

Hickling Broad u3a April 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: April 2025

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
Thu 10 Apr	Discover Norwich/Broads
Thu 10 Apr	Crib
Fri 11 Apr	Members' Meeting
Mon 14 Apr	Country Dancing
Tue 15 Apr	Croquet/Games
Wed 16 Apr	Dining Club
Thu 17 Apr	Wildlife
Thu 17 Apr	British History
Tue 22 Apr	Croquet/Games
Mon 28 Apr	Gourmet Diggers
Mon 28 Apr	IT Group - No meeting
Tue 29 Apr	Croquet/Games
Thu 01 May	Craft Club
Mon 05 May	Country Dancing
Tue 06 May	Croquet/Games
Wed 07 May	Walking
Wed 07 May	Bookworms
Thu 08 May	Discover Norwich/Broads
Thu 08 May	Crib
Fri 09 May	Members' AGM

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 11th April, our topic and speaker will be Stephen Poulter presenting "Dick Turpin - the myth and the man". Stephen will contrast the myth about the "gentleman highwayman" which grew up in the 19th and 20th centuries in magazines, novels, films, and television series with the true story of one of history's most notorious villains, who was a violent and murderous thug. He will also tell the tales of a number of other highway robbers operating around the UK whose exploits were later attributed to Turpin.

At our meeting on Friday 14th March Cedric Halliwell presented "The pre history of the NHS". Ced came to tell the story of the history leading to the birth of the NHS. This talk shed light on the emergence of social welfare as a concept in an ever-more complex and populous society. We learnt many facts and insights about this important subject, and are most grateful to Ced for his time and skill in putting this presentation together. At Ced's request, the proceeds of our raffle were donated to the Hickling Barn & Playing Field Charity.

As ever we also 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 met up on 5 March to discuss "The Lonely Londoners" by Sam Selvon which was chosen by Jane. As Jane couldn't get to Bookworms this time Jeanne has kindly written the review:

"The Lonely Londoners", written, by Sam Selvon, describes the alienation and racial discrimination experienced by the Windrush generation and those following as they settled in London.

The author took the experiences of a few distinct characters to illustrate the shattering of their illusion, their homesickness and unfulfilled wish to return to their sunshine islands. Unfortunately, there was no discernible plot which made the book a tedious and uninteresting read. Bookworms felt they had read more interesting novels on this subject and marked the book 1/10!

Bookworms meet up again on 2 April when we will be discussing "Bastard out of Carolina" by Dorothy Allinson which was chosen by Gill.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

We meet the 3rd Monday of the month at the barn 2 o'clock. Please note **no meeting in April** as its Easter Monday. Our next meeting is May 19th.

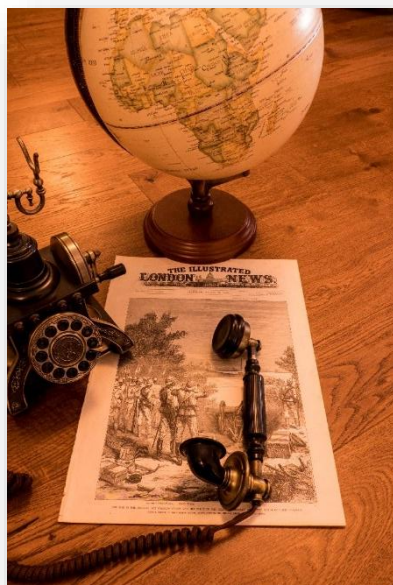
Our last meeting the theme was still life. The photos were all a very high standard, so well done club members. See below for a selection of our photos. We then break for refreshments.

Some of our members shared some prints for a discussion, to inspire us to enter the Hickling Barn village show photography competition.

David is also organising a photography competition for the 3 rivers race on the 31st of May.

Dick is arranging a trip on 3rd of April to Church Booton.

Keep snapping,



British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

At our March meeting Elaine led us on a fast excursion through over 600 millennia of the History of medicines. It was very noticeable that the advent of newer "chemical" medicines in the last couple of centuries had resulted in a major expansion in the number of remedies available. Elaine also highlighted how certain major breakthroughs, such as the discovery of penicillin, came about. Thanks to Elaine for her presentation and also to Shirley for providing us with tea/coffee and biscuits.

For our April meeting (2 p.m. in the Barn on Thursday 17th April) our attention turns to "The Match Girls Strike" and Kaye will lead the discussion

All HBU3A members are welcome. If you are interested in social history why not give us a try?

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 10th April 2-4 pm. Beginners welcome.

Contact Roy for further details:

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

Diana Fossett or Keith Burton

The Croquet season is fast approaching and the grass has been cut for the first time. Weather permitting, we will commence on 1st April. 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:

Nineteen of us attended the Poachers Pocket . A great deal of work has been carried out to the property recently and the facilities have been refurbished, including the chalets. There was a varied menu and the pre-ordered lunch was served without too much waiting. There were mixed reviews from members depending upon what was chosen but the staff were friendly and the owner was particularly helpful. It was good to meet up and have a chat looking out to sea on a lovely warm day.

Our next venue is The Goat, Skeyton on Wednesday, 16th April 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. For more information or if you would like to join us, please contact me –



Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

This month we visited the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell. This has fairly recently been completely revamped and is a really well presented and interesting day out. You walk through the different periods of Norwich history and lots of little stories and antidotes remind you of the inventiveness and flexibility of the inhabitants of Norwich. One of the photos explains how the shop keepers created a habit of present giving the night before Valentine's day - so creating a demand for their goods at a time when post-Christmas trade tends to be low. It was this entrepreneurial skill that kept Norwich as the second city of Britain for so long. The Norwich shawl is another example of this inventiveness.

The museum is based in a Listed Grade 1 house that was built for William Appleyard who was the first mayor of Norwich in 1403. The photo of the "wall" was part of Appleyard's show of wealth and power. In 1585 parts of the building became a house of correction.

The trip was made all the more exciting when we joined a guided tour of the largest and best-preserved undercroft to be found in Norwich. These are only available the first Saturday of the month but are well worth booking well in advance (as they fill up very quickly).

Victorian visitors to Norwich were often puzzled to find shop windows crammed with gifts in early February. Norwich had its own special celebrations on 13th February, St. Valentine's Eve.

Shops took on extra staff and bustled with people making secret purchases. Clocks, umbrellas, workboxes, tea caddies, albums, and writing desks were all bought as Valentine gifts. Just as at Christmas time, young and old were included in the festivities.

As soon as it got dark on St. Valentine's Eve, people began knocking on doors and leaving presents on doorsteps. Gifts were presented anonymously, labelled only 'Good Morrow Valentine'. Practical jokers rang doorbells and ran off, or left mock parcels which were whisked away by invisible strings when someone tried to pick them up. Indoors there was much laughter and excitement as parcels were examined for clues to the giver's identity. Valentine's Eve really was 'a glorious time in Norwich.'



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

This month we discussed our favourite plant and the likes varied from large shrubs, spring flowers to perennials. Pam and Brian told us about the problems they were having with pigeons eating their newly planted aubrietia. Apparently what you need is pepper. The pigeons don't like pepper. Barry shared some dried beans, Pea Beans, not a cross between peas and beans, but a plant in its own right, which dates back over 400 years old. Those that wanted have taken some home to have a go at growing. I have attached a picture of dried beans as the colour was very interesting.

Barry and Monica provided us with the letter T this month. Turkey Pie and Traditional English Trifle. It was all very nice and the trifle had a dash of rum in it which you could definitely taste. As we are coming to the end of the alphabet, talk was about where we should go next and is still open for decision.



IT and Computer Learning

Kate Fletcher:

At this month's meeting we discussed the pros and cons of online shopping together with methods of payments and security. The most common methods of payment were Credit Card and PayPal which raised some questions on reports of how secure PayPal was. Most were aware of good old Amazon and eBay but we also discussed how to check the security of buying from sites we were new to or unsure of.

This is very much a sharing group helping each other to get the best out of our mobile phones, tablets and computers. If anyone wants to join our group, we usually meet on 4th Monday of each month at 12 noon till 1.30 pm. **NB due to holidays, there won't be a meeting this month. Next meeting will be Monday 26 May.**



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Summer sailing resumes in 2025 on Tuesday the 1st April and I am sure that all our members who have not sailed during the winter are eager to get back on the water. Unfortunately the suggested 'voluntary donation' to the Nancy Oldfield Trust has like everything else been increased and we will now pay £20 per session. This still represents excellent value as the Trust heavily subsidises our activity, however, if necessary, bursaries are available.

This year on the 3rd April we have another 'taster day' for people to see if sailing is for them and a three day course for new sailors will be on the 30th April, 1st and 2nd May. Both of these events are now fully subscribed but next year's waiting list is now open for those that are interested.

After the success of our two all day sailing adventures another date has been arranged for Friday the 6th June, the destination for the activity will be decided on the day depending on the wind conditions.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to our newest member and I can assure you this member will definitely get wet. This sailor is the Trust's 'man overboard' dummy used to practice drills to recover a wet sailor. Just to remind you we have never had a member go for an unplanned swim and in the boats we use this is almost unheard of.



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

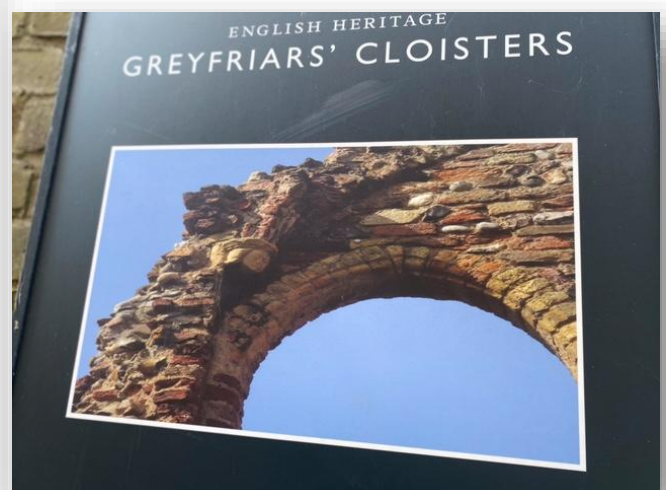
Various locations

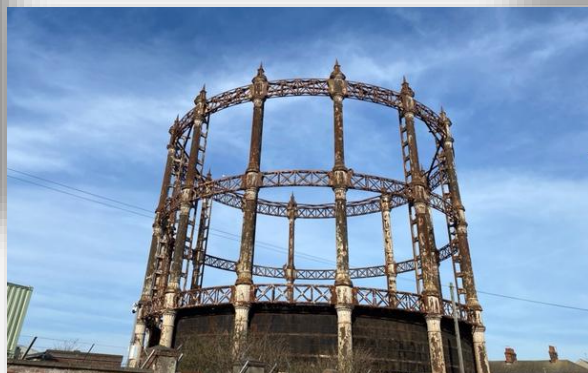
Roy Smith:

This month's walk was led by Glenda.

The March walk was five sunny miles around Great Yarmouth. Due to health problems just 13 of us gathered at Nelson's monument and walked the pavements to the old Naval hospital en route to the Town Hall and onto the Time and Tide Museum where we had coffee. Glenda showed photographs and information on historic Yarmouth. Well refreshed we then followed a route past the Toll House, around the streets and Rows to South Quay and along to Broad Row through to the market place. Crossing over to the Fishermen's church, along Wellington Road passing under the arches, through to the promenade and so back to the start.

Eleven of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at Caister Castle Hotel.



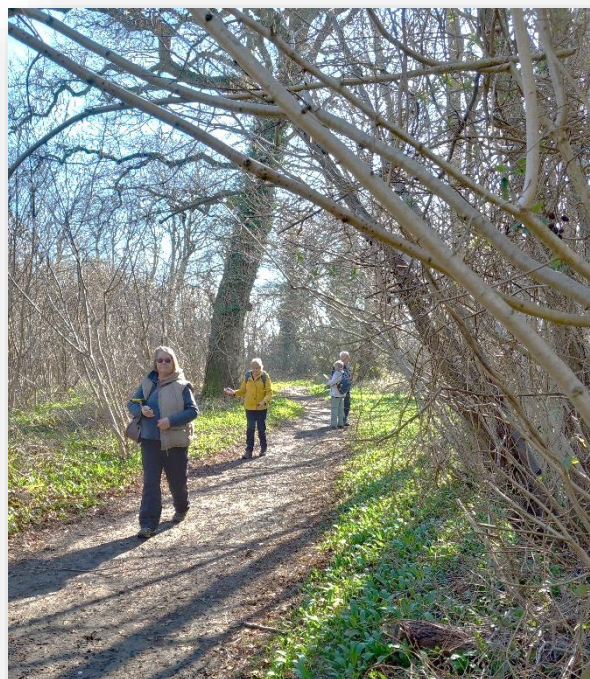


Wildlife Group: 3rd Thursday (10:00 am) Various locations

Chris Foster:

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust recently awarded the Sydney Long Memorial Medal to Dr Anne Edwards. Anne was awarded her medal at Lower Wood, Ashwellthorpe. She said "I am hugely honoured to receive this prestigious natural history medal particularly in the setting of Lower Wood, a veritable cornucopia of biodiversity. At a time when it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the environment challenges that we face, an ancient woodland brings calm, inspiration and hope for the future."

It was a beautiful sunny day when we visited and the woods were full of bird song. 19 species of birds were identified and we all enjoyed an early spring walk in a marvellous environment. There was a lot of interesting management of this area as Lower Wood provided handles for the near by brush factory and so coppicing of Ash and Hazel was very prevalent.



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:

NOTE THE CHANGES TO THE APRIL AND MAY SPEAKERS

April 11th: Stephen Poulter – Dick Turpin, the Myth and the Man.

Contrasting the myth of the “gentleman highwayman with the truth about a violent and murderous thug. Stephen will also tell the tales of other highway robbers operating at the same time.

May 9th: AGM 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.

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 the 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