

## Happy New Year Everyone!

### Diary Dates: January 2023

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Tues 03 Jan | Croquet                |
| Wed 04 Jan  | Walking                |
| Wed 04 Jan  | Bookworms              |
| Thur 05 Jan | Blurr                  |
| Thur 05 Jan | Creative Crafts        |
| Mon 09 Jan  | Country Dancing        |
| Mon 09 Jan  | Crib                   |
| Tue 10 Jan  | Croquet                |
| Fri 13 Jan  | <b>Members Meeting</b> |
| Mon 16 Jan  | Blurr                  |
| Tues 17 Jan | Croquet                |
| Wed 18 Jan  | Dining club            |
| Thur 19 Jan | Wildlife               |
| Thur 19 Jan | British History        |
| Mon 23 Jan  | Gourmet Diggers        |
| Tues 24 Jan | Croquet                |
| Tues 31 Jan | Croquet                |
| 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  | <b>Members Meeting</b> |
| Mon 13 Feb  | Country Dancing        |
| Tues 14 Feb | Croquet                |

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 9th December we enjoyed the welcome return of Bunty Gotts who presented "A 1930's Visitors Book" - another intriguing insight into the history of Blickling Hall. How interesting can a visitors book be? What secrets did it hold and what forgotten tales does it tell? We were enthralled and entertained as ever by Bunty's ability to bring history to life. Hot spiced apple juice warmed everyone on arrival and after Bunty's talk we enjoyed a slap up Christmas buffet provided by members who brought along a plate to share. A festive time was enjoyed by all, with thanks to all those that contributed.

At our next meeting Gareth Davies will be presenting "Forgotten Entertainers: 19th century performers and the development of popular culture"

This talk explores 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. It covers, among others, William and Alfred Cooke (circus equestrians), Jem Mace (the first Heavyweight Champion of the World), Charles and Ellen Kean (pictorial drama and Shakespearean actors), Charles Marsh (itinerant actor and singer), The Rainer Family (Tyrollean Minstrels) and John Thurston Smith (Ventriloquist and impersonator).

### News from our Interest Groups

#### Group Contact Co-ordinator

**Helen Foster:**

There's lots of great things happening at the various interest groups and I'm hoping that in 2023 I will get to see and experience some of them as I familiarise myself with the Group Co-ordinator role. I would encourage other people to try them out too - what can beat a walk in our lovely countryside accompanied by friends or a discussion about an interesting book over a cup of tea? There's lots more too, so enjoy reading about what the various groups have been up to recently and maybe think about joining them in the New Year. I am sure you would be very welcome.

## **Bookworms – Reading Group: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) various locations**

*Kathy Cooper:*

We had 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".

## **British History**

*Steve Whitby:*

The group does not meet in December. Our next meeting is on 19th January at 2 p.m. when Jackie will present the second part of "Medieval Midwinter Festivals".

## **Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn**

*Dinah Slatter:*

Encouraged by our debut in 2019, 10 of us decided to attend The Playford Ball in Norwich again. Accordingly, we presented ourselves at the Assembly Rooms on November 19th 2022. Every effort had been made with our costumes: Jane's turban was the envy of all, while Kate and Lesley had made Regency dresses from opposite sides of a reversible duvet cover. Their dancing as partners was a bit confusing for others in their set, but *The Great British Sewing Bee* would have been proud. We feel we acquitted ourselves commendably on the dance floor: Jan and Shirley even offered advice to a couple on the correct way to execute a hey/figure-of-eight! We all had a hugely enjoyable evening. Same again next year, we hope, only with more feathers and diamonds...





## **Creative Crafts: 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



Solanum Winter Cherry watercolour

## **Crib: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, Hickling Barn**

***Roy Smith:***

## **Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am**

***Michael Steward:***

## **Cycling: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday various locations**

***Roy Smith:***

Cycling starts March 30th 2023 weather permitting.

## **Dining Club: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (various locations)**

***Diana Fossett:***

The Christmas Dinning club was held at the Banningham Crown. There were 16 of us as sadly quite a few had to cancel due to the winter bugs.

The food was lovely and all served on time with one or two little hiccups, with cancellations. However we all seemed to enjoy ourselves.

The next Dinning Club is on 18th January at the White Horse, Neatishead. An email has been sent out to all those who usually attend but if you fancy getting out of the house and joining us please let us know (be quick!).



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## 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: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00 pm) at Hickling Barn

*Jane Brooker: and*

*Kate Fletcher:*

We are a group of very friendly , fun filled people who meet up once a month for a 2 hr session about gardening and food.

The gardening half follows many aspects of getting out into your garden and making the most of it. We talk about anything to do with the garden. Once a year we have a competition. One year we grew sunflowers to see who grew the tallest. This year we were given 2 potatoes to grow to see who had the highest yield. It's surprising how competitive we all are.

Every August we hold our annual barbecue in one of our gardens, all of us contributing with the food..

In our food section we generally have a theme running throughout the year. In the past we have had food from around the world, food from the UK, store cupboard recipes, and childhood food. We take it in turns to produce a dish so that we can all have a taster. Sometimes we have demonstrations, such as making bread and cake decorations. This year's theme is **"Cooking through the Alphabet"**, starting, you guessed

it, with 

So if you want a couple of hours a month in the company of friendly people and to hopefully pick up some ideas for your garden and your cooking skills. Please come along, no qualifications needed, just a sense of humour.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> April and the 'newbies' on the 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## Voices of Hickling

*Steve Whitby:*

We did not meet in December but will shortly finalise a date for our next meeting.



## Walking: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday (10:00 am)

### Various locations

*Roy Smith:*

As we left home in a hail storm we thought this month's walk was going to be bracing and perhaps we should keep it relatively short. Eight brave explorers set out from the Wen Evans centre and did a 4 mile tour around Happisburgh and its lighthouse. Quite soon the sun came out and it proved a good decision to carry on regardless. The visibility along the coast was excellent and we could contrast the rapidly eroded cliffs in front of Happisburgh to the off-shore reefs at Sea Palling that are clearly "holding back" the wave energy.

Many of the group then headed off to a local hostelry, the Lighthouse, to refuel and warm up.



## Wildlife Group: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (10:00 am)

### Various locations

*Chris Foster:*

This month we wrapped well and headed out, as the sun was setting, to the raptor roost at Hickling Wildlife Centre, Stubbs Mill. At first the cold clear sky revealed very little but as darkness fell first in came the cranes in small groups but once landed they began to call encouraging in more and more cranes. As it went dark the pink footed geese then appeared adding considerably to the cacophony of sound. By the time we left, in pitch darkness, there was a full orchestra of all round Dolby sound, very evocative!

The next meeting will be at the Barn – 10.00am on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. We will be focusing on Cranes for this meeting with particular reference to Hickling Cranes. All u3a members are welcome to attend.

## What's on at your next monthly meeting .....

13th 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](mailto:hbu3anews@gmail.com)