

Hickling Broad u3a May 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: May 2025

Thur 01 May	Creative Crafts
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
Mon 12 May	Country Dancing
Tue 13 May	Croquet/Games
Thu 15 May	Wildlife
Thu 15 May	British History
Mon 19 May	Blurr
Tue 20 May	Croquet/Games
Wed 21 May	Dining Club
Mon 26 May	IT Group
Mon 26 May	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 27 May	Croquet/Games
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

HBU3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn (NR12 0YU) 2pm on Friday 9th May we will be holding our AGM, following which our topic and speaker will be "An update from Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the Hickling Broad Project" – presented by Andrew Pettit - NWT Project Manager. Ahead of their announcements on the future of the project, Andrew will present an insight into the work and consideration that has gone into the planning for the future of our local reserve.

At our last meeting on Friday 11th April Stephen Poulter presented "Dick Turpin - the myth and the man" Stephen contrasted 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. We heard tales of a number of other highway robbers operating around the UK whose exploits were later attributed to Turpin.

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

On 2 April we discussed Gill's book choice 'The Bastard out of Carolina' by Dorothy Allison and below is Gill's review:

"The story revolves around Anney and her daughter Ruth Anne, Bone to her family, and is told from Bone's perspective. Bone is illegitimate, hence the title, and born into the Boatwright family of headstrong uncles and long suffering aunts who live by their own set of rules in the Deep South of Carolina.

Anney is widowed when her husband, Lyle, is killed in a car accident and Bone and her stepsister once again return to the fold of the Boatwright family, both being farmed out to aunts whilst Anney works as a waitress. Eventually, their mother remarries to Glen Waddell and once again the girls move home. This event changes Bone's life as she is subjected to mental, physical and sexual abuse by her stepfather. The book was written loosely as an autobiography by the author and caused quite a stir in both America and Canada. It was eventually made into a film in 1996, which went on to win a clutch of Emmys."

Although quite harrowing in places this book provoked a lively discussion and was scored 7/10 by the group. Our book for discussion in May is 'The Bridge of San Luis Rey' by Thornton Wilder which was chosen by Jeanne. We now have a vacancy in the group so if you are interested in joining Bookworms please get in touch.

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.

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.

At our April meeting we all had a go at decorating small terracotta pots which we took home to enjoy planting out.

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:

Contact Roy for further details.

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

[Diana Fossett](#) or [Keith Burton](#)

The grass was cut and prepared ready for the Croquet season to start on 1st April. Three or four courts have been used, apart from one week when it rained and we went into the Barn with those who had opted to continue with Games each week. 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:

April's lunch venue was the Goat Inn at Skeyton, a thatched 16th century former coaching inn, situated in a pleasant rural setting. The menu had plenty to choose from, including lighter meal options. Our large group of 18 were seated on one large table in the comfortable dining area. The food was served reasonably promptly given the party size, and I think most people enjoyed their meals. The Goat also has a large garden for warmer days.

Our next venue is The Stag, Salhouse on Wednesday, 21st May 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. For more information, or if you would like to join use, please contact Diana.

Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

This month we arranged a tour of the Madder Market Theatre. We had a fantastic guide Susan who showed us the theatre from front to back and she also included a fascinating session in the costume department as well as offering us all coffee to settle in. Susan explained how the building has evolved over the years from a Catholic Church to a factory and then finally a theatre space. The theatre came into existence due to the hard work and inspiration of Edwardian, Nugent Monck, and it is now a community space run by volunteers. The theatre holds a little over 300 seats and is designed to reflect a Shakespearian space both inside and also the facade outside. They have put on every one of Shakespeare plays and now run a mixture of plays and different entertainment events all year round. We had an inspiring morning and have now booked to see a forthcoming production. Many of the group then headed into the city for a sociable lunch.

We are now heading back to the water and we will operate as Discover the Broads until September. However we have found so much to see and do in Norwich, a fine city, that we intend to run similar visits next winter.



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

What a lovely afternoon we all had at Gourmet Diggers this month. Monica and Barry very kindly invited us all to their garden. The weather was perfect, so good to be able to sit in their lovely garden and soak up the sun. Our competition this year is Growing Leeks. The aim is to see who can grow the largest leek. Watch this space for monthly updates.

The letter U was this months cooking challenge. Monica and Barry produced a very tasty dish using Udon noodles, spices and pork. Lyn baked a very delicious pineapple upside down pudding with custard. Amazing. Thank you to all three for your tasty food.



IT and Computer Learning

Kate Fletcher:

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned.

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

Various locations

Roy Smith:

On a glorious Spring day 15 people came together for our April walk. We started at Honing station and continued to Worstead village where some time was spent looking at the church and observing some of its historical features. From here we continued along country lanes and footpaths through the hamlet of Withergate, finally returning to Honing station along a section of the Weavers Way.

This was followed by a very enjoyable lunch at the Lighthouse Inn in Walcott.



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

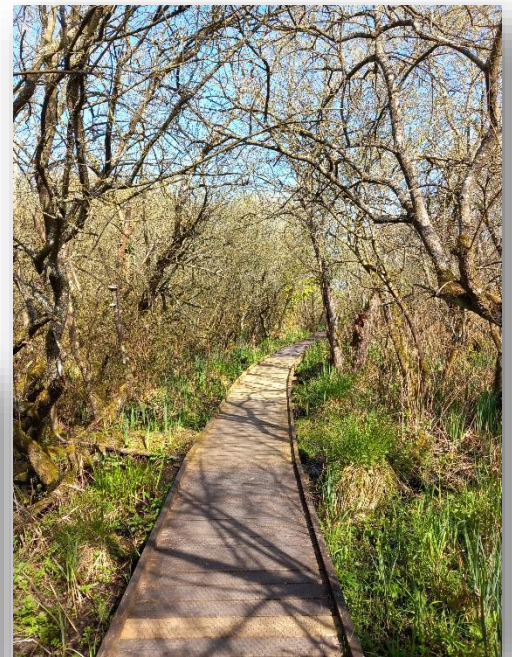
Various locations

Chris Foster:

This month we visited the NWT visitors center at Ranworth. Our main aim was to see the Ospreys who seem to be making all the right moves to suggest nesting, breeding and hopefully chick raising this year. Once we established that the platform built a few years ago and which they have been building up over the last few years was not where to look, we managed to identify one on the nest and one flying above.

The centre has a telescope on the nest and a TV which helps everybody see these spectacular birds. The walk from the car park to the centre via board walk takes you through mature Oak Woodland, Alder Carr, Willow Fen, Reed beds and out onto the Broads.

This variety of habitats (in a relative short space) means you can identify a wide range of different birds very quickly. We managed over 25 species in the first half hour.



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.

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:

May 9th: AGM Our topic and speaker will be "An update from Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the Hickling Broad Project" – presented by Andrew Pettit - NWT Project Manager. Ahead of their announcements on the future of the project, Andrew will present an insight into the work and consideration that has gone into the planning 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 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