

Diary Dates: July 2023

Mon 03 July	Country Dancing
Tues 04 July	Croquet
Weds 05 July	Bookworms
Thurs 06 July	Creative Crafts
Mon 10 July	Crib / Country Dancing
Tues 11 July	Croquet
Fri 14 July	Members Meeting
Mon 17 July	Blurr
Tue 18 July	Croquet
Thu 20 July	Wildlife / British History
Mon 24 July	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 25 July	Croquet
Tues 01 Aug	Croquet
Wed 02 Aug	Walking / Bookworms
Mon 07 Aug	Country Dancing
Tues 08 Aug	Croquet
Fri 11 Aug	Members Meeting – Summer Social
Mon 14 Aug	Crib / Country Dancing
Tues 15 Aug	Croquet
Wed 16 Aug	Dining Club
Thur 17 Aug	Wildlife / British History
Mon 21 Aug	Blurr
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 9th June we held our AGM giving thanks to our existing committee and extending a warm welcome to our new committee members.

Our Chair and Treasurer gave their annual reports and we paid tribute to Teri Ellis who has sadly recently passed away. Teri was a founding committee member at our u3a, she served as Chair and has been a staunch member of our “Voices of Hickling” interest group. Teri’s legendary cakes and warm hospitality at the teas when our Hickling village voices come together have been an essential element of the group’s activities and she will be greatly missed. Our u3a sends its sincere condolences to Teri’s family, and to the friends and neighbours that she has left behind.

After our AGM we were honoured to welcome our dear friend Pat Nearney who entertained us with his hilarious Norfolk anecdotes and songs. A memorable afternoon of fun and laughter ensued. Our members, as generous as ever, gave the proceeds from our raffle - almost £90 - to Pat’s chosen charity, Macmillan Nurses. After Pat’s performance we enjoyed, as always, homemade 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 at Hickling Barn at 2pm on Friday 14th July, volunteer ambassador Clive Evans from Priscilla Bacon Lodge will come to tell us all about the outstanding work at this local Hospice.

We welcome visitors at our monthly speaker meetings for a £2 entry fee - why not come along to and see what it’s all about?

Bookworms – Reading Group: 1st Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) Hickling Barn

Kathy Cooper:

In May, we learned of the passing of our good friend, Teri Ellis. Teri had been a member of Bookworms since Hickling Broad U3A began. I know she enjoyed coming to the group and she will be sorely missed by everyone.

Bookworms meet 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 7 June we discussed ‘A Thousand Ships’ by Natalie Haines chosen by Keith and here is his review:

“I found this book very difficult to read – as did most of the group - but a perfect cure for insomnia. I should have researched this author and book. Lesson learned. I thought it was all about the Trojan War, but no, it purported to be all about the Trojan women, their thoughts and tribulations during and after the war. In my opinion this was not achieved. Helen, who caused the war, is hardly mentioned, although she was thrown into the mix by the pesky Gods, as they wanted to reduce the population with the casualties of war. All the other women constantly referred back to the men while they were alive but that wasn’t for long as most of them met a grisly death. Needless to say, this book was not scored by Bookworms and my only saving grace was the Norfolk Ginger Cake baked by my wife, Jennie, to go with our cuppa.

On 5 July we will be reviewing ‘Belgravia’ by Julian Fellows which was chosen by Sharon.

If you would like more information about Bookworms, please contact me.

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

Dick Roberts:

Please contact Dick if you are interested. This group often meets on location on a Thursday also.

British History

Steve Whitby:

This month a select few of us (many could not make it for various reasons) were treated to Kaye's knowledge of The General Strike. One thing that emerged was the number of similarities with today's events with rising inflation emanating from the aftermath of World War 1 (Ukraine war), the epidemic of Spanish Flu (Covid) and the Trades Unions pursuing political agendas rather than representing their worker's wishes. Of course in those days much of the activity surrounded the miners.

All who attended the meeting agreed that Kaye's talk deserved a wider audience and we have asked her to repeat it at our November meeting.

On July 20th Janet will lead the meeting and will tell us about the life and works of Sarah Martin in and around Yarmouth. We meet in the Barn at the normal start time of 2 p.m.

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:

Do you enjoy crafting? Any sort at all? 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.

The next meeting will be 6 July at Hickling Barn.

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 for further details

Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

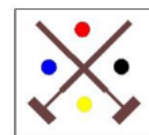
Michael Steward:

The two 30M x 24M Croquet Courts in the middle of the playing field have now been flattened thanks to our intrepid "roller boys" Phil and Keith. The roller turned out to be a monster, especially when trying to turn it round as the "boys" found out. Whether a flatter playing service improves anyone's game remains to be seen!

If you have thought you might like to give Croquet a try, please just come along at 9.45am on a Tuesday morning and join us for a trial session. After all, the game is gentle exercise played in fresh air, and a lot of fun with a great group of members.

For more information before attending you can always contact Michael Steward by phone on 01493 509538 ***OR*** via email:

msteward1214@outlook.com



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

There were sixteen of us at the Brick Kilns, Little Plumstead and, as usual, the conversation flowed easily between the Dining Club members. The current owners extensively refurbished the pub in 1972 but the traditional atmosphere has been maintained and was an enjoyable venue for our lunch.

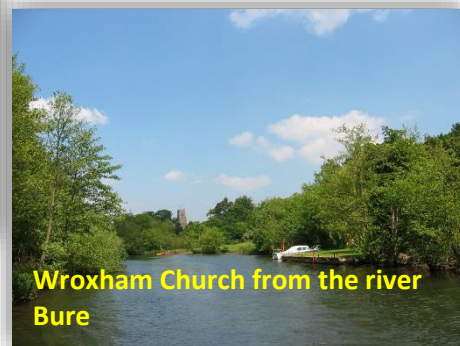
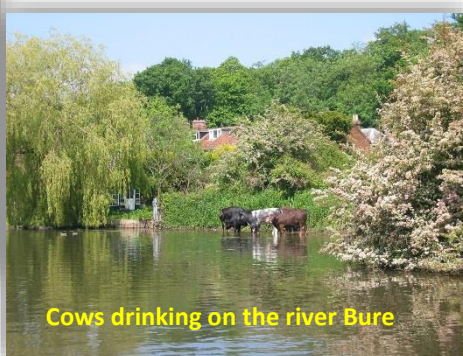
We are having a break in July so the next Dining Club lunch will be on 16th August. Details in the August Newsletter. If you would like to join the Dining Club, please contact me - dianafossett1@gmail.com

Discovering the Broad

Chris Foster:

This month we picked up the new electric self drive picnic boat from Wroxham and explored the River Bure up to Coltishall Lock at the head of the navigation. It was a lovely hot, sunny day and the river was very peaceful with many damsel flies and dragon flies as well as the full range of aquatic life getting on with living as we went quietly gliding by.

Next month we are going on the Paddle Boat - Southern Comfort from Horning. We have booked the 3.00pm sailing on Friday the 21st of July. Everyone is welcome to join us - you can book a ticket in advance at <https://www.southern-comfort.co.uk/public-river-trips> or get a ticket on the day. This is slightly different from our usual adventures but we are slowly ticking off the full range of opportunities to enjoy the Broad.



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

Jane Brooker: and

Kate Fletcher:

This month we all met in Jane's garden. The weather had cooled slightly which made it very pleasant. After a walk around the garden which was full of cottage flowers and plants, we then had a quiz. Jane had picked 10 flowers and handed us all a piece of paper to write down what we thought they all were. Nicky was the winner and was given a prize of a lavender plant, this Jane had proudly grown from a cutting.

It was the letter F for cooking this month and it was Nicky's turn. She made a very tasty Feta cheeses pasta dish which also had onions, garlic baby tomatoes and mixed herbs. This was followed by a good old natter.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays

John Stacey: hbu3asailing@gmail.com

The 2023 season is well underway and the main group resumed sailing on the 18th April and the 'newbies' on the 27th April. We currently have vacancies. Please contact John if you are interested.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

The recent death of our colleague, Teri Ellis, focussed our minds at last month's meeting and we all recognised the need to re-double our efforts and ensure that all our recordings and transcripts of "Voices" are put into the Norfolk Records Office (NRO) for posterity.

The NRO have been very helpful in advising us how we can fulfil the dual functions of giving them our information whilst retaining use and control for our own website and other purposes. We now have approximately 50% of recordings deposited at the NRO and are committed to steadily sending the remaining items.

At the time of writing no further meetings of the group are scheduled.

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

Roy Smith:

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

Chris Foster:

We decided to visit Strumpshaw Fen (RSPB) with the intention of seeing the Swallowtail Butterflies. We did get a brief glimpse of the butterflies in a private garden on a track back to the car park but not real sightings. However, it was a lovely morning and as we strolled around the reserve we saw and heard a full range of wildlife. A couple of hours in the "wilds" with good company is a very restorative and relaxing occupation.



What's on at your next monthly meetings

July 14 2023	Clive Evans – Priscilla Bacon Lodge. Volunteer ambassador, Clive, will tell us about the outstanding work at this local hospice.
August 11 2023	Summer Social – bring a plate of food to the buffet for all to share.
September 8 2023	Mike Flett – How Hill Trust. It's history and modern day work

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