

Diary Dates: February 2024

Mon 05 Feb	Country Dancing
Tues 06 Feb	Croquet
Wed 07 Feb	Walking / Bookworms
Thur 08 Feb	Crib
Fri 09 Feb	Members meeting
Mon 12 Feb	Country Dancing
Tues 13 Feb	Croquet
Thur 15 Feb	British History / Wildlife
Mon 19 Feb	Blurr
Tues 20 Feb	Croquet
Wed 21 Feb	Dining Club
Mon 26 Feb	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 27 Feb	Croquet
It's a short month but all of our Groups are featured and please note the change of date for the Crib group.	
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 12th January, Maggie Prettyman presented "A Short History of Hickling Village" The presentation, starting from pre Roman times, covered the many events and some of the personalities and great benefactors that have made our village what it is today. After Maggie's presentation we enjoyed, as always, home made tea and cakes provided by our ever generous cake bakers, and we chatted and caught up with each others news and the activities of our interest groups.

At our next meeting, on Friday 9th February 2pm at Hickling Barn, our dear friend Peter Lawrence will return to present Norwich - England's Medieval Second City. Peter will delight us with an illustrated tour of medieval Norwich, highlighting the evidence of a city that, in ratio to its size, was equal to the wealth and institutions in the City of London.

We would like to welcome Diana Fossett to the committee.

Diana has kindly agreed to be co opted into the secretary's role, and we are most grateful for her time and service.

Annual committee nominations will take place as usual at our AGM in May, and if you would like to join us as well, please speak to our chair Kate, or to any other committee member to find out more.

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

We are lucky to have a great variety of interest groups at Hickling u3a and they are well attended by members but is there something missing ?

Do you wish there was a singing group ? Or friends that you could enjoy theatre visits with ? Have you always had an interest in learning to play an instrument ? Or do you want to learn a foreign language ?

There are lots of ideas in the u3a magazine, 'Third Age Matters' and on the website. If you have an interest or skill and could help run a new interest group, please contact me - I will be happy to help.

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.

Wednesday, 3 January 2024 was the first Bookworms of the New Year. The book we discussed was 'Playing Nice' by J P Delaney which was chosen by Katy and this is Katy's review:

"J P Delaney is one of the pseudonyms of a guy called Tony Strong. He was born in Uganda and graduated from Oxford University. He uses several pseudonyms for different genres of writing.

The book begins with the discovery that two babies, Theo and David, were swapped at birth which didn't come to light until both boys were two years old. Miles, the father of one child set about proving this but in rather an unconventional way and for purely selfish reasons. I enjoyed this book and thought the way the author gradually introduced the flaws in all the characters was quite clever. I did think that some of the qualities attributed to Theo, a very bright and over-active child, were slightly advanced for a two year old but I guess it was necessary for the story. The way that CAFCASS acted seemed quite horrific but apparently, in real life, they generally act much more fairly than they did in the book.

I thought at first that the ending was rather contrived, as endings often are, but there didn't seem to be any other choice of how to stop Miles on his quest for power."

The book generated a really good discussion and after some delicious Christmas cake provided by Mary N, the group gave Playing Nice an 8/10.

In February we will be discussing 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell. If you would like to join us please drop me an email or give me a call. You will be made very welcome.

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

Contact: hicklingu3aphotos@gmail.com

Our two meetings in January this year found us having a photographic walk at John's farm which was very enjoyable and also listening to a very interesting talk by photographer Paul Colella on setting up still life photography at home. Paul brought along some examples of 'props' etc. and let us into some easy ways to use everyday items to good effect. There is a well known DIY outlet in Yarmouth that may find wallpaper samples in more demand than before Paul's talk, as it is great to use as a seamless backdrop.

Our picture theme for January was 'Two Colours' and we had a varied and imaginative group of entries to view and discuss. February's Theme is:- a single Tree. Next Barn meeting will be on Monday February 19th at 2pm.



British History

Steve Whitby:

The group kicked off the new year when John told us about the war in Salonica from the perspective of his Great Aunt Agnes. Often overshadowed by other battles, such as the Somme, the war in Salonica produced large numbers of injured and sick keeping Agnes busy as a matron in Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps. John gave a brief history of the war and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Corps before personalising things by relating Agnes' life story which personalised and brought to life the rigours of those involved.

Our February meeting is on Thursday 15th at 2 p.m. and we meet in the Barn - all are welcome. This month Steve will be telling us about the Cragg Vale Coiners, a tale of fraud, treachery and murder that brought a quiet area of Yorkshire to the attention of the government

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

Dinah Slatter:

Please contact Dinah if you are interested in joining.

Creative Crafts: 1st Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Rose Pigula:

There will not be a meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 March in Hickling Barn. We are a friendly group and all are welcome. Just come along and bring whatever you are working on.

Crib: 2nd Thursday, Hickling Barn (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Roy Smith:

At the January meeting 6 of us met up at the Barn and enjoyed a game of Crib with a cup of tea, cake and a natter . The new date and time for Crib is as follows: Second Thursday of the month at the Barn, Hickling. 2-4pm, and so the next meeting is February 8th. All welcome.

Croquet Group – 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.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

Sixteen of us had an enjoyable lunch at The Lion, Thurne on Wednesday, 17th January. The Manager had made the decision to close the pub on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during January but because I had booked before Christmas, he agreed to honour the booking and open up especially for us. Despite the heating being on, the snug was rather chilly but the food was excellent and the Manager friendly and helpful.

Our next lunch which is being organised by Gill Sage will be held at the Bridge, Acle on Wednesday, 21st February 12.30 for 12.45 p.m.

If you would like to join the Dining Club, please contact me - dianafossett1@gmail.com

Discovering the Broad

Chris Foster:

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

Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher:

Gardening started off with discussing the trends for 2024 according to the RHS.

Subjects such as mini indoor gardens, growing your own with an emphasis on purple vegetables and patio fruit trees were all talked about. We then went onto the care of house plants during the winter.

Jobs to be done in the garden in February included the splitting of clumps of Snowdrops and winter aconites. Pruning of late flowering clematis and shrubs. Chitting early potatoes and preparing your vegetable plot.

Gardening ended with a quiz on terms used in gardening which proved to be interesting and amusing.

Alphabet Cooking this month was the letter I. Kate tried to avoid the obvious, however she made Traditional Irish Soda Bread which had been freshly made that morning as it doesn't require proving and followed with Italian ice cream or Gelato as the Italians call it. We had vanilla flavour and, not wanting to waste the 4 egg whites left from the making the ice cream, meringue nests were served with the it.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

Did you ever wish to try your hand at sailing, then now is the time. We are looking to welcome new members in April. The aim would be to get you to a standard where you could move to sail with the main sailing group that sail on either Tuesdays or Fridays.

We will be trying a different approach this year to enable people to be sufficiently competent to be able to join the main group within a much shorter time span. This will give new comers a longer season and enable everyone to sail every week should they wish to do so.

We are offering a taster session on the morning of Tuesday 16th April 2024 when you can attend and spend some time on Barton Broad to see if sailing is for you at the cost of £18.00. All equipment will be provided by the Nancy Oldfield Trust that manage the sailing sessions as are all instructors and safety crew. The Nancy Oldfield Trust are able to cater for any lack of physicality.

If you would like to continue sailing after the Taster Session there will be a 3 day Newbies sailing course at the cost of £108.00 on Thursday 16th May - Saturday 18th May 2024. This will be payable in advance. Thereafter instruction will continue within the main sailing group. However if you have sailed before and are just a little rusty please contact us as other arrangements can be made based on your ability to get you back on the water.

For everyone in the main group there will be an opportunity to sail on either Tuesdays or Fridays or both depending on numbers throughout the summer and autumn.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

Due to sickness and the death of Maureen Johns we have not been holding meetings lately and none are yet planned for the future.

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

Roy Smith:

We all met up at Overstrand on a windy, cold but but sunny morning .

The tide was just going out so we walked along on the beach to Cromer, where we had a cup of chocolate or coffee in a cafe.

We then walked back, and some of us stopped for lunch at the cafe at Overstrand, very nice too .

Next walk is February 7th and all are welcome.

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

Various locations

Chris Foster:

This month our first attempt of an outing was postponed due to icy roads and snow showers. So a small group met a week later at the Hickling NWT centre late in the afternoon and headed to Stubbs Mill. There you can view incoming birds getting ready for bed. We had a couple of cranes feeding in front of us and we also saw Marsh Harriers and Hen Harriers as well as a "chatter" of Lapwings. Not quite the spectacle we had hoped for but a very pleasant visit all the same.



HBU3A man swims the Atlantic

We previously reported on Steve Whitby's progress in swimming the Atlantic (or the equivalent distance in the Victory Pool, North Walsham). We are pleased to report that Steve completed his 6 year swim on 26th January. He has so far raised over £1800 towards his pound a mile (£2085) target for Hebron Trust, a charity offering housing and support to women re-building their lives after severe trauma..

Thanks to all who have supported Steve and given so generously. If you have not given but would like to please see Steve at the meeting on Friday or donate online at:

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

What's on at your next monthly meetings

February 09 2024	Peter Lawrence - Norwich: England's Medieval Second City
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All items for the newsletter should be sent to: hbu3anews@gmail.com