

# Hickling Broad u3a July 2025 Newsletter



## Diary Dates: July 2025

Tue 01 July	Croquet/Games
Wed 02 July	Walking
Wed 02 July	Bookworms
Thu 03 July	Creative Craft
Mon 07 July	Country Dancing
Tue 08 July	Croquet/Games
Thu 10 July	Crib
Thu 10 July	Discover the Broads
Fri 11 July	<b>Members' Meeting</b>
Mon 14 July	Country Dancing
Tue 15 July	Croquet/ Games
Wed 16 July	Dining Club
Thu 17 July	Wildlife
Thu 17 July	British History
Mon 21 July	Blurr
Tue 22 July	Croquet/Games
Mon 28 July	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 29 July	Croquet/Games
Mon 04 August	Country Dancing
Tue 05 August	Croquet/Games
Wed 06 August	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 07 August	Creative Crafts
Mon 11 August	Country Dancing
Tue 12 August	Croquet/Games
Thu 14 August	Crib
Thu 14 August	Discover the Broads

## HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting on July 11th 2pm at Hickling Barn, Neil Hunt will come to present "On the Bottom". This talk will cover Neil's work as a commercial diver which included underwater construction in the North Sea and the Middle East, as well as salvage in the dangerous tidal waters of the River Thames. Neil was one of the last British Divers to work using surface air supplied equipment - and he will bring this along to demonstrate how difficult and dangerous this was.

At our meeting on 13th June, Pastor Mark Taylor came to tell us about the work of the Chaplaincy Team at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Pastor Mark gave us an engaging and uplifting insight into the work of the team and its diverse functions. We had a truly memorable afternoon with the £50 proceeds of our raffle donated to their ongoing work.

Your committee sends you its best wishes, and our thanks as always to our stalwart cake bakers and magnificent kitchen team!

## News from our Interest Groups

### Group Contact Co-ordinator

*Helen Foster:*

### Bookworms – Reading Group: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Hickling Barn

*Kathy Cooper:*

On 4 June the group met up to discuss 'My Sister the Serial Killer' by Oyinkan Braithwaite which was my book choice. Below is my review:

After Oyinkan Braithwaite completed her degree in Creative Writing she worked for a publishing house in Nigeria. This is her first novel and currently works as a freelance writer. She lives in Lagos.

The book revolves around Nigerian sisters, Korede and Ayoola, born to a timid mother and violent father. Ayoola, the younger of the two, is beautiful and popular with men but is clearly mentally disturbed. When she inevitably gets bored with her boyfriends she kills them and involves Korede, a nurse, in the clearing up and disposal of their bodies. Although disturbing in places there is humour mixed in. We all agreed it was an entertaining read and provided a good discussion. The group gave it 7/10.

In July the group will be discussing 'The Zig Zag Girl' by Ellie Griffiths which is Mary's choice.

## **BLURR – The Photography Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn**

**Contact:** [hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com](mailto:hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com)

We meet every 3rd Monday at Hickling barn, 2 o'clock start.

## **British History: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

**Steve Whitby:**

For our June meeting we left the confines of the Barn and enjoyed Janet's guided walking tour of Gorleston. Concentrating on the Seventh Haven (the seventh, but the first successful, attempt to provide safe harbourage for boats during inclement weather) we were introduced to several local heroes - William Adams, who ran a beach bathing hut business and gave swimming lessons but still found time to save 140 people. He received several honours, perhaps the most unusual was having the local Weatherspoons pub named after him. We also saw the house (now adorned by a blue plaque) where Coxswain William Fleming lived. His numerous acts of bravery led to him being awarded the George Cross plus 3 lifeboat RNLI medals. We started at the Pier Hotel (made famous in the 2019 Danny Boyle film "Yesterday") and finished at the Gorleston Pavilion theatre. What a little gem this is - now run by a charitable trust it still provides regular live shows in a setting that remains largely unchanged from Victorian/Edwardian times. The attached photos do not do it justice, it is well worth a visit

On 17th July we return to the Barn for our next meeting when Jackie will tell us about "Greek Cypriots and the local immigrant community". All are welcome and we start at 2p.m..



## **Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn**

**Dinah Slatter:**

## **Creative Arts and Crafts:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)**

**Rose Pigula:**

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different art and crafts including knitting, crochet, embroidery, needle felting, textiles, painting and sketching. Whatever your interests are you are very welcome to come along and join us.

We usually meet in Hickling Barn. If you would like to join us just contact Rose on the above email.

## **Crib: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, Hickling Barn (2:00 – 4:00 pm)**

***Roy Smith:***

12 of us met up for an enjoyable afternoon of Crib, nearly a record number. Break time we had tea and delicious cake, home cooked by Janet, thank you . All welcome - instruction given if you cannot play. Contact Roy for further details.

## **Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday**

***Diana Fossett & Keith Burton***

Rain prevented play on one occasion but we all joined those playing games in the Barn. The other three weeks were well attended with either three or four courts being used. If you would like more information or would like to join us, please contact either Diana or Keith.

## **Dining Club: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (various locations)**

***Diana Fossett:***

Chris Pemberton organised the lunch on 18th June and sixteen members of the group met at The Harnser, Stalham and here is her report.

“The parking was sufficient and the table was laid out in a long line which made moving around rather difficult but at least all were seated on the same table so that was a positive. The menu was extensive and the dishes pre-ordered, with Sea Bass chosen by 4, and 6 choosing one or more of the Tapas dishes. All the meals were served simultaneously by a friendly, smiling waitress.”

We are having a break in July but our August lunch will be organised by Kate Fletcher and details will be available on the August Newsletter.

If you would like to join the Dining Club or require further information, please contact Diana.



## **Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

***Chris Foster:*** This month we hired a vintage motor cruiser from Martham boats. This allowed us to explore the Hickling Horsey area without having to brave Potter Heigham bridge. We visited Horsey Mere and then headed to the Pleasure Boat on the far end of Hickling to enjoy a very pleasant lunch. In the afternoon we investigated Martham Broad before returning the boat back to its base. It was a bright blustery day and the Broads were at their best. This whole area is now managed with wildlife as a priority and very few boats can visit because of the difficulties navigating Potter Heigham Bridge. The Martham boat Yard is very friendly and helpful and offer a range of motor and sailing options to open up the area to all.

## **Gourmet Diggers: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00 pm) at Hickling Barn**

*Jane Brooker:*

*Kate Fletcher:*

Having reached the letter W in our cooking through the alphabet a selection was provided by Kate. We had the following: Walnut, stilton and pear bread, together with Wensleydale cheese and Waldorf salad.

All seemed to be enjoyed.

We are coming to the end of the alphabet cooking so are combining X Y Z as our final one. Is there anyone willing to take on one of the letters? - Kate will cover the other 2. We will also need to decide what our next theme will be.

Our first gardening topic of conversation this month was: "*How are the Leeks doing?*" Not very well it seems, we all seem to be struggling this year, let's blame it on the weather.

Jobs to be done in the garden this next month was next on the agenda, as usual the list was endless

We had a light-hearted discussion about how Beer is good for the garden, from dealing with slugs to adding it to other ingredients to encourage butterflies to your garden, I think we all decided that we would rather have a refreshing glass of beer, especially in this hot weather.

How to deal with drought and best ways to look after your houseplants in the summer months, were talked about.

Finally we went round the table discussing what we had all done in our gardens this last month. We had all worked very hard. Nikki amused all with her story about the greenhouse that she had at long last erected (by herself) only to be blown down and smashed to bits in the strong winds that she had a few weeks ago. We wish her better luck with her new plastic one.

## **IT and Computer Learning**

*Kate Fletcher:*

This month's meeting included discussions on various 'apps' and their security.

For next month (**Mon 28 July 12:00 – 1:30 in the Barn**), planned topics are selling on the internet and general IT security; although attendees are encouraged to ask about any topics of concern or interest,



## **Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday**

*John Stacey:* [hbu3asailing@gmail.com](mailto:hbu3asailing@gmail.com)

## **Voices of Hickling**

*Steve Whitby:*

No meetings are currently planned.



## Walking: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (usually 10:00 am)

### Various locations

*Roy Smith:*

This month's walk started from Holy Trinity and All Saints Church in Winterton. After carefully walking along a busy road we were soon on open countryside, fields of wheat, barley and corn could be seen around us. We made our way into Winterton, which is a delightful village on the coast, across the dunes to the cafe on the beach where most of us had ice cream and a cup of tea. We then made our way back to the church along the high street passing Poppy's cafe (they do a lovely breakfast and cakes). For lunch we stopped at Waxham Barns, which was good.



## Wildlife Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10:00 am) Various locations

*Chris Foster:*

This month we visited Upton Fen which is managed by NWT. It says that Upton Fen is "one of the county's best-kept secrets: Upton Broad and Marshes is a hidden wilderness sitting on the floodplain of the River Bure. Upton Broad and Marshes is a tranquil haven in the heart of the Broads. Home to some of Norfolk's rarest wildlife: from iconic swallowtail butterflies and Norfolk hawk dragonflies to otters and water voles, and an array of wetland plants. Upton Fen's 'tucked-away' location means the reserve is ideal for a quiet, undisturbed walk." And that is very much what we got on a warm sunny morning with lots to see and hear. Many of the Group then adjourned to lunch at the cafe at Fairhaven Gardens.



# 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.*

## Hickling Village Show 19 & 20 July 2025

This year we will be accepting entries on Saturday 19th July between 10.45 and 2.30pm in advance of judging which will take place that afternoon - with the show itself open to the public on Sunday 20th July between 1pm and 4pm. Class entries are just 50p each with under 16's free. We have some lovely trophies and prizes up for grabs - with a fabulous hamper raffle, teas and a bar on show day itself.

We are warmly welcoming and encouraging everyone who lives in the village, as well as any visiting family members as well as anyone who belongs to a village organisation - including, of course, Hickling Broad u3a members - to join in. The more the merrier!

Whilst there is a competitive element to the show, it is as much a celebration of sharing everything that all of us who love our village have to offer in terms of creativity and expertise. Without entries we have no show - so please do try to support us and enter in one way or another to make this a show to remember.

The class list is available at Hickling Barn, or from the Hickling Barn website at [www.hicklingbarn.com](http://www.hicklingbarn.com).

We are so looking forward to seeing what everyone has to offer!

**With thanks from your village show committee.**

## Sunday 13 July - Victory Hall at Neatishead – 2:00 – 6:00 pm

Local artists will be holding an exhibition and sale of art and crafts.  
Free entry

## What's on at our next meetings:

### July 11<sup>th</sup>: 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 12<sup>th</sup>: 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 10<sup>th</sup>: TBC

### November 14<sup>th</sup>: 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 12<sup>th</sup>: 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 9<sup>th</sup>: Andrew Pettit NWT

In the final element 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](mailto:hbu3anews@gmail.com)**