

Hickling Broad u3a March 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: March 2025

Mon 03 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 05 Mar	Walking
Wed 05 Mar	Bookworms
Thu 06 Mar	Craft Club
Mon 10 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 11 Mar	Croquet/Games
Thu 13 Mar	Crib
Fri 14 Mar	Members Meeting
Mon 17 Mar	Blurr
Tue 18 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 19 Mar	Dining Club
Thu 20 Mar	Wildlife
Thu 20 Mar	British History
Mon 24 Mar	Gourmet Diggers
Mon 24 Mar	IT Learning
Tue 25 Mar	Croquet/Games
Tue 01 Apr	Croquet/Games
Wed 02 Apr	Walking
Wed 02 Apr	Bookworms
Thu 03 Apr	Craft Club
Mon 07 Apr	Country Dancing
Tue 08 Apr	Croquet/Games

HBU3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 14th March, our topic and speaker will be **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.

At our last meeting on Friday 14th February Wally Webb presented "Adventures on the Norfolk Broads" Following on from his popular presentation in October, retired radio broadcaster Wally Webb returned to tell us of his 40 years of boating on the Norfolk Broads. His illustrated talk revealed interesting facts, unusual sights and amazing wildlife. Educational, amusing and sometimes tragic, Wally took us on an unforgettable trip around the Broads!

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:

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

Kathy Cooper:

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. The group meet up on 5 February to discuss 'The Cat and the City' by Nick Bradey which was chosen by Rosemary. Here is Rosemary's review:

"Nick Bradey has spent many years in Japan and is fluent in the language. This led to one of the complaints about the book as it was felt he used far too many Japanese words and phrases, which made for some rather interrupted reading. The book is about a wandering cat who encounters various people in Tokyo. Each chapter contains the story of a new person and they all seem to link up by the end of the book. There are a lot of characters and it was felt some of the names were quite similar, making it a bit confusing at times. It was also felt it was unnecessarily crude in a few chapters.

Nine members attended this month and most were ambivalent about the book and a few did not finish it, although it was agreed that it gave an interesting view of Japan and its many customs and it created a lively discussion."

Bookworms meet up again on 5 March to discuss 'The Lonely Londoners' by Sam Selvon which is Jane's choice. The group is full at this time. I will mention in this section as and when spaces become available.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

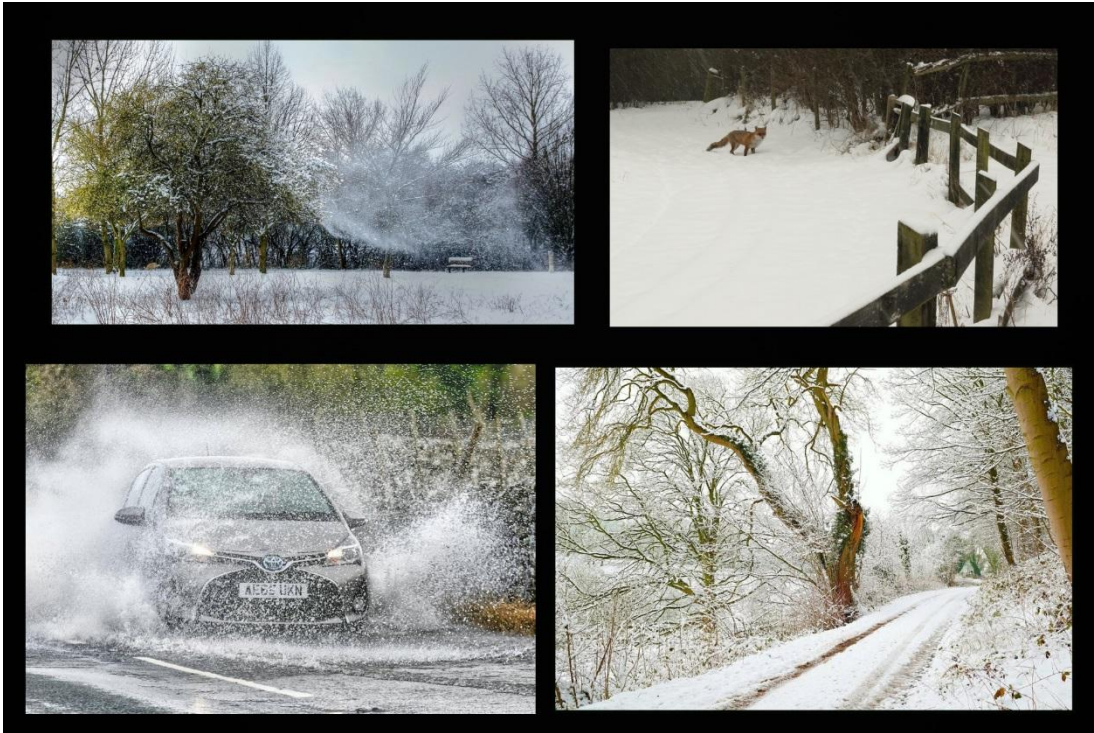
We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, at the Barn, at 2 o'clock. Next meeting is on 17th March

Our topics were Technology and bad weather. We had 59 photos from 13 photographers and although difficult topics we had a good and wide range of photos. After a break for tea, coffee and biscuits followed a discussion about the Hickling village show in regards to the photographic competition. With that in mind we are bringing in some prints at our next meeting.

Our topic for March is still life. New members are always welcome.

Keep snapping!





British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

Our February meeting saw Steve present a talk and show a film relating to Britain's longest strike which took place between 1914 and 1939 at Burston school near Diss. The film was made in 1974 and featured interviews with children who had participated in the strike. Some of the footage showed the school in 1974 which also gave an insight into school life in those times.

Our March meeting takes place at the Barn at 2 p.m. on Thursday 20th March when Elaine will lead the session and talk about "The history of medicines". All are welcome to come along so if you are interested in history why not give us a try - no need to book and you would be very welcome.

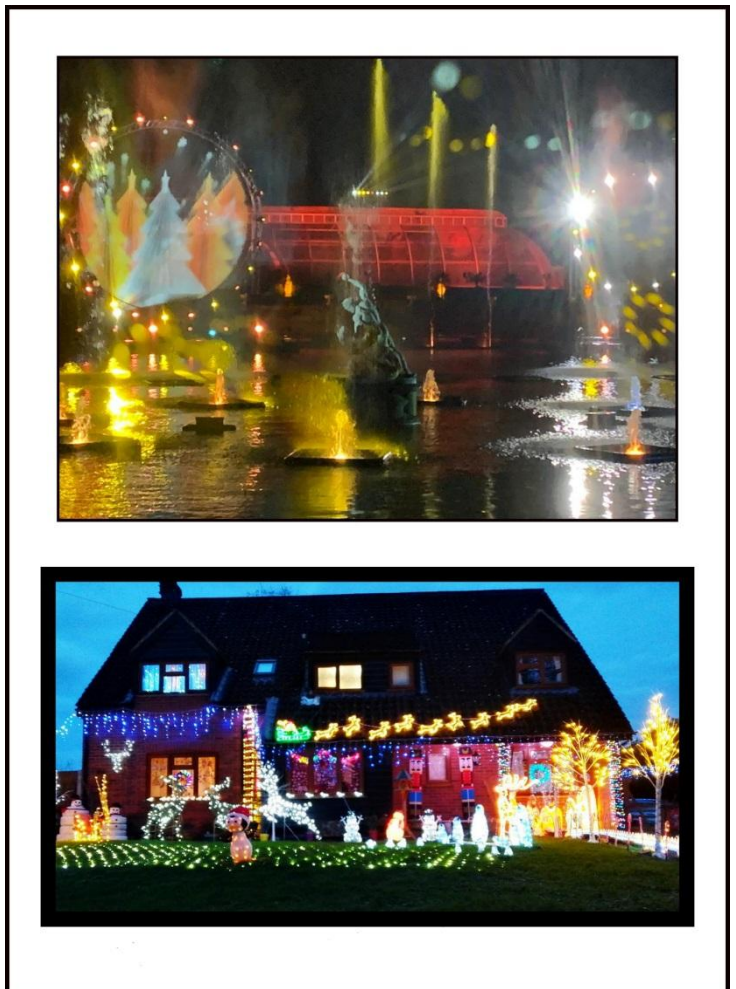
Country Dancing: 1st and 2nd Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn

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. 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:

Next Crib 27th March 2-4 pm. Beginners welcome.

Contact Roy for further details:-

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

Diana or Keith

Games were well attended during the month, members playing a variety of board and card games. One week, we held a Golf Tournament; Golf is a card game of chance but a certain amount of skill. Good fun and the winner was Gill Hunt.

March will be the last month of only Games as we will be starting the Croquet Season at the beginning of April, weather permitting. However, Games will be in the Barn every Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. for those who wish to continue. If you would like more information or would like to join us, please contact Diana or Keith.



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

This month's venue was The Fur & Feather, Woodbastwick. There was good turnout, with us being 19 in number. A variety of food was available on the menu; however, a number of people mentioned that there were choices on the specials board which they would have preferred. The staff were very pleasant and helpful, and we were seated on one long table in the main restaurant. All dishes were served in a timely manner but coffees at the end were slow to come out. However, the venue is definitely one to go back to.

The next lunch will be on Wednesday, 19th March 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. at the Poachers Pocket, Bacton. For more information or if you would like to join us, please contact me -



Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

This month's Discover Norwich saw the group meet at the Carrow Road Bridge and then follow the River Wensum walk round the edge of the inner city. Each bridge has a story to tell and The Norwich Historical Society provides notes that can be downloaded from the internet. All these bridges and some of the stories were part of Wally Webb's talk at the Barn the next day.



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

Roll on warmer weather so that we can get into our gardens and actually enjoy it. That was the general feeling at this month's gourmet Diggers. When we went round the group talking about what we had done in our gardens this last month the answer seemed to be 'nothing'. We had a chat about what to plant in shade, always a tricky area of our gardens. Good garden insects to welcome, what plants to attract pollinators, how to plant summer flowering bulbs correctly to get a good display of flowers. These were the topics this month. Finishing off with jobs to be done in the garden in March.

Jane took up the mantle to provide for the letter S this month. She went very English and made us scones with jam and cream. Can't beat it, and to go with our cuppa what better than a piece of shortbread? Well done and thank you Jane, so appreciated as we all know that cooking is not her favourite occupation. As we're coming to the close of our cooking through the alphabet thoughts are in hand for what we do next. All suggestions gratefully received.

IT and Computer Learning

Thanks to all who attended our meeting this month.

We looked at how to join Zoom and FaceTime meetings, most people managed to successfully use the links and learn how to use the various controls like camera and speaker during a meeting. We even had one person who attended remotely which was brilliant! We also looked at the National U3A website which has a wealth of on line learning sessions via Zoom, which we should all now be able to access following our work on this subject.

The link to this section of the website is here -

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> - its well worth clicking on it at looking at what's on offer to fill a cold and rainy afternoon with some on line learning.

Next month our meeting is on Monday 24th March, 12 noon at the Barn.

We agreed it would be useful to look at creating documents and using spreadsheets.

Looking forward to seeing you there - please bring along £1 for Barn hire and a fully charged device you can use.



Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

Although the group is not currently meeting on a regular basis we are currently preparing a request for a grant from the parish council to fund our website. Why not give it a view and hear local residents talking about life growing up in Hickling in the mid 20th century - www.voicesofhickling.co.uk

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

Roy Smith:

The February walk this time was led by Helen and Chris and we met at Honing Station. Here is their report.

“This month's walking group met at The Weavers Way carpark at Old Honing Railway Station. Luckily this is a large park as we had eighteen walkers all ready to enjoy morning of walking and a little learning on the way. The first mile or so we followed the old railway. This is ideal for walking any time of the year as for any potential flooding areas you are up on an embankment which also gives good views across the surrounding areas. The route then crossed a number of arable fields, one recently ploughed and then the 4-mile route finished on tracks and minor roads. We learnt about the defence preparations made in the second World War seeing a range of pill boxes and tank barriers on the railway. We also learnt a little of the history of the Ebridge Mill and the Dilham canal.”

Lunch was at Vera's tea room, and very good it was too!
Next walk is 5th March.



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

Chris Foster:

This month the wildlife group visited Fairhaven Gardens. After a coffee we set out and walked much of the site in a couple of hours enjoying mature oak woods, wet woodland carr and excellent views of South Walsham broad and the wildlife to be seen there. The pathways are easy walking and well engineered. One highlight was an 850 year old Oak. We finished with lunch in the cafe. We will be returning through the season to see the changes and to visit some of the areas we did not get to this time.



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:

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.

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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.

Have you renewed your membership? Full details of how to benefit from the Prompt Payment offer were in last month's email.

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