

Diary Dates: February 2023

Wed 01 Feb	Walking
Wed 01 Feb	Bookworms
Thur 02 Feb	Blurr
Thur 02 Feb	Creative Crafts
Mon 06 Feb	Crib
Mon 06 Feb	Country Dancing
Tues 07 Feb	Croquet
Fri 10 Feb	Members Meeting
Mon 13 Feb	Country Dancing
Tues 14 Feb	Croquet
Wed 15 Feb	Dining Club
Thur 16 Feb	Wildlife
Thur 16 Feb	British History
Mon 20 Feb	Blurr
Tues 21 Feb	Croquet
Mon 27 Feb	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 28 Feb	Croquet
Mon 01 Mar	Country Dancing
Mon 01 Mar	Crib
Tues 02 Mar	Croquet
Weds 03 Mar	Walking
Weds 03 Mar	Bookworms

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 13th January, Gareth Davies presented "Forgotten Entertainers: 19th century performers and the development of popular culture" The talk explored performers who visited 19th century East Anglia as a way of illustrating the type of entertainment offered in a century that saw the development of popular culture. We heard about many characters who had performed at this time, and how these people had influenced the entertainment of today. His talk was split into 4 sections, Fairs and Theatrical Booths, Circus, Theatre and Halls and Outdoor Entertainment. In each section he talked about different performers, for example in Fairs and Theatrical Booths we found out about Ellen Bright 'The Lion Queen' who unfortunately died at the age of 17 in 1850 when she was tragically killed by the tiger who was in the cage with her and a lion.

Our meeting at Hickling Barn at 2pm on the 10th February sees the welcome return of musician and performer Saffron Summerfield presenting "Milton Keynes to Mississippi - My musical journey in showbiz" This promises to be an entertaining and lively musical performance featuring different styles of guitar music – from Classical to Folk and Blues – songs and anecdotes from a long career in the music business. Saffron will talk about life on the road and performing with artists like Joan Armatrading, Long John Baldry, Rock Band FREE and recording at EMI Abbey Road Studios as well as with Blues musicians in Mississippi cotton fields!

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.

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

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet at 2:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Hickling Barn. The member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting. There was no book for December as the group went to The White Horse, Upton for our Christmas lunch which we all enjoyed very much.

Wednesday, 4 January 2023 was the first Bookworms of the New Year and we welcomed a new member, Judy, to the group. The book we discussed was 'Badgelands' by Patrick Barkham. Not the most gripping book, especially to read over the Christmas period, but a few of us gave it our best shot. More of a reference book, Badgerlands looks into the lives of badgers – diet, habitat etc. It also touched on culling and the TB issues that occurred in recent years. This created a discussion of sorts. A style of book that Bookworms would not normally read.

Next month we will be reading 'The Authenticity Project' by Clare Pooley which was chosen by Katy.

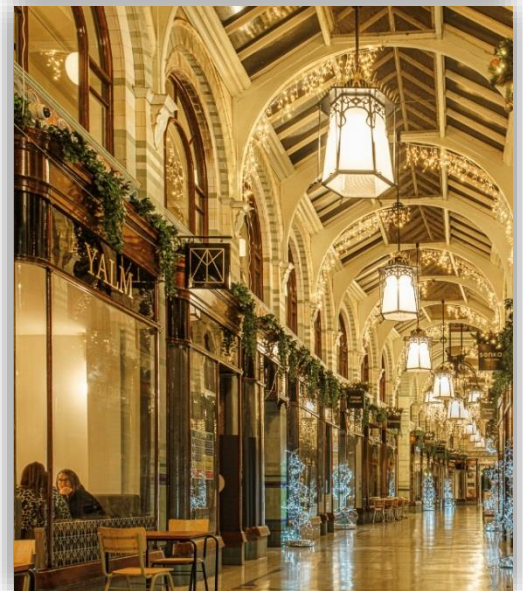
We have spaces available so if you would like to join or just come along for a trial run, please give me a call or drop me an email.

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

Dick Roberts:

Another good meeting of the Blurristas. This month's theme was Christmas and New Year. I thought this would be very easy but I was proved wrong. Many found it hard, including myself. I guess everyone was so engrossed in family and friends that they struggled with the challenge, but hey-ho that is what Christmas is all about. However we did get some great images including Grandchildren making decorations. (Pat Collins). Festive swimming (Joan Burton). Royal Arcade (Jennie Mursell) and Christmas tree decorations (Peter Reynolds)

Blurr meets on the 3rd Monday of the month @2pm and first Thursday of the month @ 10am. We try to make the meetings informal and fun for both beginners and the more advanced. You are welcome to come along, we even have free tea and coffee.



British History

Steve Whitby:

After our Christmas break we met up in January to hear Jackie complete her talk on "Medieval Midwinter Festivals". The original midwinter festivals tended to last not 12 days but 12 weeks - from Martinmas (11th November) through to Candlemas (2nd February) and greenery was kept up throughout this time. In Tudor times the entertainment was for adults far more than children with characters such as the Lord of Misrule and festivals such as the Feast of Fools alongside mumming, wassailing and Plough Monday along with local events such as the Whittlesey Straw Bear Festival. Christmas presents tended to be home made and modest .

Jackie kindly added to her talk by providing panettone (a similar cake was eaten on 12th night) and apple juice (to represent wassailing).

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:

A small number attended to January craft group this time. We cover a variety of crafts, knitting, sewing, knotting and art to mention a few. All are welcome to come along and join us. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Barn. If you would like to come along and join us, in Rose's absence please contact Kate at :- mrskatefletcher@gmail.com. Or give her a call on 07736769567.

Our next meetings are Thursday 2nd February and Thursday 2nd March. We look forward to seeing you all.

Crib: 1st Monday, Hickling Barn

Roy Smith:

Cycling: 4th Wednesday various locations

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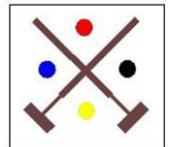
Cycling starts March 30th 2023 weather permitting

Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Michael Steward:

Having stopped playing Croquet until April our group are still meeting for a social morning playing cards and board games in the Barn, along with refreshments and a chat.

So for just £2 if you want a few hours in the warm whilst possibly learning a new game with friendly players then just turn up at 10.30am on a Tuesday morning.



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

January saw the Group going to the White Horse at Neatishead. This is a sister pub of the Lion at Thurne. In all 18 of us met and enjoyed a very nice lunch. The staff were very helpful and accommodating as some of us had a few problems with traffic hold-ups getting there on time. We only pre-ordered starters and main meals and the staff were very happy to take orders for desserts after. I would definitely recommend going to this pub again.

Linda Thomson is organising the The February Dining Club lunch which will be held at The Greyhound in Hickling on Wednesday 15th February 12.15 for 12.30 pm. Hopefully, all members of the club have received an email with more details and menus. If anyone has been missed or would like to join this club, please contact Diana.



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:

The saying "it's not the amount that matters, it's the quality that counts" is what we had at our meeting in January. So we chatted about topics to do with all types of gardening, but also put the world to rights. Houseplants and how to look after them, the popularity of houseplants through the ages, starting from the 1920s up to the present time, was also on the agenda. We finished up with common mistakes that we all make whilst tending to our gardens.

A new year so a new theme for the food side. This year we are cooking through the alphabet. So I started the year off with the letter **A**. We had Ale Bread Rolls, ANZAC biscuits (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps). These were made to sell at fairs etc to help raise money for the soldiers. Lastly we had Almond and Apple cake. Next month, yes, the letter **B**.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey:

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:

No meeting in January but we hold our first meeting of 2023 on 10th February in the Greyhound - time provisionally 11.30 but to be confirmed

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

Roy Smith:

Nine of us started this walk at Salhouse Station and walked to Salhouse Broad. This walk was a bit further than I thought. It was 6 miles and dry most of the way. The weather was really good for the time of year. If you would like a bit of exercise and good company you are welcome to join us. Contact Roy.



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

Chris Foster:

Our meeting this month was at the Barn. Having spotted (and heard) cranes at Hickling last month we spent the first part of the morning looking at cranes and in particular cranes at Horsey. We learnt how for 30 years the Horsey estate kept secret the return of breeding crane pairs to our home patch. These cranes were carefully monitored and much was learnt of crane behaviour and as well as the best conditions to let them thrive. After a break for refreshments we then looked at the Big Bird watch and clues for identification, followed by a relaxed identification bird quiz.

For our next meeting we are going to Lakenheath Fen on Thursday the 16th February. Meet at the café from 10.00am planning to walk to reserve by 10.30. Everyone welcome. We may see some cranes, we will see much else.

What's on at your next monthly meetings

Friday 10 February: Saffron Summerfield presenting "Milton Keynes to Mississippi - My musical journey in showbiz"

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