

Diary Dates: December 2023

Mon 04 Dec	Country Dancing
Tues 05 Dec	Board games/cards
Wed 06 Dec	Walking
Wed 06 Dec	Bookworms
Thur 07 Dec	Creative Crafts
Mon 11 Dec	Crib
Fri 08 Dec	Monthly Meeting
Mon 11 Dec	Country Dancing
Tues 12 Dec	Board games/cards
Mon 18 Dec	Blurr
Tues 19 Dec	Board games/cards
Thur 21 Dec	Wildlife
Thur 21 Dec	Blurr
Thur 21 Dec	British History
It's Christmas!	
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	



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

On 1 November the group got together to discuss 'The Museum of Broken Promises' by Elizabeth Buchan. I was unable to attend the meeting but Jeanne did a grand job of taking the group.

'The Museum of Broken Promises', written by Elizabeth Buchan, is an evocative love story centred around some of the darkest moments in European history in Prague under communist rule from 1968. It was a many-layered book which reveals more and more about the main characters and their complicated lives both within and outside the iron curtain. The final chapter reveals the worst of the broken promises and the heartbreak that has followed the main character throughout her life. It was voted 7/10 by the group.

The group will meet again at the Barn on 6 December but, this time, each of us will give a short review of a much-loved book – or, 'the book I would never lend' - which we will bring along with us.

Our book for January 2024 is 'Playing Nicely' by J P Delaney and is Katy's choice. If you would like to join us you would be made very welcome.

Merry Christmas everyone

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 10th November, Stephen Poulter kindly stepped in at short notice to present with a talk entitled **"To the Hammer Born: Confessions of an occasional auctioneer"**. As an auctioneer and online dealer in antiques, vintage items and collectables, Stephen described how the auction business developed over more than 2,000 years, and revealed some of the insider secrets of the way the trade operates today. Auctions originated in the 5th Century, BC. In the UK land auctions began in the 16th century and the first Auction House for artefacts founded by James Christie in 1785, followed shortly after by the establishment of Bonams and Sothebys. Stephen himself started trading in 2012 and now has an on line antiques and collectables business. We enjoyed a quiz about collectors titles - who knew that a collector of teddy bears was called an Artcophile???

On Friday 8th December at 2pm we will be joined by Darrin Sore who will perform a selection of musical Christmas hits from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Darrin is an experienced and engaging performer who will undoubtedly have us rocking around the Christmas tree in no time at all! After his performance we will enjoy our annual share a plate Christmas party. We will provide hot spiced apple juice with maybe a tot of rum if you fancy! Please bring along some nibbles to share with friends and colleagues at our u3a if you can.

BLURR – The Photography Group: 3rd Monday

(2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn

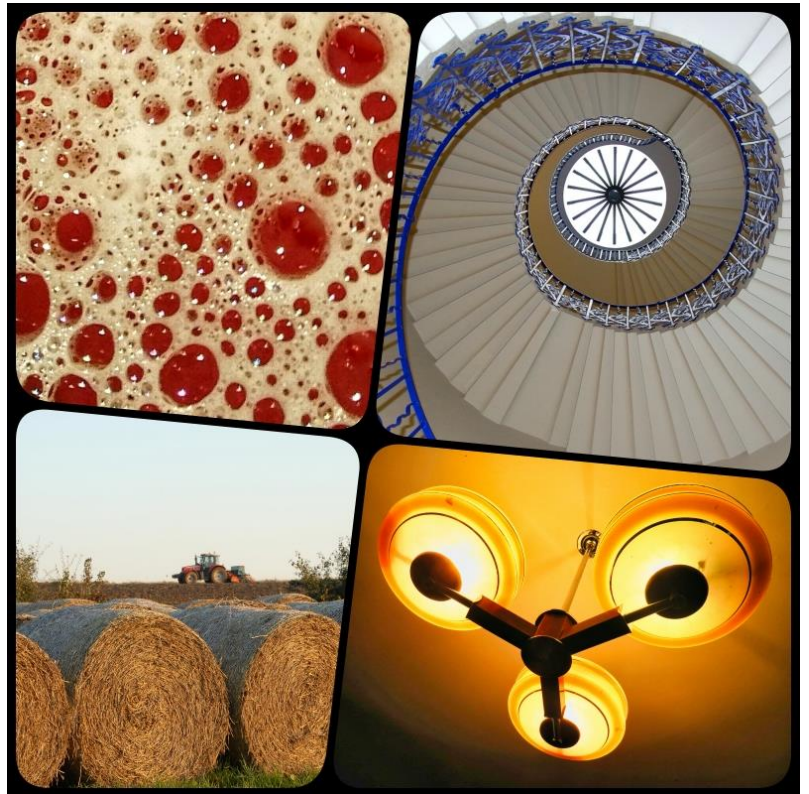
Contact:

Despite it being very early into the new regime of Blurr, the meeting was well attended and some lively debate centred around the submitted images which this month was 'circles'.

Peter Reynolds, Jane Crossley, Dick Roberts and Joan Burton delivered noteworthy 'circles' images displaying some great creativity.

Next months task is 'Portraiture' - the group were shown and discussed a variety of beautiful formal and informal portraiture work from some world class photographers. We now look forward to seeing the group submissions and how they interpret the task.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the third Monday of each month - next meeting is 2pm on 18th December. If you are interested in photography - at any level, with any equipment - do drop in and see us.



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

Dinah Slatter:

On Saturday November 18th, 13 members of the Country Dancing group donned their finery, boarded their carriages and were conveyed to the Playford Ball at Norwich Assembly Rooms. Hours of practice paid off and for 3 hours we danced, from the opening number *La Pistolet* to the final *Hole in the Wall*. We were really pleased with our performance; Jan and Shirley even achieved a fancy hold favoured by Mr Gosk, the MC. Only one dance caused some trepidation: Mr Gosk called Marie Antoinette's version of *The Bishop...* This was new to us and our sets threatened to descend into the hilarity and confusion which usually accompanies our regular sessions in the Barn, but we survived! We are already looking forward to next year's Ball on November 16th 2024 and planning our costumes (John aspires to a scarlet uniform, though not straight off the battlefield of Waterloo; Louise intends to prioritise comfort over elegance and continue dancing in trainers; and Jane will be looking for garments a little less warm).



British History

Steve Whitby:

Our November meeting was led by Kaye, the subject being the General Strike and, particularly, the role of the miners and mine owners in proceedings. Parallels could be drawn between then and now in that the country was in recession and prices were rising much faster than wages (some of which were falling) as a result of the effect of World War 1 (or Covid and the Russia /Ukraine war today). As usual the subsequent discussion was wide ranging even if, as usual, sometimes it deviated from the topic.

We were pleased to welcome three first time attendees and even better when two of them agreed to lead sessions at a future date.

We have no meeting in December but return on 18th January when John will tell us about the War in Salonica from a personal perspective of his relative.

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.



Crib: 2nd Monday, Hickling Barn

Roy Smith:

Are you looking for something to do during the winter months, if so, why not come and join our crib group. We meet at the Barn Hickling on the second Monday of the month 11.30am - 1.30pm. Novices welcome - cost £1.

Next meeting 11th December.

If interested just come along or give me a call 01692598060.



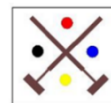
Croquet Group – 2023 / 2024

Michael Steward:

The Croquet season for 2023 has ended so we are enjoying board and card games in the Barn every Tuesday (10.30am to 1pm) until the end of March 2024. So do come along and keep the grey matter working by being shown how to play interesting and fun games.

Whether you come along or not we wish everyone a healthy, wealthy and happy Christmas and an even better New year.

For more information find Keith or Michael at a U3A Meeting **OR** contact Michael on 01493 509538 or email msteward1214@outlook.com



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

In November, the Dining Club met at the Fur and Feather, Woodbastwick. An interesting pub which is part of Woodforde's Brewery. The restaurant was spacious enough to allow sixteen on one long table and members sat chatting well after the lunch was finished. Good food and company made it an enjoyable time.

By popular request, we are revisiting The Lodge at Salhouse on Wednesday 20th December, 12.30 for 1.00 p.m. Arrangements have been completed as numbers had to be in early for the Christmas period but if you would like to join the Dining Club for January, please contact me, Diana Fossett - dianafossett1@gmail.com



Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

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

*Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher:*

It was Christmas time at our November meeting of Gourmet Diggers as we don't hold a meeting in December.

As always our annual quiz started off the afternoon, with a collection of questions to do with gardening and food, I particularly liked this one:

Why does Father Christmas have 3 gardens?

Answer: So he can Ho, Ho, Ho!

We had a general chit chat about funny things that had happened to us in the past during the Christmas festivals. Kate enlightened us all why and where certain products had got their names from.

All this was going on whilst we all tucked into a delicious feast (we had all brought along some festive food). We ended the afternoon with the must have Christmas game that Molly always organizes.

Plenty of laughs and chatter ended a very successful year of Gourmet Diggers.



Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey:

The summer sailing ended on the 31st October but for the few hardy sailing will continue throughout the winter months. Before the season finished some of us had a new experience, sailing in the fog with visibility no more than 30 metres in places and the only noise were voices in the distance. But when another boat appeared through the fog it looked like something out of a horror movie, we all survived. As a thank you to the Nancy Oldfield Trust for their support throughout the year the group had a collection and prepared a hamper for the staff and volunteers to enjoy. Following the presentation the Trust uploaded the following message and photograph onto their Facebook page:-
"We had a VERY lovely surprise Christmas gift today from one of our weekly sailing groups. THANK YOU SO MUCH, not only for this amazing gift, but for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to your weekly visits and get as much enjoyment from them as you do visiting us! Looking forward to seeing you again in 2024"



Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are taking place at present but you can visit our website at <http://www.voicesofhickling.org.uk>

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

Roy Smith:

Despite the weather, 10 intrepid walkers set off for a walk mainly along quiet country lanes hoping to avoid most of the flooding and mud. We walked around Neatishead and Three Corners Common taking in the view over Barton Broad and Neatishead church. Afterwards we were rewarded for our efforts by a lovely lunch at The White Horse."



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

Chris Foster:

As is now customary the autumn fungi foray was blessed with some heavy rainfall (see photo). We visited Bryant's Heath, Felmingham which has a range of habitats, woodland car, mixed woodland, heathland and fresh water ponds and so found a wide range of fungi. Despite the rain a very enjoyable morning.

A few of the group also enjoyed an interesting talk about photographing Kingfishers. There was some marvellous photography and we also learnt a great deal about Kingfisher behaviour. This talk was one of a series organised by the Local Broadland Group (of NWT). They happen each month the Friday after the u3a meeting at the Barn - and I would recommend them - next month it is an Illustrated talk about Sweet Briar Marshes - 7.45pm at Ingham Village Hall - December the 8th.

I am pleased to report that this early in the season Horsey Seals seem to be flourishing. Helen and I will be on duty Monday mornings in December so if you want to learn a little more about our amazing grey seals do come and find us.





HBU3A man swims the Atlantic

Well, not quite!

But, as some of you already know, I (*Steve Whitby*) am swimming the equivalent distance (Senegal to Brazil) up and down the Victory Pool in North Walsham. The total distance is 2,085 miles (or 134,000+ lengths of the pool). As I write this (27th November) I have been travelling for exactly 6 years and I completed 2,000 miles. I hope to finish around the end of January or early February at the worst.

I decided to use my swim to raise funds for an amazing charity which I have had the privilege to serve as a Trustee for 18 years - Hebron Trust, a small Norfolk based charity who currently have 4 houses (14 beds) in Norwich providing vulnerable women with accommodation and assistance to provide sustainable independence and to help each woman rebuild her life such that she feels valued, able to plan her future and regain a sense of purpose enabling her to return to a useful contributor to society.

If any of you are able to sponsor me, you can do this by seeing me at one of our meetings or by clicking on the link to my Just Giving page below:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/steve-whitby-1700569150007/donate>

Just Giving:- *"Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity."*

What's on at your next monthly meetings

December 08 2023	Darrin Sore – Christmas Hits from the 50's, 60's, and 70's.
January 12 2024	Sarah Doig - The A to Z of Curious Norfolk
February 09 2024	Peter Lawrence - Norwich: England's Medieval Second City

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