

Hickling Broad u3a June 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: June 2025

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|--------------|----------------------------|
| Mon 02 June | Country Dancing |
| Tue 03 June | Croquet/Games |
| Wed 04 June | Walking |
| Wed 04 June | Bookworms |
| Thur 05 June | Creative Crafts |
| Mon 09 June | Country Dancing |
| Tue 10 June | Croquet/Games |
| Thu 12 June | Discover Norwich/Broads |
| Thu 12 June | Crib |
| Fri 13 June | Members' Meeting |
| Mon 16 June | Blurr |
| Tue 17 June | Croquet |
| Wed 18 June | Dining Club |
| Thur 19 June | Wildlife |
| Thur 19 June | British History |
| Mon 23 June | Gourmet Diggers |
| Mon 23 June | I.T. |
| Tue 24 June | Croquet |
| Mon 30 June | Country Dancing |
| Tue 01 July | Croquet |
| Wed 02 July | Walking |
| Wed 02 July | Bookworms |
| Thur 03 July | Creative Craft |
| Mon 07 July | Country Dancing |
| Tue 08 July | Croquet |
| Thur 10 July | Crib / Discover the Broads |

HBU3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 13th June Pastor Mark Taylor will present **"The Work of the Chaplaincy at the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital"**.

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.

At our AGM on Friday 9th May we thought about our activities over the past year. It has been another positive year, with so much learning and creativity amongst our interest groups. We thanked our group leaders, our committee, our members, and of course, our magnificent tea team and cake bakers. After our AGM Andrew Pettit, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Hickling Broad project manager presented "An update from Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the Hickling Broad Project" Looking ahead to the future of the project, Andrew presented an insight into the work and consideration that has gone into the planning for the future of our local reserve. He also showed us maps of a range of possible future developments and outlined the Trusts next steps which include applying for funding, undertaking local consultation and any subsequent planning permissions required. If you have any feedback you would like to give Andrew, he will be pleased to receive it by email to andrewp@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Thank you as always for your commitment and support for our u3a which continues to grow and go from strength to strength!

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 books from the library list and the member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

On 7 May the group met up to discuss Jeanne's book choice 'The Bridge of San Luis Rey' by Thornton Wilder. Below is Jeanne's review:

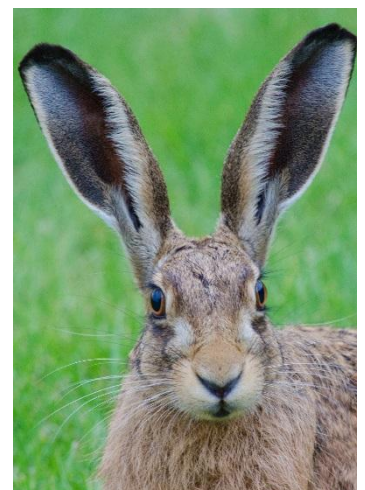
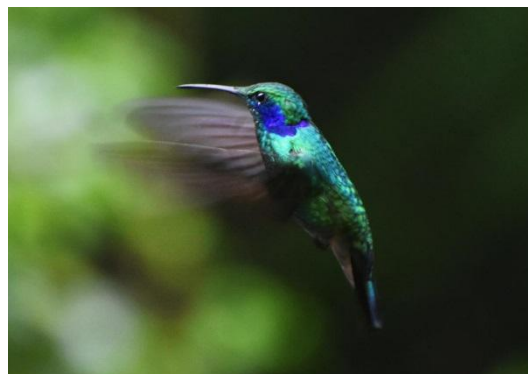
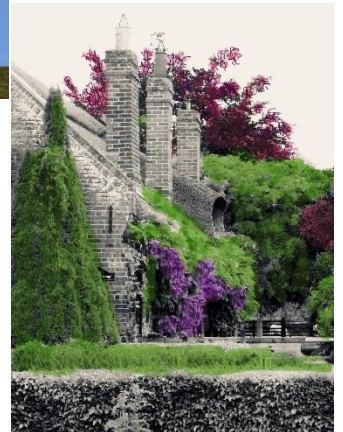
"The Bridge of San Luis Rey was written by the American author Thornton Wilder and was first published in 1927. Thornton Wilder won the Pulitzer prize several times and was also a playwright. All at Bookworms decided the book was not an easy read, it was difficult to decide exactly what the author had in mind when writing this book. However, he described the lives of a small variety of characters all living in Lima, Peru, during the 1700's and the theme emerged that love has the power to shape our lives. Different types of love are expressed through the various characters, such as maternal, fraternal and romantic. The book was made into a film in 2004, which hopefully was easier to understand than the book! We marked the book 3/10."

The next Bookworms will be on 4 June when we will discuss my choice, 'My Sister the Serial Killer' by Oyinkan Braithwaite. Bookworms is currently full but as and when a space becomes available, I'll mention it in this section of the Newsletter.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

We meet every 3rd Monday at Hickling barn, 2 o'clock start.
Last meeting we had 14 members who put into our presentation.
The subjects were architecture and natural world. Also, some interesting photos from Debbie using a paint technique from an apple iPad. Followed by some of David's photos from the boat trip. Ross boat trips from Martham.



British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

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

Roy Smith:

This month we had a low turn out due to nice weather which meant more cake for the rest of us!

There was some serious card playing and lots of fun.

All welcome next Crib 12th June at the Barn 2-4pm



Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

Diana Fossett & Keith Burton

As usual, this month's activity was determined by the weather, either on the Croquet courts or in the Barn. One week when it rained, we joined the others to play board games then the following week, summer had arrived! The final week was mixed with some Croquet before rain stopped play. We have an ongoing competition to find the winner of the most hoops in one. Croquet is fun but a competitive spirit is quite often there as well! If you would like more information or would like to join us, please contact either Doina or Keith.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett: tt1@gmail.com

The Stag was sold in February 2025 and is now run by a Manager, Steve, who was friendly and helpful. There was a basic menu but a specials board which we were advised was changed every two or three days. Members were a little disappointed with the choices available but enjoyed the freshly cooked meals chosen which were served with the minimum of delay. There were 17 of us seated at 4 tables at the front of the pub which worked out well. The lunch was appreciated by all and conversation flowed easily.

Our next venue is The Harnser, Stalham on Wednesday, 18th June 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. For more information or if you would like to join us, please contact me – Diana.

Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

Our first outing on the water this year was from Stalham Staithe in a comfortable picnic boat with all facilities. We explored up the Ant through Wayford Bridge and onto Dilham. Then we cruised over Barton Broad, where we spotted a couple of wherries crossing the Broad with tiny sails but at a respectable pace. We meandered down to How Hill and on return investigated Neatishead. A very pleasant day on the water with plenty of blue sky and a strong chilly wind and good company.



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

This month's Gourmet Diggers was held in one of our member's garden. Glenda's garden was lovely. Wonderful shrubs and beautiful climbing roses also a thriving veg patch.

We all took part in a quiz all about food, Nikki was the winner.

This year's plant competition is growing leeks from seed and as usual we are quite a competitive lot as we discussed the progress of our plants. Jobs to be done in the garden in June was our final topic.

Glenda kindly offered to provide for the letter V in our cooking through the alphabet.

We started with vol-au-vents filled with dressed smoked salmon and topped with asparagus. Glenda then brought out a lovely vanilla cheesecake with some raspberries on the side. All very lovely and summery.

We all enjoyed a lovely afternoon, thanks to Glenda.



IT and Computer Learning

Kate Fletcher:

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

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

Various locations

Roy Smith:

On a rather chilly May morning 10 of us met up at Queen Elizabeth Hall or as it used to be called, Worstead Hall, for a 3.5 mile walk along country lanes and villages. Afterwards we had lunch at Smallburgh Crown which was excellent. If you like fresh air and good company a bit of exercise, then join the walking group.



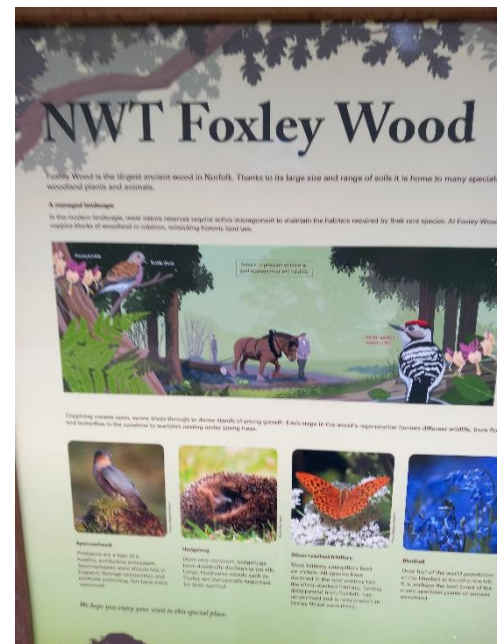
Wildlife Group: 3rd Thursday (10:00 am)

Various locations

Chris Foster:

This month we visited Foxley Wood. The NWT states - "Well-known for its beautiful spring bluebells, this tranquil reserve is also home to hundreds of flowering plant species and all the common woodland birds, including nuthatch, treecreeper and marsh tit. Foxley Wood still plays host to the rapidly declining spotted flycatcher and is a hotspot for butterflies too – with white admiral, speckled wood, purple hairstreak and silver-washed fritillary regularly found skipping along the dappled glades and woodland rides."

We had hoped to see a range of butterflies but the temperature fell sharply just before the visit so we turned our attention to bird song and wildflowers and we were not disappointed.



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 and was sent out to members with this newsletter. It can also be found on the Hickling Barn website at www.hicklingbarn.com.

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

With thanks from your village show committee.

What's on at our next meetings:

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 work 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.

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