



Diary Dates



Thur 01 Dec	Blurr
Thur 01 Dec	Creative Crafts
Mon 05 Dec	Country Dancing
Mon 05 Dec	Crib
Tues 06 Dec	Croquet – board games
Wed 07 Dec	Walking
Wed 07 Dec	Bookworms
Fri 09 Dec	Members' Meeting
Mon 12 Dec	Country Dancing
Tues 13 Dec	Croquet – board games
Thurs 15 Dec	Wildlife – 3:00 pm
Mon 19 Dec	Blurr
Tues 20 Dec	Croquet – board games
Wed 21 Dec	Dining Club
Tues 03 Jan	Croquet - board games
Wed 04 Jan	Walking
Wed 04 Jan	Bookworms
Thur 05 Jan	Blurr
Thur 05 Jan	Creative Crafts
Mon 09 Jan	Country Dancing
Tue 10 Jan	Croquet – board games
Fri 13 Jan	Members' Meeting
Mon 16 Jan	Blurr
Tues 17 Jan	Croquet – board games
Wed 18 Jan	Dining Club
Thur 19 Jan	British History
Mon 23 Jan	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 24 Jan	Croquet – board games
Wed 25 Jan	Cycling

**Wishing you all a
Very Merry
Christmas and
Happy New 2023**

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

On Friday 11th October Maggie Prettyman presented "A Brief History of Hickling Broad, its Flying Boat Airbase and Thatched Boat Houses".

We learnt about the history of Hickling Broad, how the lands and the broad were allotted under the local Enclosure Acts of 1808 and how ownership of the Broad itself was divided, eventually coming back under one ownership. She told us about the historic dispute over fishing, wildfowling and shooting, and how a local Marshman, Robert Vincent, father of Jim Vincent, the First Warden at the Nature Reserve, challenged the then landowner Revd Micklethwaite over his right to access, fish and wildfowl. This resulted in a Court upholding the landowners rights of fishing, wild fowling and sporting, but it also clarified the rights of navigation along the channel and wider access to the waterbody general for leisure purposes. We then heard about the history of RNAS Yarmouth and RNAS Hickling Broad and their role defending our coastline in in the First World War. Although RNAS Yarmouth and Hickling are long gone, the "emergency" seaplane landing rights on the Broad are still in force to this day! We then gained an insight into the thatched boat houses on Hill Common, their history and the complications of ownership, with the boathouses being owned by families, but the water/ land they stand privately leased from NWT, the current landowner.

After the talk we enjoyed home made teas and cake - with our continuing thanks to all the members who so kindly bring them along.

Our next meeting on Friday 9th December sees the welcome return of Bunty Gotts who will present "A 30's Visitors Book". This promises to be another intriguing insight into the history of Blickling Hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring along a plate of seasonal fare to share and hot spiced apple juice (with maybe a tot of rum!) will be served.

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:



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

Kathy Cooper:

Seven Bookworms met up at Hickling Barn on Wednesday, 2 November to discuss 'Magpie Murders' by Anthony Horowitz. This book was chosen by Debbie and here is Debbie's review:

"Anthony Horowitz is the author of the bestselling teen spy series, Alex Rider. He is also responsible for creating and writing some of the UK's successful TV series, including Midsomer Murders and Foyle's War. He has also written two Sherlock Holmes novels, The House of Silk and Moriarty; a James Bond novel, Trigger Mortis; and his most recent stand-alone novel, Magpie Murders, was a Sunday Times bestseller. It is basically a murder mystery within a murder mystery! The main character is Susan Ryeland, Head of Fiction at a publishing company. She is given the task of reading the manuscript by a well known crime writer, Alan Conway, who has recently died in mysterious circumstances. The manuscript is unfinished and in the course of finding the end pages she discovers how and why Conway died and the identity of the murderer in the manuscript. Sounds confusing? Some of us felt so but Horowitz is an accomplished writer and it was considered a good read by the group"



The group scored this one 8/10.

We will be having our Christmas Lunch (where did that year go!) at The White Horse in Upton so no book for December which gives us a chance to catch up on other reading. In January we will be discussing 'Badgerlands' by Patrick Barker which "explores the twilight world of Britain's most enigmatic animal".

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

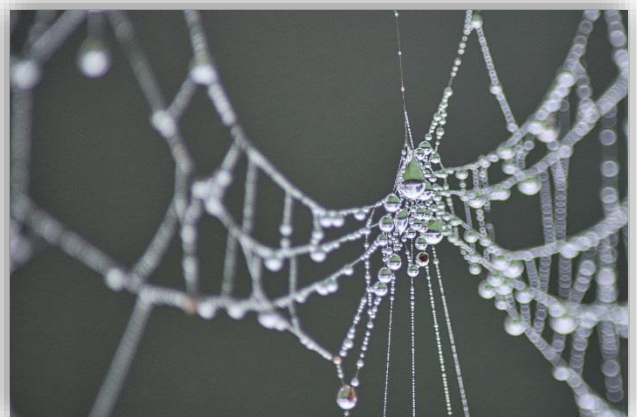
Dick Roberts:



Blurr had a lively meeting this month. The theme was Cobwebs which are usually prolific this month in the early morning mist, but not this year. With so few around we extended the theme to include autumn colours. The old question of 'to Photoshop or not to Photoshop' came up again but after a quick demo of removing unwanted items in photoshop and affinity most agreed that it wasn't at all difficult and are eager for more. We would like to wish all U3A members a happy Christmas and New Year.

To coin a phrase: Keep Clicking.

Last day on the river by Jennie Mursell; Water garden by Joan Burton; Misty cobweb David Edmund-Jones
Garden cobweb by John Tallowin



British History

Steve Whitby:

Thanks were due to Jackie who took over organisation in Steve's absence for our November meeting. If that wasn't enough she led our talk about "British Midwinter Customs" and provided seasonal refreshments including home made mead (I'm sorry I missed it now!).

Ten people attended and, inspired by Jackie's talk continued the meeting by swapping ghost stories.

Jackie pointed out that the winter solstice marked the turn of the year and moving towards brighter, warmer days - she probably said this with feeling as her house boiler has recently broken.

We do not meet in December but will be back on 19th January when we will hear more from Jackie on "British Midwinter Customs."

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:

Whatever your interest in crafting, you are very welcome to join our small, friendly group and bring your project. We have members working with fabrics, wool, cord or doing some painting and sketching. Anything goes! Just send me a message if you want to know more.



Crib: 1st Monday, in the Barn

Roy Smith:

We had our first meeting of the Crib group. Nine people were there and we all had a good time and a chat as well.

Our next meeting is at the Barn on the 5th of December 11 am-1pm. All welcome. Contact me if you would like to come along

Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Michael Steward:

We had our last game of the Croquet season and at the end of play had to drag Ruth off the Court, she was so determined to improve her jump shot, which is quite difficult to execute!

Having stopped playing Croquet until April next year our group will continue to meet for a social morning playing cards and board games in the Barn, whilst having refreshments and a chat.

Croquet is an outdoor activity where members enjoy gentle exercise in fresh air whilst playing a competitive but fun game. So, if have been thinking you might like to give Croquet a go in 2023 please contact Michael on 01493 509538 **OR** via msteward1214@outlook.com for more information.

In the mean time we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Cycling: 4th Wednesday various locations

Roy Smith:



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

The Hill House Inn, Happisburgh was our venue for November. According to the records, the Inn has a deep and vibrant history and the premises were first used as a brewery and ale house sometime between 1610 and 1630. Today, there is a pub and accommodation. There were 18 of us using the small restaurant and seated around tables of four or six, we enjoyed the food and service provided.

Our next venue on Wednesday 21st December 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. is The Banningham Crown. If you are able to come or require further details, please contact dianafossett1@gmail.com

Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

This group hibernates during the winter. However we are already planning some visits for 2023 including a Wherry trip. More details will emerge - looking forward to next May.

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

*Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher:*

November is our time for holding a bit of a Christmas party as we don't meet in December. We started with Jane's gardening quiz, and Steve won, receiving a big of spring bulbs. Then we tucked into our delicious selection of food which had been contributed by everyone. During this time we talked about what our Christmas was like as children.



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

Whilst no meeting was held in November, work has continued behind the scenes. Martin has been particularly busy and has finished the final edit of numerous recordings and their written transcripts. These will now be submitted for inclusion in the Norfolk Records Office. The next meeting is on 9 December.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey:

On the 28th October the sailing group's summer sailing season came to an end and we know that everyone welcomed the opportunity to experience sailing or to develop their skills. The sailing group has two groups; the main group is for experienced sailors or those who have progressed from the novices (Newbies) group.

The main group started the season with 12 regular members but ended the year with 17 because of those graduating from the newbies group. In total the main group was able to sail on 55 days, most of the members chose to sail at least once a week although the keen members were able to sail twice a week. Members can sail as often as they would like Tuesdays and Fridays, there is no requirement to sail a minimum number of days.

The newbies group had the opportunity to sail every other Thursday under the supervision of qualified instructors. Again, there is no requirement to sail a specific number of days, some people do not want to sail in wet, windy or cold conditions and this is not a problem. But before you are allowed to move to the main group you have to demonstrate the skills required by the Royal Yachting Association level 2.



What this means is you have to be able to sail in confidently on all points of sail and to demonstrate an awareness of leaving and returning to the mooring in good conditions. Once you progress to the main group you have the opportunity to develop your skills and learn to sail in more challenging conditions, or you can just sail around the Broad enjoying the peace, tranquillity and wildlife.

If you are competitive, we have the occasional race, I should add that in the five years we have been sailing not one member has gone overboard. Unlike dinghies we sail Yeoman keelboats that are exceptionally stable and it would take a very experienced sailor to make them capsize, this has never been achieved by any of our members. A number of our more competent and enthusiastic members are continuing through the winter, but this is really for the 'hardy and brave'.

One of the highlights of the year was the "Green Spaces Dark Skies" event on Barton Broad when the Broad was taken over during the evening for sailing with illuminations and some of our members were invited to take part. I suggest you have a look at the YouTube short film of the event on the following link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kbzsO8g4Xw>

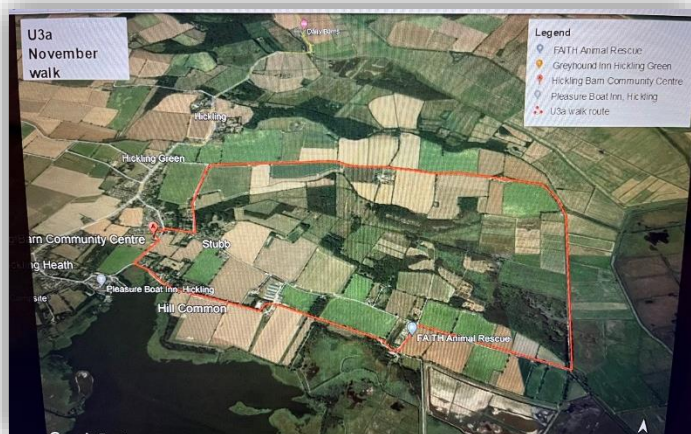
None of this would be possible if it wasn't for the Nancy Oldfield Trust providing the opportunity for our members to experience sailing and to progress if they wish to. The Trust has a small team of professionals, but they are supplemented by a small army of committed volunteers who give up their time for the benefit of our members and we cannot thank them enough.

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. We are always looking for new members. It doesn't matter how good a sailor you are or a complete novice even if you have never sailed before you can come along and see if it is for you. Not everyone takes to sailing. We are fortunate that the Trust welcomes members of all age groups and with almost any disability. If you would like to try your hand at sailing please contact us for more information.

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

Roy Smith:

We set off from Hickling Barn on the morning of 2nd November, and were fortunate with the weather which was bright, sunny and reasonably warm. 10 members were walking and our route took us past the thatched boathouses on Hill Common towards the Faith Animal Sanctuary. En route we heard about Hickling Broad, its use in the First World War as a seaplane emergency landing site, the story about the now King and the Late Duke of Edinburgh staying at the Pleasure Boat Inn, when they were flooded out from Whiteslea Lodge. Our route took us past the Norfolk Wildlife Trust Visitors Centre, past FAITH and on to Stubb Mill. We stopped here for a short break and Chris explained the wildlife that could be seen from this vantage point, and how the Raptors used this as a flight corridor. Heading north, our walk took us past Eastfield Farm and then west towards Hickling, where we heard about the Priory and St Marys Church. Following our 5.2 mile walk a number of the group went to The Greyhound for lunch; all in all a enjoyable walk with good company and pleasant weather.



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

Chris Foster:

A select band of hardy, well wrapped up, enthusiastic wildlifers enjoyed an interesting fungi foray last month and we managed to find about 20 of the potential 60 species. Thanks to those who made it and collected samples so industriously.

For our next meeting, we thought, as people are busy we would keep it simple. We will visit the Raptor Roost at Hickling NWT on Thursday, 15th December – 3.00pm at the car park and at Stubbs Mill any time after that. The track to the Stubbs Mill raptor viewpoint can be wet, uneven and muddy and you might like to have a torch to help get back safely to the car park. Wrap up warm and binoculars and or scopes are advised.

Also remember the open invitation to visit the Seals at Horsey. Recently things have really kicked off and pups are arriving in large numbers. We are on duty every Monday and would love to show people what to look for, where to go and try and explain the behaviour. It is a truly inspiring wildlife spectacle. We will be around from 10.30am (Each Monday leading up to Christmas) and mostly likely can be found at the Pill Box section of the viewing area closest to the car park. We usually are relieved by about 1.00pm.



What's on at your next monthly meetings

Friday 9 December	Bunty Gotts A 30's Visitors Book
Friday 13 January	Gareth Davies - Forgotten Entertainers: 19th Century Performers and the development of popular culture

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