

Diary Dates: January 2024

Tues 02 Jan	Croquet
Wed 03 Jan	Walking
Wed 03 Jan	Bookworms
Thur 04 Jan	Creative Crafts
Mon 08 Jan	Country Dancing
Mon 08 Jan	Crib
Tues 09 Jan	Croquet
Fri 12 Jan	Members' Meeting
Mon 15 Jan	Blurr
Tues 16 Jan	Croquet
Wed 17 Jan	Dining Club
Thur 18 Jan	Wildlife
Thur 18 Jan	British History
Mon 22 Jan	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 23 Jan	Croquet
Tues 30 Jan	Croquet
Thur 01 Feb	Creative Crafts
Mon 05 Feb	Country Dancing
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

Happy New Year Everyone

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 8th December we were joined by Darrin Sore who performed a selection of musical Christmas hits from the 50's 60's and 70's. Darrin is an experienced and engaging performer who had us rocking around the Christmas tree in no time at all! After his performance we enjoyed our annual share a plate Christmas party with hot spiced apple juice and a tot of rum or two.

At our meeting at Hickling Barn at 2pm on Friday 12th January, Maggie Prettyman will present "A History of Hickling Village" Having trawled archives and village records, this presentation will cover our village from the Domesday Book including some of the notable people that have helped to shape our community over the years.

We would like to thank, as ever, the kind members who bring along homemade cakes for our meetings, your generosity is always very much appreciated. Your committee would also like to thank everyone for their support over the past year which has seen our u3a return to full strength after the difficult times of the pandemic. We know that this year has continued to have difficult times for many, but we know that the fun and fellowship of our u3a has been a comfort and support. Looking forward we would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year, and look forward to living, learning and laughing together in the coming year.

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 6 December Bookworms met at the Barn for a pre-Christmas get together over some Christmasy nibbles and a review of our best loved books. Some were classics, some were recent and Judy even bought along a much loved book that she read to her children when they were young. We also chatted about books which we had read during 2023 and I think all would agree it was a lovely, relaxed afternoon.

So, our first meeting of 2024 is on Wednesday 3 January when we will be reviewing *Playing Nice* by JP Delaney which was chosen by Katy.

As always, if you would like to join us please drop me an email or give me a call. You will be made very welcome. Happy New Year everyone!

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

Contact:

The last Blurr photography group meeting of the year was a matter of quality over quantity and involved some spirited discussions over quiz answers, great portrait image submissions and lots of food!



A variety of creative interpretations of the portrait theme were discussed at length before the first task of the new year - Two Colours, was introduced.

It was felt by the group that this task could be remarkably 'easy' to get an image but required significant creative input to deliver an outstanding image with only two colours - we look forward to seeing what develops!

The January task - Two Colours was launched with this stunning example by Jennie Mursell



British History

Steve Whitby:

As usual we did not meet in December but we will be back at the Barn at 2p.m. on Thursday 18th January. John will lead the session telling us about the War in Salonica based on the memories of his aunt. All are welcome

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:

Would you like to take up a new hobby in 2024? If so, why not come along and join us. 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:

The next meetings are on the second Monday of the month, 11.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Barn all welcome. Contact Roy roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk for further details

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

By popular request we revisited The Lodge at Salhouse this month. Again, there was a lovely atmosphere and members thoroughly enjoyed chatting and catching up in the comfortable surroundings. However, some felt the food was disappointing and not up to last time and the service was definitely slow. Perhaps a venue to visit when it is not so busy and more staff are available.

The venue for January is The Lion at Thurne and back to the usual time of 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 17th.

The Dining Club will welcome five new members in January and if you would like to join us as well, 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:

Kate Fletcher:

We didn't meet in December. Our next meeting will be on Monday 22 January 2024.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey:

The future is looking good for the group as more members are coming in but there is always room for more, if you are interested please contact us on 07771914672 or hbu3a.sailing@gmail.com

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

No meetings are planned at present

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

Roy Smith:



A moderate size group gathered to tackle the high points of North Norfolk and assault the Cromer ridge. We parked near the top of Beacon Hill, headed north and then climbed Inceborough Hill which had great views out to sea, eastward towards Cromer and westward to Beeston Bump and Sheringham. We then made our way through the byways of West Runton and onto Beeston hill. Another short sharp climb and we were on back on the ridge - a well positioned bench allowed recovery before we meandered along the ridge back to the cars. Relative short walk but the ups and downs created good variety and great views.

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

Chris Foster:

A very small group met up just before Christmas in the Barn. We looked into the wonderful life of Cetaceans, with special reference on Humpbacks and Orcas. We had an interesting debate about "killer whales" explaining why this is misnomer. We also had a look at how these ideas fit into the Norfolk coast. We then did a run through of the year and updated news on some of the sites we had visited. The success of breeding cranes at Lakenheath, the success of the spoonbills at Hickling and the pair of Ospreys at Ranworth - all good news stories that Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the RSPB should be proud of. We completed the meeting with a quiz on Whales and Dolphins. Next meeting is likely to be at the raptor roost at Hickling/Stubbs Mill but we shall weather and flood levels nearer the time.



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). Many thanks to those who have already generously sponsored me. I am hoping to raise £2085 and am just over 20% of the way to my target.

Since getting a mention in last month's newsletter I have managed another 40 miles or so leaving me with under 40 miles to go. All being well I should finish in late January.

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 (you may need to download this newsletter rather than just view the preview option):-
<https://trk.justgiving.com/f/a/7aGn7ldBFzceBQlc08KAA~/AAME8QA~/RgRnPzJmPOT5aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuanVzdGdpdmZy5jb20vcGFnZS9zdGV2ZS13aGl0YnktMTcwMDU2OTE1MDAwNz91dG1fY2FtcGFpZ249bGNfZnJwX3NoYXJlX3RyYW5zYWN0aW9uX3RyYW5zYWN0aW9uYWxfLS1fcGFnZV9sYXVvY2hlZlZlLV9jaGFyaXR5JnV0bV9jb250ZW50PWN5N2EzYWU0LTlhZWQtNGMxMy1iMGFjLTNmYjk2N2JkZmQ4YyZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9cG9zdG9mZmljZSZ1dG1fdGVybT0xNzAwNTcyNTE3OTcyVwNzcGNCCmVVZq1cZaTnl-ISHHdoaXRieWZhbWlseTlwMDNAeWFob28uY28udWtYBAAAAAM~>

What's on at your next monthly meetings

January 12 2024	Maggie Prettyman will present "A History of Hickling Village"
February 09 2024	Peter Lawrence - Norwich: England's Medieval Second City

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