

Hickling Broad u3a October 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: October 2025

Wed 01 Oct	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 02 Oct	Art and Craft
Mon 06 Oct	Country Dancing
Tue 07 Oct	Croquet/Games
Thu 09 Oct	Discover Norwich
Thu 09 Oct	Crib
Fri 10 Oct	Members' Meeting
Mon 13 Oct	Country Dancing
Tue 14 Oct	Croquet/Games
Wed 15 Oct	Dining Club
Thur 16 Oct	Wildlife / British History
Mon 20 Oct	Blurr
Tue 21 Oct	Croquet / Games
Mon 27 Oct	I.T. / Gourmet Diggers
Tue 28 Oct	Croquet / Games
Mon 03 Nov	Country Dancing

For sailing dates please contact the Sailing group.

HBU3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting on Friday October 10th at 2pm Hickling Barn NR12 0BT, Judi Daykin, established local author, will join us to tell us about her life as a writer and in particular her seven DS Sarah Hurst crime novels, all of which are set in our locality. A fascinating afternoon awaits!

At our last meeting on Friday 12th September, Norfolk Wherry Yacht Charter Trustee Director Judith Keogh came to tell us all about how the Wherry Yachts, her charity, keep afloat, including their history and how they continue to work in the present day. This was an interesting and informative insight into the history of these magnificent craft that grace our local rivers. As always, 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:

Our Croquet Group has recently acquired an excellent Petanque Set, sometimes called Boules. It has been agreed that this is going to run as a separate group. We are therefore looking firstly to see what interest there would be in taking part in this group and secondly for someone to run it. If you are interested in taking part or running it please can you contact our Group Co-ordinator Helen on her email address as above.



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.

As the group doesn't meet up in August there was lots to catch up on over tea and cake. Our book for September was chosen by Kath and this is her review:

"This Month's Book Choice was – 'The Burning Chambers' by Kate Mosse. It follows 19 year old Minou Joubert, a Catholic and her encounter with Piet Reydon, a Huguenot.

Set against the backdrop of the French Wars of Religion in 1562, Minou and Piet become entangled in a dangerous conspiracy, a fight for control, and a story of love, betrayal, and divided loyalties. An underlying secret that Minou's father has spent two decades hiding finally gets resolved and Minou's true beginnings revealed.

The Group generally enjoyed the book, but only gave it a 7/10, agreeing that Kate Mosse's book The Labyrinth was better."

On 1 October we will discuss 'The Postscript Murders' by Elly Griffiths which was chosen by Judy. We have a vacancy at the moment so if you would like to know more about Bookworms, please drop me an email.

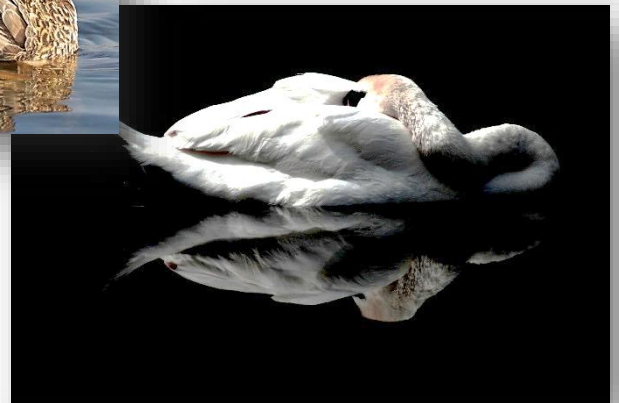
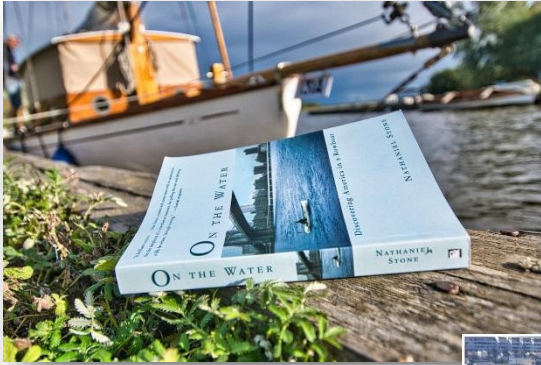
BLURR – The Photography Group: 3rd Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 pm in the barn and our next meeting is Monday 20th October. Just come along - all welcome. Tea coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake) are provided.

At our last meeting the subject was 'on the water'. Our members came up with some brilliant interpretations of the subject. Who knew there is a book entitled 'On the Water' or that pond weed looks like part of the British Isles. We had 58 photos from 12 photographers.

Our next subject is Sport.



British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

At our September meeting Maureen told us of her time "Walking the streets of Soho (she was a policewoman in the Metropolitan Police!).

She mentioned having seen Reggie & Ronnie Kray (but only from a safe distance) but told of closer encounters with lesser known characters including prostitutes, street traders and a gay man who looked forward to his sentences with the "nice boys" in Pentonville.

Being one of very few women police at the time she gave a fascinating insight into her time at central and Streatham police stations and also at the Putney station house.

Next month, on Thursday 16th October at 2 p.m., we meet at the Barn when we venture early into the Pantomime season and Jackie tells us the real story of Dick Whittington. All are welcome to attend.

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:

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

Diana Fossett or Keith Burton

Another month has passed and we have been able to play Croquet each week but with a variety of weather conditions. Perfect with sun one week and windy the next. We had our usual group of board game players in the Barn who were joined by those who didn't want to brave the wind! If you would like more information or would like to join us, please contact either Diana or Keith.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

We returned to the Lodge at Salhouse after a gap of two years and we weren't disappointed. Fifteen of us enjoyed the spacious, beautifully decorated venue. There was a good choice and the meals were served without too much delay, bearing in mind we didn't have to order in advance. As usual, it gave members a chance to catch up and there was much chatting and laughter. Our next venue is The Rising Sun, Coltishall on October 15th 12.45 for 1.00 p.m. If you would like to join the Dining Club or require further information, please contact Diana.

IT and Computer Learning

Kate Fletcher:

At our September meeting the group looked at using IT to assist with travel and finding locations.

We explored what3words which gives unique three word coordinates - it is more accurate than simply using google maps and can help precisely pinpoint where you are in case of emergency.

We also looked at on line maps and found out how to use our phones as satellite navigation devices to help us find our way along when we drive.

At our next meeting on Monday 27th October 12 noon at Hickling Barn, we are going to look at WhatsApp, Instagram, Messenger, Tik Tok, and Texts to see how they work and whether or not they may be useful ways for us to communicate and make contacts. You are very welcome to join us - please bring along £1 to cover room hire.



Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

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

Jane Brooker:

Kate Fletcher:

It's that time of year when there are one hundred and one jobs to be done in the garden in the month of October. We all chatted about the tasks that we had already completed in September and then what needs to be done in October. Tidying up, deadheading, dividing plants, making new borders - the list was endless. It's spring bulb buying and planting time, buying bare root plants and how to look after them were all discussed. Our final topic was "The anatomy of a flower" it's surprising what we all knew but also what we didn't know.

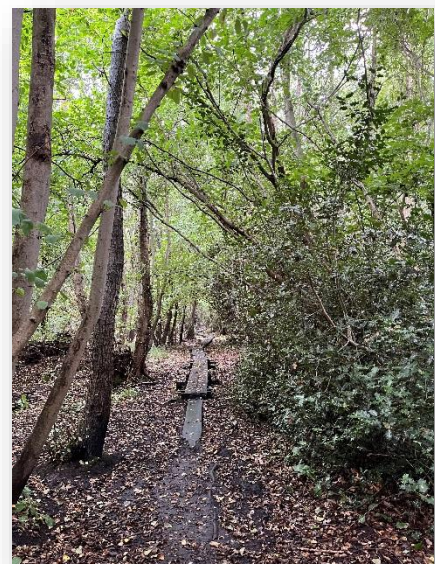


Having now completed cooking through the alphabet we talked about what our next challenge could be. After some discussion we decided to re-visit "Cooking from around the world", and already have 3 volunteers happy to have a go. So we wouldn't go hungry I took a little baking along to keep us going through out chats. The picture shows almond macaroons, coffee/walnut cup cakes and Welsh cakes or, as my mum called them, bake stones. Yum yum.

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

Roy Smith:

After appalling weather at the start of the day, the decision was made to cancel this month's walk. However, just in case some walkers did not receive the message it was arranged that there would be someone at the start point to meet them. Three walkers arrived and it was decided to walk a modified version of the planned walk. So we set off on a very windy and wet morning to walk to Upton and back, skirting Upton Fen. This was followed by a very nice lunch at Fairhaven Water Gardens.



Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

The group is not meeting at present. We did though receive a grant cheque from Hickling Parish Council to enable us to continue with the www.voicesofhickling.co.uk website and any other ventures required

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

Chris Foster:

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.

Would anyone like to help with our Community Garden, situated near the corner of Mallard Way and opposite the entrance to The Barn? You are very likely to have seen it when you visit the Barn for our monthly, or Group, meetings. It is a valuable resource for the village as it produces a plentiful supply of vegetables and herbs for people to take and enjoy as well as a lovely, colourful display of flowers. There is also shady seating for visitors and passers by to sit a while and take in the surroundings, and the local school children and 'rainbows' have enjoyed events there.

The Garden is important to the village and is run entirely by volunteers. But there just aren't enough of us! You don't need to have any experience of gardening as help is always on hand. We also hold a few fundraising events during the year. If you would like to join a small and happy band of people with a desire to keep this garden going then please contact rosepigula@gmail.com for more information. Or you can message via 'Hickling Community Garden' Facebook page.

What's on at our next meetings:

October 10th: Judi Daykin – local author will tell us about her life as a writer of stories set locally.

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