

Hickling Broad u3a June 2026 Newsletter



Diary Dates: June 2026

Mon 01 June	Country Dancing
Tue 02 June	Croquet/Games
Wed 03 June	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 03 June	Creative Crafts / Art
Fri 05 June	Singing for Fun
Mon 08 June	Country Dancing
Tue 09 June	Croquet/Games
Thu 11 June	Discover Norwich/the Broads
Thu 11 June	Crib
Fri 12 June	Members' Meeting
Mon 15 June	Blurr
Tue 16 June	Croquet/Games
Wed 17 June	British History / Dining Club
Thu 18 June	Wildlife
Fri 19 June	Singing for Fun
Mon 22 June	Gourmet Diggers / IT
Tue 23 June	Croquet/Games
Tue 30 June	Croquet/Games
Wed 01 July	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 02 July	Creative Crafts / Art

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our next meeting, 2pm Friday June 12th Gary Powell joins us to present "Convicted - Landmark Cases in British Criminal History" Gary brings an intriguing afternoon where he will look at famous criminal cases and how they have shaped the legal system and our attitude to the law.

At our last meeting on Friday 8th May, we had our AGM. Our chair presented our annual report, our annual accounts were presented and committee elections took place. After the business of the meeting, Stuff & Folly Theatre Company brought us an afternoon of theatre to delight and entertain.

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

Gill Sage:

Because of the election May's art club was held at Joan's house. A big thank you for her hospitality. We all sat in the conservatory and the subject was landscapes .

There was a short talk about the artist David Hockney with a little insight to his works, in particular landscapes, and the task was to go away and produce a painting in his style.

We will stay on the subject of landscapes for June and members can then discuss which aspect of art they would like to study next.

Our club is very much driven by the members and if you would like to join we meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2 o'clock in the barn.

I hope to see more new members, just turn up, even if you haven't got painting equipment there are some materials that you can try .

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

On 6 May the group discussed 'Exposure' by Helen Dunmore which was chosen by Judy and here is Judy's review: Helen Dunmore was a British poet, novelist, short story and children's writer. Set in the 1960s when the Cold War was at its height, 'Exposure' is a spy novel focusing on personal betrayals and domestic fallout. The main character is Simon, a civil servant who was wrongfully arrested for losing a top-secret file. He is largely an innocent victim caught in a cover-up to protect more powerful figures as well as his friend, Giles, and his wife Lily.

The title refers to both the political career-ending exposure of state secrets and the personal hidden histories of the characters, specifically his wife's Jewish background and hidden truths about Simon's past.

Helen Dunmore has brilliantly evoked the minutiae of everyday life of that period. It's a story about love in its many guises and what love will cause people to do. The book divided opinion in the group – some thought it had been quietly subtle and movingly written whilst others found it repetitive and not very believable. Overall, the group gave it a 7/10. Helen Dunmore died in 2017.

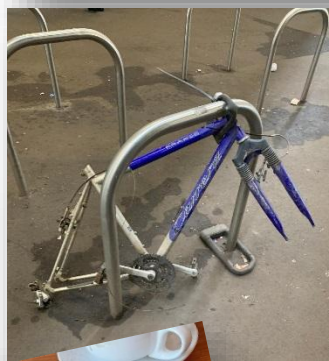
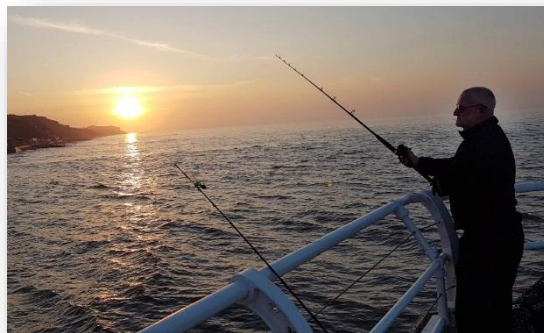
Next month we will be discussing 'Beloved' by Toni Morrison. We now have spaces in the group so if you would like to join us for chat, good discussions, a cuppa and (hopefully) home made cake then please contact me. We are a friendly bunch and you will be made very welcome.

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

Contact:

We meet 3rd Monday of the month. Our last meeting was about taking photos on a mobile phone. With interesting results, some phones have a lot better cameras than others as we found out. See photos below.

Our next meeting is Monday June 15th 2 - 4 o'clock in the barn. The subject is zoo. Pets or farm animals. Taken on phones or cameras. We have a break with tea, coffee and sometimes cake.



British History: 3rd Thursday

Steve Whitby:

Our May meeting saw Steve regale us with odd facts about General Elections. When was the first, which constituency was the largest, or smallest: who was the youngest MP, or the oldest: what was the largest majority, and the smallest etc etc. This led to our usual wide ranging discussion, over tea and biscuits, including a few fairly forthright comments about the standard of politicians from all parties!

In June we forsake the Barn and head to Martham for another of Janet's history walks. The walk will start at 2 p.m. on Thursday 18th June and will last about an hour before we return to enjoy refreshments. All are welcome but, if you are not already a member of the group, please contact Steve, for further details of meeting time, place etc.

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. 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 & Keith Burton

Well, what funny weather during May! Cold, wet and windy then a heatwave! None of which was conducive to playing Croquet. However, the Croquet courts were used but often members preferred the Barn. Perhaps normal summer will arrive next month? If you would like to join us or require further information, please contact Keith or Diana.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

It was a lovely warm day; an ideal day for lunch at Filby Bridge Restaurant overlooking the Broad. We had one long table and seventeen of us were able to enjoy lunch and have a chat. The service was good and there was ample choice of home cooked food.

Our next venue is The Lighthouse Inn, Walcott - 12.45 for 1.00 pm. If you would like to join us or require further information, please contact Diana.



Discovering the Broads/Norwich: 2nd Thursday

Chris Foster:

This month we visited Strangers Hall in Norwich, what a gem. A lovely old Tudor building with multitude of stairs, alcoves and extensions with beautifully furnished rooms each one different - bedroom, playroom, dining room etc. and from a different era telling fascinating stories of our past.

[Strangers' Hall - Stranger's Hall - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

We also enjoyed a very sociable lunch in the city.

For our summer adventure on the water this month we picked up a very smart picnic boat from Richardsons, Stalham Staithe and cruised to Sutton Fen looking for wildlife and then crossed Barton Broad to moor up at How Hill. There we enjoyed the nature trail before heading down to the end of the Ant and St Benet's Abbey. A great day out.



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

Jane Brooker: Kate Fletcher:

Due to a Bank Holiday and most people on holiday, it was decided to cancel May's meeting.

The next Gourmet Diggers is on Monday 22nd June.

IT and Computer Learning: 4th Monday (12:00 noon) at Hickling Barn

Mike Luff:

Last month we looked at sharing our location via Whats App, using QR codes in shops, identifying safe internet search engines, using Google Pay, Apple Pay and Paypal, and setting up facial recognition and the general use of biometrics.

We did not meeting in May as it was a Bank Holiday, so our next meeting is Monday 22nd June at Hickling Barn We have decided to look at how to create and use QR codes, how to stop your phone pinging you ads, what are passkeys and how to set them up and how to use AI to check the T&C's of insurances etc. We are a friendly group learning these things together, and we are always happy to go over previously covered ground, so do come along and join us!



Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

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

Helen Foster:

Singing for fun will be on Friday the 5th and 19th of June this month - 2.00pm at the Barn. All welcome, give it a try!

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

Roy Smith:

Our May walk was inspired by the talk given in February about the history of The North Walsham & Dilham Canal. We started at the North Walsham end of The Paston Path, this pathway passes through to Cromer linking 14 churches & it celebrates the family who were famous for The Paston Letters which gave a unique insight into medieval life from their view as farmers to become landowners.

We then joined the North Walsham & Dilham canal for our walk down to Ebridge Mill via Spa Common Bridge. The Ebridge end of the canal has been cleared and is in use, one group of user are 'wild swimmers' but we all resisted such temptation!

Unfortunately the weather wasn't too kind to our group, but 14 of us managed to walk 6+ miles through the rain, turning in a loop back edging along Bacton woods to the bridge and back along the unrestored end of the canal, with a final push up some pretty steep steps back to our cars.

Some of our members then enjoyed a light lunch at Vera's Coffee Shop at Wayford Nursery.



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

Chris Foster:

We met up at NWT reserve Hickling with the intention of observing butterflies, especially Swallowtails and dragonflies. Unfortunately we were a day ahead of the start of the heat wave and it was too cold for these. However we saw plenty of birds, nest building Marsh Harriers, a pair of Hobbies hunting the tree line as well as a number of waders, most new young families.



Play Reading Group: 4th Friday in Hickling Barn 2:00-4:00 pm

Terry Cotton:

Sadly this month's play reading group had to be cancelled as the Millennium Library was unable to get the play sets to Stalham Library in time. This was despite me ordering the play sets on April 28th and making two further chasing phone calls to the Library. The Millennium Library is currently closed to the public until late July of this year due to extensive refurbishment works. I have made a complaint to Norfolk Libraries.

However, I have confirmed with the Barn that the group will be meeting on the 4th Friday of each month. So the dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

June 26th, July 24th, August 28th, September 25th, October 23rd and November 27th. All meetings start at 2pm and finish around 4. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits are served during the break. There is a 50p charge for the refreshments.

We will be reading Alan Bennett in June, so there should be some fun and laughter for sure!

Members Corner

This is a space for our members to use. Do you have anything you would like to contribute to the next newsletter? Something other members might be interested in such as a local event, an achievement or maybe you have items that need a new home. Anything that you think other members would be interested in.

Contributions should be sent to the email address at the end of this letter or see a committee member at our Friday meetings.

What's on at our next meetings:

2026

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

A 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.

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