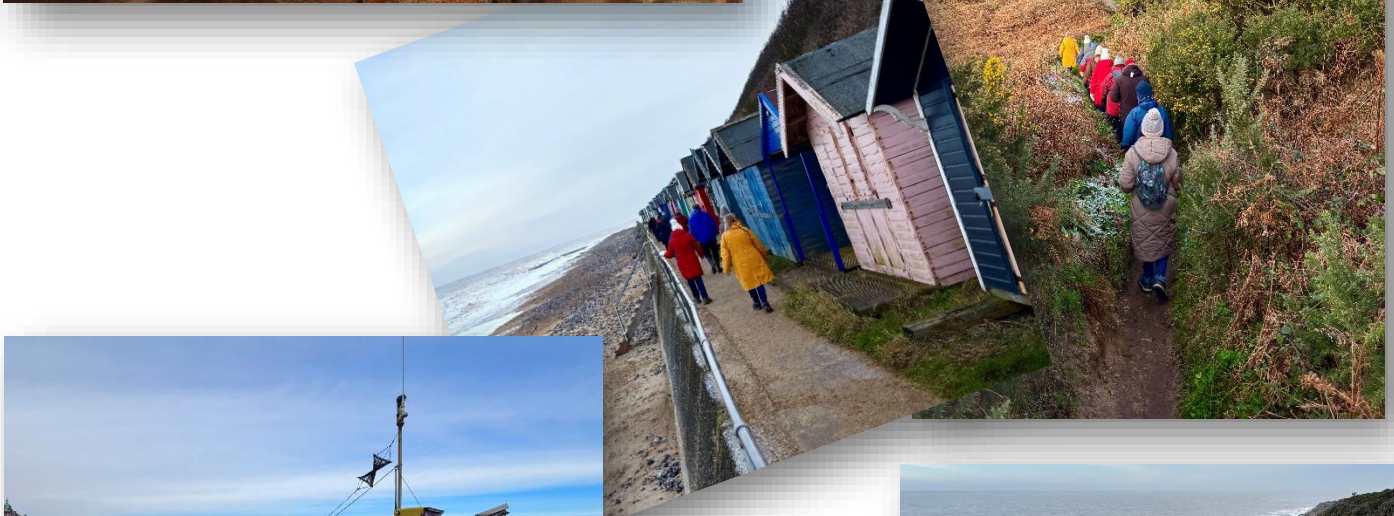
Walking: 1st Wednesday (usually 10:00 am) Various locations

Roy Smith: roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

A record 17 of us met at Overstrand for the first walk of 2025. We walked across the top of the cliffs to Cromer where we stopped for coffee / tea and a chat. We then walked back where some of us went along the beach and some back along the cliffs, completing 4 miles.

Lunch was at the Cliff Top Cafe Overstrand which was good. The weather was dry and cold - a good start to the New Year.

Next walk 5 February.



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

Chris Foster: ChrisPFos@outlook.com

The wildlife group joined an RSPB guided walk over Buckenham marshes for our January meeting. It was cold and overcast but visibility was surprisingly good, there was also a lot to listen to. There were flocks of over a thousand (we were educated in how to count these high numbers) of Wigeon and Teal. A good range of geese many flying in formation overhead. 28 different species were recorded including Ruff, Stonechat, Woodcote and Kites. The guide ensured everybody got good views of the different birds setting up his telescope at set points and use his detailed knowledge of the marshes to maximise the enjoyment of the morning. A very informative and atmospheric morning after which we headed to Base Camp Cafe which had a lovely wood burner and large hot chocolates to restore our temperature levels.



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:

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 that her charity keeps 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