

Please note AGM date changed to Friday 9 June

Diary Dates: April 2023

Mon 03 Apr	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Apr	Croquet
Wed 05 Apr	Walking / Bookworms
Thur 06 Apr	Blurr / Creative Crafts
Mon 10 Apr	Crib / Country Dancing
Tues 11 Apr	Croquet
Fri 14 Apr	Members Meeting
Mon 17 Apr	Blurr
Tue 18 Apr	Sailing / Croquet
Wed 19 Apr	Dining Club
Thu 20 Apr	Wildlife / British History
Mon 24 Apr	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 25 Apr	Croquet
Wed 26 Apr	Cycling
Thu 27 Apr	Newbies Sailing
Mon 01 May	Country Dancing
Tue 02 May	Croquet
Wed 03 May	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 04 May	Blurr / Creative Crafts

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday March 10th, historian and author Sarah Doig presented "Norwich at Work: people and industries through the years". Sarah explored the many different trades, crafts and industries of our counties capital and fine city. We had an informative and warm afternoon despite the hailstorm going on outside!

At our next meeting at Hickling Barn, 2pm on April 14th our dear friend Peter Lawrence will present "Royalty in London". Ahead of King Charles' coronation, Peter will explore Royalty's influence on the development of London through the centuries.

Thanks are due, as always, to our cake bakers who always make our afternoon tea and home made cakes after our speakers such a delight. Your hard work and efforts are always much appreciated.

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

I recently visited Hickling Barn on a Monday afternoon to introduce myself to the Country Dancing Group. What an enjoyable afternoon I had. They are a very friendly group and invited me to join in with the dancing. Dinah gave clear instructions to us all and initially we walked through the dance before the music was introduced. There was lots of laughter and it was great fun.

I would recommend trying out this group if you fancy a fun afternoon with good exercise, friendly company and lots of laughter.

Bookworms – Reading Group: 1st Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) various locations

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet at Hickling Barn on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. The member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

The book we discussed on 8 March was 'The Testaments' by Margaret Atwood. This was Mary H'S choice and in Mary's absence I wrote the review:

" Margaret Atwood is the author of many books including 'The Handmaids Tale' of which 'The Testaments' is a sequel.

Dark and dystopian and set in a world obviously controlled by men, this book tells the story of two young girls chosen to help bring down the Gilead regime whilst at the same time in search of their mother. The higher position of men and the use of girls and women made several of us very uncomfortable and one or two were unable to read it to the end. Some thought the brutality in some places wasn't necessary but did reflect the things that were happening around the world today. However, it did result in a very good discussion."

The group is now full with 12 members but as and when a place becomes available I'll let you know through this page in the Newsletter.

Our book to discuss in April is 'Sunshine and Sweet Peas' by Heidi Swain which was chosen by Mary N.

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

Dick Roberts:

British History

Steve Whitby:

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:

Do you enjoy crafting? Any sort at all? We are a small, friendly group who enjoy a variety of different crafting hobbies and we would be very pleased for you to join us. Just contact Rose if you are interested and come along to our April meeting on Thursday 6 April at Hickling Barn.

Crib: 1st Monday, Hickling Barn

Roy Smith:

The next meetings are on the second Monday of the month. 10th April and 8th May, 11.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Barn all welcome. Contact Roy roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk for further details

Cycling: 4th Wednesday various locations

Roy Smith:

If you have a bicycle rusting away in your shed and fancy getting out on the road again, come and join our very friendly group. We cycle about 15 miles, along quiet roads (where possible) at a leisurely pace and generally call for lunch on our way round our route .

Our first bike ride of the season will be on Wednesday 26th of April .

For further details contact Roy roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

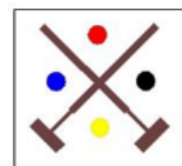
Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Michael Steward:

Our winter pursuit of playing board games and cards has finished and Gill was quite excited when told the 2023 Croquet season was to start again this April. Paul on the other hand really had something up his sleeve and not just scoring hoops in one on a Croquet Court.

The prospect of hitting your ball through a hoop with one shot has been diminished this season as both of the two Croquet Courts have been increased to just short of a full-size Court which is 35M x 28M. We will still be enjoying a well-earned tea / coffee, often with biscuits and /or cake, during a mid-morning break in play.

If you have thought you might like to give Croquet a try then please just come along on a Tuesday morning and join us for a trial session. For more information before attending, you can always contact Michael Steward by phone on 01493 509538 [OR](mailto:msteward1214@outlook.com) via email msteward1214@outlook.com



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

Our venue for March was the Poachers Pocket Bacton. Built in 1886 as a private house, it became a pub in 1920. It is situated right at the far end of the promenade at Walcot and 19 of us took in the sea views while enjoying an excellent lunch. As usual, members took the opportunity to chat and catch up with each other.

Angela Prager is organising next month's venue which will be at The Harnser, Stalham on Wednesday, 19th April 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. If you would like to become a member of the Dining Club and wish to join us, please contact me - dianafossett1@gmail.com

Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

The idea of this group is to get together and hire/rent boats that will take us to unusual, less frequented areas of the Broads. By sharing the costs of the hires we keep the price per head as low as possible.

The April and May trips are fully booked and we will report on these on return. We have a couple more in the pipeline for later in the summer but details are not yet finalised.

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

Jane Brooker: and

Kate Fletcher:

We had a very busy meeting this month, lots to talk about. With the clocks going forward and that extra hour of light in the evening it allows us, if it stops raining, to get out into the garden and start preparing the garden for summer. Exciting times.

This years competition is planting and growing from seed a pumpkin. We were all given 2 seeds to work our magic on. Could be an interesting project.

When to prune clematis? Always a tricky one. Easiest way to remember is. If it flowers before June, very little pruning.

What to do with daffs when they have finished flowering? It's surprising how we all deal with this is different ways. Finally, jobs to be done in the garden in the month of April. The list was endless and we all deserved a cuppa after that.

It was Maggie's turn to to produce food from the alphabet. Maggie, who was joined by her husband Peter, had the letter C and they made Cheeses straws with a couple of extras as some had sesame and poppy seeds and others has Marmite. This was then followed by Coffee Syllabub with Brandy. All very nice. Next month is D and we wait to see what Pam brings.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Planning for the 2023 season is already underway and the main group will resume sailing on the 18th April and the 'newbies' on the 27th April.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

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

Roy Smith:

Seven members joined the walk in March which started at Buxton village hall.

We then continued through the village to the River Bure which we followed through meadows to Oxnead Hall. A detour was made to look at Oxnead church and we continued through Brampton and onto the Aylsham to Wroxham railway line to finish back at Buxton .

An enjoyable lunch followed at Cafe 77 in Coltishall.

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

Chris Foster:

For March we returned to Hickling Broad NWT reserve. We had a big turnout and a very pleasant, if a little windy, morning. The photos show some of what we saw - thanks Pat. The study of cranes started last December, with our visit to the raptor roost, then January and a talk on cranes, February a visit to Lakenheath Fen, and finally we spotted cranes at Hickling in March.

We will be visiting Ranworth Broad on the 20th of April - contact us for more details.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION about your membership renewal

Annual Membership Fees were discussed at our latest Committee Meeting. The first **GOOD NEWS** is that it was decided that we would maintain our annual fee at £15.00 for full members; associate membership is available at a reduced fee for those who can demonstrate full membership of another U3A.

In pre-Covid times we made an offer of a discount of £5.00 for both full and associate membership for prompt renewals. The second **GOOD NEWS** is that we will be making this offer again to existing members for the renewals that become due at the end of March.

Without wishing to be self-congratulatory, members do seem to think that asking £10.00 for access to all that is on offer for the year is good value. There can't be many items in all our budgets that are showing ZERO inflation these days!

Details of the membership offer that was announced at the Barn meeting are as follows:-

Who can benefit?

The offer is open to existing members (full and associate) at the time of renewal.

When is the offer open?

Renewals can be made from 1st March 2023. The offer of the discount will close at the Barn meeting in May (Friday 12th May 2023).

How do I pay?

The preferred method of payment is by Bank Transfer:

Account Name - Hickling Broad U3A

Account Number - 53118193

Sort Code - 20-62-53

Please include your name as an identifier, so we know who has paid!

Payment may also be made in person at the monthly Barn meeting by cheque or cash.

If Bank Transfer is unavailable, and members cannot attend a the monthly meeting, payment can be made by cheque to:

The Treasurer Hickling Broad U3A

18 Beckmeadow Way

Mundesley

NR11 8LP

Again, please ensure that you identify which member, or members, the payment refers to.

How much is my annual renewal?

The discounted fee for prompt payment of Full Membership by existing members will be £10.00.

The discounted fee for Associate Membership by existing members will be £6.00. (It will be necessary to demonstrate that you are a fully paid up member of another U3A)

New full members and associate members joining after 1st April 2023 will pay at the rate of £15 or £11 respectively. (fees will be reduced for those joining part way through the year).

What's on at your next monthly meetings

April 14th	Royalty in London - Peter Lawrence Ahead of King Charles' coronation, our dear friend Peter will explore Royalty's influence on the development of London through the centuries.
May 12th	Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat - George Cooper George will come to give a lighthearted presentation on the history of our local independent lifeboat from its origins up to the present day, including the lifeboats dropped by the RAF in the Second World War which are now housed at the Museum of the Broads in Stalham.
June 9th AGM	Pat Nearney - After the business of our AGM, our old friend and lovable rogue Patrick Nearney – the "Norfolk Nut" will regale us with tales and songs to delight and amuse.

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