

January 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Diary Dates

Wed 05.01.22	Bookworms
Wed 05.01.22	Walking
Thur 06.01.22	Creative Crafts
Mon 10.01.22	Country Dancing
Wed 12.01.22	Ten Pin Bowling
Fri 14.01.22	Members Meeting
Mon 17.01.22	Blurr
Wed 19.01.22	Dining Club
Thur 20.01.22	Wildlife
Thur 20.01.22	British History
Mon 24.01.22	Gourmet Diggers
Wed 26.01.22	Ten Pin Bowling
Wed 02.02.22	Country Dancing
Wed 02.02.22	Bookworms
Thur 03.02.22	Creative Crafts
Mon 07.02.22	Country Dancing
Wed 09.02.22	Ten Pin Bowling
Fri 11.02.22	Members Meeting

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

On the 11th December Bunty Gotts, renowned storyteller from Blickling Hall, came to tell us all about "The Wife, the Mistress and the Widow", telling the stories of three strong women. A Jacobean wife, a Georgian mistress and a Victorian widow who all lived at Blickling Hall at some stage in their lives, and who were, each in their own way, essential to its survival. It was a great afternoon. Bunty is a most entertaining speaker and we learnt much about the history of Blickling Hall.

Our meeting at 2:00 pm on the 14th January will see a pre release screening of the documentary film "Forever Young". Directed by Guy Young from Reel Connections, this film is a compilation of news archive footage from the 70's and 80's showing the lives and lifestyles of young people through the lens of the news camera. We are very privileged to have this film on pre-release. It lasts for 75 mins and should be a really interesting way to kick off the new year.

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Susan Badger:

Another Christmas break of uncertainty is upon us, though thankfully the festive restrictions are not quite so curtailing as last year. A couple of group meetings were cancelled because of Covid concerns: the Wildlife and Blurr groups, and other groups had already cancelled due to the proximity to Christmas, but many earlier scheduled groups went ahead. At the time of writing, it would seem that the Government is not planning further restrictions in England, though this will be monitored closely over the next few weeks. As my dear friend Mel Brooks said: "Hope for the best, expect the worst." Come on 2022 – we're ready for you!

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

Rose Pigula:

Eight of us met at our December meeting with our diverse range of projects from sewing, knitting, felting, knotting and quilting. A number of our group are very talented at crochet. The name comes from the French term meaning 'small hook'. Textiles are created by using a crochet hook to interlock loops of yarn, thread etc and many different patterns can be created, from simple beginner stitches to more complicated and decorative ones. The hooks come in a range of sizes and materials including wood, bamboo, metal and plastic. If you haven't tried it but would like to, there are some very useful videos on YouTube, or you could come along to one of our meetings where help is on hand to get you started. You will be most welcome. Our next meeting is on 6 January in Hickling Barn.

BLURR – The Camera Group:

3rd Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn

Susan Badger:

Our first December activity, the Bokeh workshop, ran successfully, with 8 members trying out different objects against a backdrop of Christmas lights. However, Sue decided to cancel the main meeting following the Science Advisor Chris Whitty's request that non-essential meetings be cancelled. Several 'fun' activities had been planned, and although most can still be run on the next possible meeting, the **Image of the Year** still went ahead. Almost everybody responded to the request to vote for their favourite 3 images which had featured in the newsletter over the course of the past year. It was pleasing to see that all 19 members were represented. The clear winner was **Fox** by Jennie Mursell; in 2nd place was **Hare** by John Tallowin; tying for 3rd place was **Autumn Bench** by Dick Roberts and **Bikes** by Peter Pigula. All 4 successful images are featured here. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the group this year.



Ten Pin Bowling: 2nd and 4th Wednesday (10:00 am) at North Walsham

Keith Mursell:

Ten Pin Bowling will re-start 10:00 am on Wednesday 12th January 2022, look forward to seeing everyone there. Still some members who expressed interest at the beginning I haven't seen yet, don't be shy, please come along, we have a two hour slot for £8.95 including hot drink. Good gentle exercise, get any excess pounds off after the Christmas break.

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

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet at 2:00 pm 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. In December the group went to The Star in Lessingham for our Christmas lunch which we all enjoyed very much.

Over the course of 2021 the group read our selected books, some good and some not so good. Although not every book was scored I think the overall favourite for 2021 was 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Chirsty Lefteri chosen by Mary N which was given a score of 9/10.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo was based on the stories of people the author met while working as a volunteer at Unicef supporting refugees in Athens. The story follows the journey of Nuri, a beekeeper in Syria and his wife Afra. You can read Mary's review in the May Newsletter.

Other books that were given good scores were 'Anatomy of a Scandal' (9/10), 'Perfect' (8/10) and 'Cold Comfort Farm' (8/10).

On 5 January we will discuss Hawthorn & Child which was chosen by me.

Wishing everyone a Happy and safe New Year.

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

Dinah Slatter:

When the Hickling Broad U3A was formed in 2012, Country Dancing was one of the first Interest Groups formed. Elaine, the group's first leader, brought her knowledge and love of the historical dances. These were compiled originally by Norwich-born John Playford in 1651 in the publication 'The English Dancing Master', later promoted by The English Folk Song and Dance Society under the guidance of Cecil Sharp, the great song collector whose work in the early years of the 20th century helped lay the foundations of the modern folk revival.

Later Pam Roper and her partner Charles took over and provided a vast library of musical tapes for the group. Dinah Slatter, now the group's leader, was bequeathed Pam's collection after her death. The number of members attending at any one time vary between 6 and 16 and all dances are adaptable for the numbers attending. Dances such as 'Indian Queen' and 'Mr Beveridge's Maggot' are firm favourites.

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

Sue Badger:

The Dining Club members met at the Recruiting Sergeant for their last venue of the year. We had an enjoyable lunch in the restaurant in a room which was dedicated to our use. The staff were attentive, the menu was quite extensive and of a generally high standard, though the vegetarian options were poor. It was a good opportunity for the eighteen of us to have a good chat.

For the first 2 months of next year Sue Badger will be organising the group. Her choices are: Wayford Bridge Inn near Stalham for Wednesday 19th January and Filby Bridge Restaurant in Filby for Wednesday 16th February. An email will go out to all the Dining Club regulars, but if anyone else might like to join us for either of those two dates, please contact Sue on 07870 414870 or email on susanbadger70@gmail.com.



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

*Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher:*

What do we do at GOURMET DIGGERS ?

The group is divided into two sections, 1 hr about gardening, the last hour about food.

In the gardening section we talk about anything to do with your garden, from designing, plants, watering, growing seeds, the list is endless. We try to have one or two visits to other gardens and we hold a summer barbecue in one of our members homes.

The food section varies, we generally take on a yearly theme, like food from around the world, store cupboard dishes and food from our childhood. We all take it in turn to make a dish to share with each other. We are always up for suggestions.

This is a very friendly and light hearted group. Tell me where for £1 can you get a laugh, food and drink and hopefully learn something.

If this sounds like your kind of group please come along and you will be made most welcome.

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 pm
DATE: 24 th January 2022
VENUE: THE BARN HICKLING

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

Chris Foster:

Unfortunately, the Wildlife Group meeting for December was cancelled two hours before it was timetabled due to a positive covid test. We had a busy meeting planned looking back at the fungi forages, a Horsey Seal update and a guide to identifying the geese we are likely to see over the winter here in Norfolk. Some of this we may be able to review next meeting.

The January meeting will, I believe, be of interest to others and not just the Wildlife group as Dick Roberts is going to talk about "Photographing Owls". Having seen some of his stunning photos I am sure this is going to be a gem! Thursday the 20th of January 10.00am at the Barn.

What's on Next at your Monthly U3A Meetings in Hickling Barn

Friday 14 January 2022	'Forever Young' a film showing news reel from the 70's and 80's and youth culture. A fascinating and educational afternoon is in store!
Friday 11 February 2022	'Tales from the South Pacific'. Captain Jon Warren will tell us about his career as a commercial Captain in the South Seas.
Friday 11 March 2022	Ben Craske from the Archant local recall project will be coming to tell us all about the work of this local history archive project.
Friday 8 April 2022	Stephen Bradnock, manager of the Nancy Oldfield Trust, will be coming to tell us all about the work of this local sailing and boating charity.
Friday 13 May 2022	To celebrate our AGM, our very own Voices of Hickling will be making a presentation about their work and the social history of Hickling.

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

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

Roy Smith:

Following a rather wild weekend when Storm Arwen swept through the country, our U3a walking group set off knowing the route would be muddy, following the heavy rain, and flooded in parts where the River Thurne had over topped, following tide locking at Great Yarmouth. The day itself was overcast but the rain had stopped. Eight of us set off for our walk. We left Herbert Woods Boatyard and walked down the Thurne, headed off the river at the pumping station, and followed a circular route to Ludham, returning to Potter Heigham via the river banks.

As we walked, we looked at the Environment Agency's Saline Barrier at the entrance to the Herbert Woods Marina. and it was explained how it worked and the results of a sonar camera survey in 2019, which showed in excess of 100,000 fish were protected inside the basin when the barrier was closed. The barrier is closed fairly regularly in winter months and had been closed the previous weekend, interestingly shortly after our walk ended it was closed again due to tide locking as a result of forecast high winds in Yarmouth. As we moved down our route we discussed the Bungalows beside the river, how the management of them works and how the managing company (to which all owners are shareholders) are trying to extend the current lease from the Environment Agency beyond 2085. We briefly stopped after we left the river to look at the Potter Heigham and Ludham Marshes which are designated as a site of special scientific interest, primarily because of the significance of their dragonfly population. Reaching Ludham we heard how the village had thrived after being taken into the estate of St Benets Abbey, and how Ludham Hall had become the summer residence of the Bishops of Norwich and St Benets, and was visited by all sorts of VIP guests. Walking along the road past the staithe we soon came upon the boatyard of the Norfolk Wherry Trust, at 128 years old the wherry Albion has been restored beautifully and is frequently seen on the Broads, you can charter her for £480 per day. Although Albion is built of oak on oak, she was originally designed to be made of steel!

On our walk back out to the Thurne and returning to Potter we learned how originally the Thurne flowed in the opposite direction and into the North Sea, we heard about how Heigham became Heigham Potter and eventually Potter Heigham. Although there have been artifacts found in the area, it turns out that metal based objects are less frequently found and in fact very few metal detector surveys have been carried out. Its fair to say that Santa got an immediate letter from 8 members of HBu3a for a metal detector! The walk ended back at Potter Heigham and a number of the attendees went for lunch in the Falgate Inn. A good mornings walking, with good, but bracing weather and excellent company.



If you are interested in joining us contact Roy Smith.

Members Corner

We hope you've enjoyed the return of the usual format of your newsletter which includes diary dates for the Groups and details of future Friday Members Meetings.

As always, if you would like to join any of the Groups, please contact the Group Co-ordinator using the contact details provided or speak with them at the next Friday meeting.

This is a space for all of our members to use. If you have anything to tell us, maybe something you've done, or an event that's coming up that you think other members would enjoy, or perhaps you have something to sell or donate that someone else might need. Email Rose at hbu3anews@gmail.com with a brief description and maybe a photo. Space permitting, we will include it in a subsequent newsletter.