

Hickling Broad u3a March 2026 Newsletter



Diary Dates: March 2026

Mon 02 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 03 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 04 Mar	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 05 Mar	Creative Crafts
Fri 06 Mar	Singing for Fun
Mon 09 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 10 Mar	Croquet/Games
Thu 12 Mar	Discover Norwich/The Broads
Thu 12 Mar	Crib
Fri 13 Mar	Members' Meeting
Mon 16 Mar	Blurr
Tue 17 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 18 Mar	Dining Club
Thu 19 Mar	Wildlife
Thu 19 Mar	British History
Fri 20 Mar	Singing for Fun
Mon 23 Mar	IT
Mon 23 Mar	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 24 Mar	Croquet/Games
Tue 31 Mar	Croquet/Games
Wed 01 Apr	Walking
Wed 01 Apr	Bookworms
Thu 02 Apr	Creative Crafts / Art Group

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting, 2pm Friday 13th March at Hickling Barn NR12 0YU, our dear friend and regular speaker Peter Lawrence returns to present "London - City of Ships" an illustrated history of the maritime history of London. Peter's presentations are always packed with little known facts and information, so we are promised an entertaining and intriguing afternoon.

At our last meeting on Friday on Friday February 13th, our presentation was by the North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust. This year celebrates the 200th anniversary year of the completion of the construction of the canal back in 1826. Kindly arranged by our friend and fellow member Barry Mobbs, the presentation was made by the Chair of the Trust, Susan Kirrage, and was be accompanied by an amazing array of slides depicting moments from three stages of the last 200 years of the unique North Walsham and Dilham canal.

As always your committee also 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

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

Art Group : 1st Thursday (2:00-4:00 pm) Hickling Barn **NEW GROUP**

Gill Sage:

This Group will meet for the first time on 2 April at 2:00 pm in Hickling Barn. Everyone is welcome. Whether you are a total beginner wanting to give art a go or if you are an experienced artist there will be something for you. Just come along – all materials will be supplied but feel free to bring your own if you wish. If you would like to find out more please contact me, Gill, at the email above or on 07757746220. Otherwise just turn up on 2 April. I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Bookworms – Reading Group: 1st Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Hickling Barn

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet up at Hickling Barn on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. Members choose their own book from the list supplied by the library and the member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

On 4 February, the group met up to discuss Keith's book choice and this is Keith's review:

"The Dead Lake is written by Hamid Ismailov, an Uzbek journalist and novelist. The book is about atomic testing during the Cold War which contaminates a lake in the Kazakh Steppe region. The story is about a young boy, Yerzhan, who ignores strong advice to not touch the lake in anyway, but does so and consequently stunts his growth. The book then relates to some of his later life but stops abruptly. The total number of tests carried out was 468."

We have two spaces in the group so if you would like to know more, please drop me an e-mail, give me a call or just drop in to our next meeting which will be on Wednesday, 4 March when we will be discussing my book choice 'The Girl with the Louding Voice' by Abi Dare.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

Blurr photography club meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Our next meeting is on March 16th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm in Hickling barn. Our subject is 'Kitchens'. Our last meeting was a practical by our members

At our February meeting we had a talk from Michael on taking photos on your mobile phone. Debbie gave a talk on using your tablet to enhance and manipulate photos. Joan demonstrated how to frame a photo using a mount board and bevel cutter. We also had a quick chat about the use of ring lights.

British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

At our February meeting Steve presented a slideshow highlighting the Beamish Folk Museum in County Durham. The museum, which opened in the early 1970's, has over 2.5 million exhibits - everything from a poster to complete houses and shops - and covers around 400 acres, giving a fascinating history into life in the north east from the early 19th century through to the mid 20th. Beamish was voted European Museum of the year in 1987. The themes highlight town streets in 1900 and the 1950's, farming in the 1940's and 50's, a colliery and its pit village along with a railway station from the turn of the 19th/20th century and a number of vintage trams and buses which are still working and ferrying visitors around the site on a daily basis.

We next meet on Thursday March 19th at 2 p.m. in the Barn when Jackie will lead the meeting and tell us all about "The Mysterious Doctor Dee". She is being suitably mysterious and won't tell me anything about the topic! If you want to find out more please come along, all are welcome.



Country Dancing: 1st and 2nd Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn

Dinah Slatter:

Creative Crafts: 1st Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Rose Pigula:

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a range of different 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:

Another good afternoon of Crib, cake and tea. All welcome contact Roy for further details.

Croquet/Games Group: every Tuesday

or

As in previous years, we had our Mexican Train Tournament in February organised by Keith and Joan; good fun and enjoyable. It was well supported and we had three tables with 20 members playing for an hour to decide the two players from each table who would play in the final. In the event, it was Michael Steward who was the winner and he was presented with a basket of Mexican food items. The Croquet Games Group continues each week with games during the winter season. If you would like to join us or require further information, please contact keithburton1951@gmail.com or dianafossett1@gmail.com.



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

There were 21 of us at The Wayford Bridge Inn and quite a few of the meals from the menu were picked and enjoyed by all. On arrival, we were greeted and shown into the back garden room. The table was in a U formation which works better than 2 separate tables as members could speak across to the other table. The room was not very warm although there was a small electric fire on and once everyone was seated, it soon warmed up.



The staff were friendly but we waited a long time to be served which is always annoying when choices have been supplied a few days before. However, all the meals came out together with only a couple of items missing. These were rectified quickly. A number also chose a dessert.

Our next venue is on Wednesday, 18th March 12.45 for 1.00 pm. If you would like to join us or require further information, please contact dianafossett1@gmail.com.

Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

This month we visited Ancient House Museum in Thetford. One of the main themes of the Museum is the history of the Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. His son, Prince Frederick, gifted Ancient House to the people of Thetford in 1921. The museum opened to the public on 11 December 1924. To mark the centenary, there are relatively new displays telling the remarkable story of the Duleep Singh family. Added to this it is a fascinating building as well as having interesting displays about the history of Thetford. After an interesting morning we found a local cafe for lunch before setting off home.



IT and Computer Learning

Mike Luff:

The IT group met this month to have a recap about past topics and everyone had a chance to bring forward any problems being experienced. We had a good and useful session on scanning documents and connecting the scanner so that scanned documents could be sent and shared. We looked again at some useful apps and all learnt how to scan a document - including one with multiple pages- by using our phone or tablet.

Next month we will be looking at Parking Apps and how to use them. Several of our members have had difficulty using these as well as paying by card at stand alone parking machines so this will be a very useful topic. Our next meeting is at 12 noon on Monday 23rd March. Anyone is most welcome to join us - please bring £1 to cover room hire



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

At last some of us had ventured out into our gardens over this last few days of February. Mostly to tidy up and get ready for Spring. Jobs To Be Done In The Garden in March. As usual the list was quite long as we now are entering into Spring. Pruning Clematis. Always a tricky one if you don't know the rules. We chatted about Gardening Mistakes, we all make them, from pruning at the wrong time of year to over or under watering. What to look for when buying plants and finally what had we all done in our gardens this last month.



This month it was Jane's turn to cook for our cooking from around the world. Jane in true tradition chose Yorkshire. She baked us Fat Rascals, famous from Bettys of Yorkshire tea rooms. They're rather like a rock cake or a North Riding Turf cake. Baked with mixed fruit and decorated with cherries. We all enjoyed them, some with butter, some with jam. As an alternative, Jane also provided us with a small ploughman's of cheese and pork pie. Thank you Jane.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

This is your last chance to join our 2026 sailing taster session. The taster will be on Tuesday the 7th April for half a day from Neatishead and will cost £25. If you decide to continue with sailing a beginners course of two mornings will be held on the 14th and 16th April, the cost will be £50. All the equipment you might need for sailing will be provided. After these sessions your training will continue, but within the main group that meet every Tuesday and Friday, you just request the days you would like to sail by contacting us.

Our sailing is organised by the Nancy Oldfield Trust and the £25 cost is the 'recommended donation' to help cover their costs. The Trust being a registered charity operates a bursary scheme to help cover the cost of sailing either the entire cost or a contribution. If this is something that might help, you should contact the Trust at info@nancyoldfield.org.uk or 01692 630572 for an application form.

The main sailing group will start their summer season on the 10th April and sailing is available on most Tuesdays and Fridays through to the end of October. In these sessions we are allowed to develop our skills with challenges set by the instructors. This has included steering without the use of a tiller or learning to sail backwards, if you are competitive there are regular races. But, it is just about having fun. If you are an 'old salt' and want to get back on the water please contact us at hbu3asailing@gmail.com or 07771914672

Singing for Fun: 3rd Friday (2:00-4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn **NEW GROUP**

Helen Foster:

"Singing for fun" had their first meeting in February, an hour long taster session in the barn. No auditions, no musical ability required just a desire to have a laugh, give it a go and join in. We tried a range of songs some working better than others and we gathered suggestions for future meetings. Using the u3a tech it was easy to provide backing music and words were on the screen. After we had enjoyed the singing we developed a plan for going forward.

We are hoping to run the first and third Friday of the Month, at the Barn, 2.00pm to 4.00pm with a tea break in the middle.

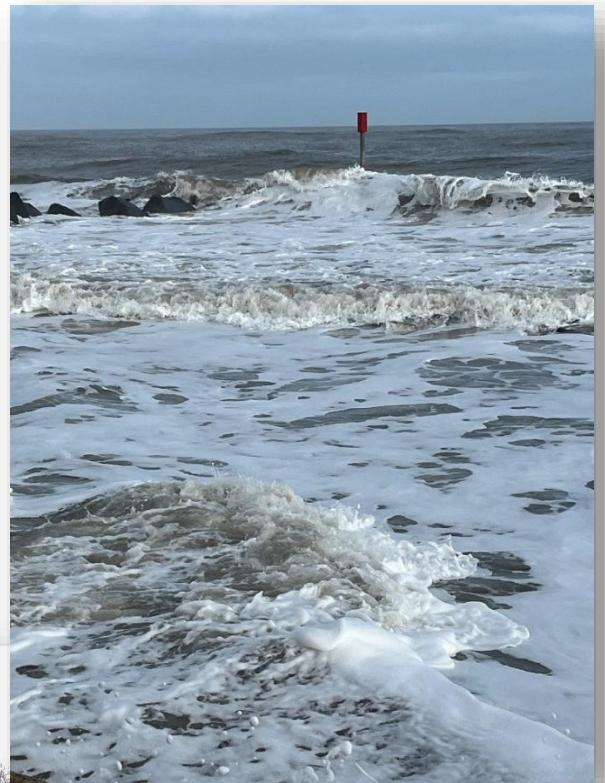
Everyone is welcome, feel free to just turn up. We have visited a couple of dementia choirs and if you know of anybody who might enjoy this experience they and their carers will be most welcome to join. There is a £1.00pp charge for the hire of the barn.

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

Various locations

Roy Smith:

In February the walking group met at Winterton for a thankfully dry walk. Starting at the sports field we walked to Winterton Nature Reserve. Before heading through the Burnley Hall estate some of the group climbed the dunes to take a look at the sea. As we walked along farm tracks and foot paths and avoiding some muddy patches, we saw swans, cattle one daffodil and lots of Alexander. Reaching Burnley Hall we were delighted to see a lot of snowdrops. We stopped to look at the ruins of St Mary's church at East Somerton before returning to the start of the walk. Some of the walkers then headed to The Fisherman's Return for lunch.



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

Chris Foster:

The bravest Wildlifers headed for Cley on a day of showers and cold easterly winds. The cafe supplied us with hot drinks before and after and we kept walking most of the time to ensure we remained warm. The wildlife was also fairly reluctant to come out but we had enough of interest to make it a very pleasant morning. And we all left with a warm glow.



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are currently planned for this Group.

Members Corner *Speakers*

What's on at our next meetings: **NOTE - change to April's speaker**

April 10th: Simon Partridge - Chocolate

Originating from Central America several thousands of years ago, chocolate has become a worldwide phenomenon and cocoa is now a major traded commodity. Why was chocolate brought over to Europe, and how did it become so desirable across the world? Mars bars, Snickers, Cadbury's Milk Tray are all very familiar brands, all with fascinating histories. These and much more will be covered in this introduction to Chocolate!

May 8th: AGM and Stuff & Folly Theatre Company

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

June 12th: Gary Powell- Convicted - Landmark Cases in British Criminal History

Gary brings an interesting afternoon where he will look at famous criminal cases and how they have shaped the legal system and our attitude to the law.

July 10th: Pete Goodrum - Jarrold's - 250 years

An author of a book on this subject, Pete comes along to tell us the history of the Jarrold's company and family

August 14th: Summer Social

This month we enjoy our annual Summer Social with a share a plate buffet and a celebration of our user groups activities over the past year.

September 11th: Judith Keogh - the life of a Wherry Man

Judith Keogh, Trustee of the Norfolk Wherry Trust, returns to tell us all about the life and work of a traditional Norfolk wherry man.

October 9th: Andrew Pettit - Norfolk Wildlife Trust Hickling Project

In the final 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.

Members Corner **NEW GROUP?**

U3A PLAY READING GROUP

Do you fancy joining our new play reading group ?

Play reading is a participative fun activity for people who :

Love the theatre

Love the joy of the spoken word

who want to enlarge their knowledge of plays and playwrights.

All of this without the pressure of performing on stage, learning lines and all the issues of costumes, scenery, music and make up!

You will not have to learn or rehearse lines, but you will read from a script and provide yourself with an opportunity for self-expression, characterisation, imagination and interpretation.

Play reading brings the characters to life in a way you can't with novels, you experience the live suspense of a story, wondering what is going to happen next

It is all part of fun of play reading

Our group plans to meet monthly on the last Friday afternoon of each month – the first meeting being held on Friday 27 th March at 2pm in the Barn.

At this meeting we will go through how the group will actually work and in terms of choosing plays and getting the scripts distributed and have a bash at some actual play reading.

Norfolk Libraries have over 1,000 plays from which we can choose to read.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact **Terry Cotton** on his email –

terrycotton@btinternet.com

Light refreshments will be available and the usual £1 fee per person per session will apply.

We look forward to seeing you on the 27th March.

Members Corner **RENEWALS**

Similar to previous years, we are offering renewal for 2026-27 at £15 for a full membership or £11 for an associate membership.

You can, however, reduce costs by promptly renewing your membership on or before our May meeting (Friday 8th May), meaning you only have to pay £10 (full member) or £6 (associate membership).

New members can join at the full rate of £15/ £11 and **this rate will also apply to existing members renewing after 8th May.**

It makes less work for us if you make payment by electronic bank transfer - details are given below:-

Please make your electronic bank transfer to:-

Account name: Hickling Broad U3A (Barclays Bank)

Sort Code: 20-62-53

Account No.: 53118193

Please ensure that you include your name as the "reference", so we know that the payment is from you!

If you are unable to make a bank transfer, payment can be made:-

- by cash or cheque at our monthly meetings in March, April or May.

- by post to the Treasurer at 18, Beckmeadow Way, Mundesley, NR11 8LP (to arrive before 8th May).