

Hickling Broad u3a November 2025 Newsletter



Diary Dates: January 2026

Mon 05 Jan	Country Dancing
Tue 06 Jan	Croquet/Games
Wed 07 Jan	Walking
Wed 07 Jan	Bookworms
Thu 08 Jan	Discover Norwich/Broads
Thu 08 Jan	Crib
Fri 09 Jan	Members' Meeting
Mon 12 Jan	Country Dancing
Tue 13 Jan	Croquet/Games
Thu 15 Jan	Wildlife
Thu 15 Jan	British History
Mon 19 Jan	Blurr
Tue 20 Jan	Croquet/Games
Wed 21 Jan	Dining Club
Wed 21 Jan	Discover Norfolk
Mon 26 Jan	IT
Mon 26 Jan	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 27 Jan	Croquet/Games
Mon 02 Feb	Country Dancing
Tue 03 Feb	Croquet/Games
Wed 04 Feb	Walking
Wed 04 Feb	Bookworms
Thu 05 Feb	Creative Arts and Crafts
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting, 2pm on Friday 9th January, our friend and fellow member, Bill Wells, presents “**Life offshore in a rubber bag**”. Bill will present a short history of North Sea gas and the role played by commercial divers. This afternoon of unique insights from Bills’ professional career includes a Powerpoint presentation of photographs and video clips, covering the period from the mid 1960’s to the modern day. We are most grateful to Bill for taking the time and trouble to put this talk together for us.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a change to the previously notified speaker. Andrew Pettis of Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been rescheduled to later in the year.

At our last meeting on Friday 12th December, we had our annual share a plate Christmas social featuring Jane’s Magnificent Table Quiz. Members brought along a plate of savoury or sweet nibbles to share and tested their powers of memory and reasoning as Jane entertained us once more. There is no quiz like Jane’s quiz - we were amused and challenged in equal measure. To help get the Christmas spirit going we served hot spiced apple juice along with a tot of rum for those that wished. With grateful thanks to Jane for our entertainment, our warm and friendly meeting finished with us wishing each other a happy, restful and peaceful festive season.

As always, your committee sends their warmest thanks to our stalwart cake bakers and magnificent tea team all of whom make our teas a most enjoyable part of our monthly meetings.

Happy New Year to all our members

As you can see, our Groups are all back to normal after the Christmas festivities and if you would like to try a new group please contact the Co-ordinator.

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.

We will resume in January 2026 to review Keith’s choice ‘The Dead Lake’ by Hamid Ismailov and with a new selection of books for 2026. Happy New Year from the Bookworms gang.

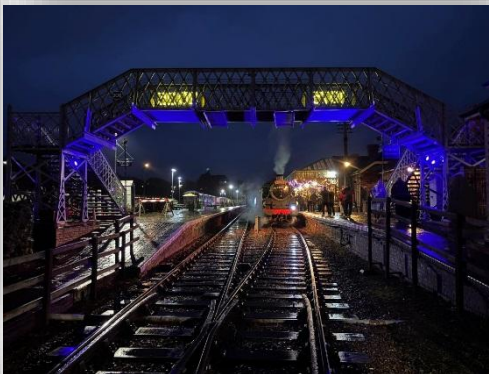
BLURR – The Photography Group: 3rd Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn

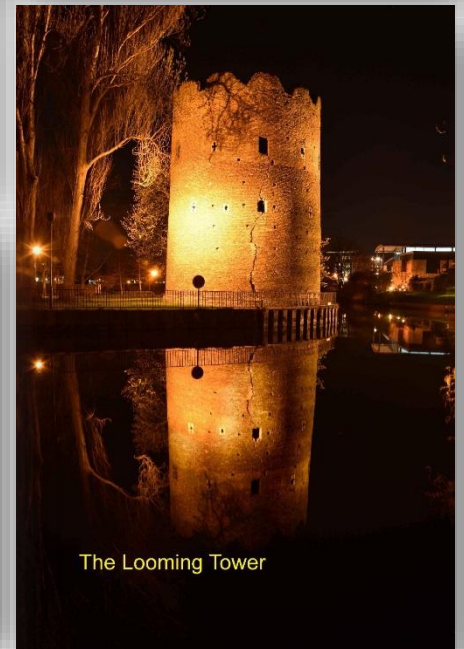
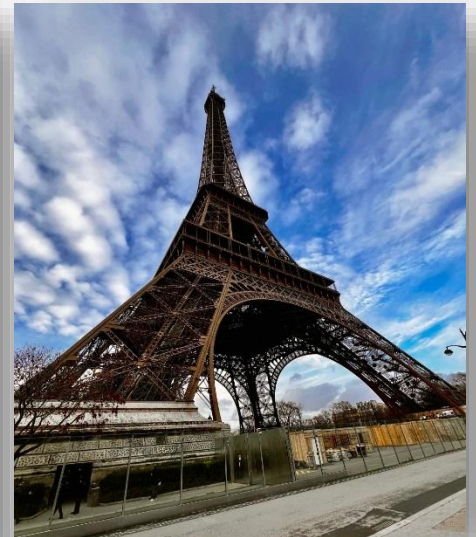
Contact: hicklingu3photos@gmail.com

We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, at the Barn, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Our next meeting is January 19th. The subject is 13 different things in one photo.

February's meeting will be a practical so bring along your cameras and any questions you may have, and we will try to help.

At our last meeting the subject was book titles. All photos were very imaginative and a small prize was given to Paul Wells for best photo, plus 6 runner up prizes. Photos below. (the last one is Paul with his photo and prize) We followed with a social with tea, coffee, mince pies and a quiz. Then we discussed next year's programme.





British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

The group did not meet in December but we are back with a new programme for 2026. Our first meeting is at the Barn on Thursday 15th January at 2 p.m.

Janet will be leading our session and will give an illustrated talk on "The Walls and Towers of Yarmouth". All are welcome whether existing or new members of the group.

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. At our December meeting some of us had a go at making Christmas cards. 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:

Join us for an afternoon of playing Crib at the Barn 2-4pm. Tuition given if you can't play. Second Thursday of the month. Contact Roy for further details.

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

Tuesday 16th December was our last meeting of the year and three very hardy souls played Croquet, the rest of us played games in the warm! The previous Tuesday, we had our Festive Lunch at the Boathouse and eighteen of us had a really enjoyable time The food was excellent with good service and a lovely atmosphere. We will start playing games at the Barn on Tuesday, 6th January. If you would like to join us or require further information, please contact keith_burton@hotmail.com or dianafossett1@gmail.com.



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

By popular request, we went back to The Lodge at Salhouse for our December venue and we weren't disappointed. The food was excellent and bearing in mind how busy they were, the service was good. We welcomed four new members but, sadly, there were other members who were unable to join us through illness. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21st January. If you would like to join the Dining Club or require further information, please contact dianafossett1@gmail.com.



IT and Computer Learning

Kate Fletcher:

We did not meet in December, but will gather again on Monday 26th January 12 noon at Hickling Barn. At our first meeting of new the year we will look further into Chat GPT and also discuss our favourite apps and how we find them useful, interesting or entertaining! We are all learning together, so if you would like to join us you are very welcome - we are covering new areas of IT all the time. Please just come along with £1 for Barn hire and bring your phone and any iPad or device you have. We look forward to seeing you there.



Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

This month we used our Norfolk Museum passes to visit the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth - [Time and Tide - Time and Tide - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

The **Time and Tide Museum** is located at **Blackfriars Road, Great Yarmouth, NR30 3BX**. It offers an immersive experience through a beautifully converted Victorian herring curing works, showcasing Great Yarmouth's maritime history and fishing industry. The museum features interactive exhibits, lifesize reconstructions, and stories of the town's past, including its herring trade and the impact of World War II. It especially tells the story of Great Yarmouth and its herring industry with the lingering aroma of the smokehouse remaining today. Easy parking, lovely cafe and a well set out and very interesting museum.

We also took the opportunity to plan the next visits so that people can plan accordingly. This is necessary because during the winter most of the Museums have limited opening times and we can not always stick to the second Thursday of the Month.

January the 21st - WEDNESDAY - Strangers Hall - [Strangers' Hall - Stranger's Hall - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

February the 12th- Ancient House - Thetford - [Ancient House in Thetford - Ancient House - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

March the 12th - Lynn Museum - [Lynn Museum - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service](#)



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

Looking for something to do in the New Year. Why not come and join in with the Gourmet Diggers group. We are a friendly bunch, not too serious but plenty of laughter to while away a couple of hours. The afternoon is a mixture of Garden and Food topics, nothing too difficult. If interested do come along and give us a try.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are planned the but group have, this month, delivered all of our 31 recordings (plus written transcripts) to the Norfolk Records Office thereby giving access to the public.

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

Roy Smith:

In the month of December we all met up at the Pleasure Boat Hickling car park. We headed towards Hill Common (known locally as Millionaires Road) up towards the Boat Houses. Maggie kindly popped out of her house and gave us a brief history of the land surrounding Hill Common and some interesting facts about the boat houses. We then walked through Tallowins farm yard (some of us were amused at the Big Brother warning). The walk continued past the Wildlife Centre onto Faiths the animal rescue centre. We finished the walk with a detour up by the allotments and onto St Mary's Church (which was unfortunately closed). Some of the group ended the day with a meal in the Pleasure Boat.



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

Chris Foster:

This month we were due to visit the raptor roost at Stubbs Mill, Hickling. However the forecast of high winds, heavy rain and the lack of any shelter meant we had to cancel the day before allowing people uninterrupted access to Christmas preparations.

Members Corner

What's on at our next meetings:

February 13th 2026

Barry Mobbs - North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust

This presentation by two of the Trustees of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust will be accompanied by slides depicting moments from three stages of the last 200 years of the unique North Walsham and Dilham canal. We look forward to celebrating with you the 200th anniversary year of the completion of the construction of the canal back in 1826.

March 13th 2026

Peter Lawrence - London City of Ships

Our friend Peter returns with an illustrated history of the maritime history of London.

April 10th 2026

Andy Malcolm - The True Price of Fish

A look at the Fishermen's Mission charity and the life of a UK fisherman with a quick quiz, poetry, the history and trivia of fish and chips, and a sea shanty or two for good measure!

May 8th

AGM and Stuff & Folly Theatre Company

After the business of our AGM, an afternoon of theatre awaits to delight and entertain.

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