

### Diary Dates

Wed 01.06.22	Walking
Wed 01.06.22	Bookworms
Thur 02.06.22	Blurr
Thur 02.06.22	Creative Crafts
Fri 03.06.22	Sailing
Mon 06.06.22	Country Dancing
Tues 07.06.22	Sailing
Tues 07.06.22	Croquet
Wed 08.06.22	10 pin bowling
Thur 09.06.22	Sailing (newbies)
Fri 10.06.22	Sailing
Fri 10.06.22	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Mon 13.05.22	Country Dancing
Tues 14.06.22	Sailing
Tues 14.06.22	Croquet
Wed 15.06.22	Dining Club
Thur 16.06.22	Wildlife
Thur 16.06.22	British History
Fri 17.06.22	Sailing
Mon 20.06.22	Blurr
Tues 21.06.22	Croquet
Tues 21.06.22	Sailing
Wed 22.06.22	10 pin bowling
Thur 23.06.22	Sailing (newbies)
Fri 24.06.22	Sailing
Mon 27.06.22	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 28.06.22	Croquet
Tues 28.06.22	Sailing

I was very pleased to receive the news a couple of weeks ago that the Barn has now removed all Covid restrictions and put everything back to normal. I did ask that the Trustees be thanked on behalf of our u3a for all the help they provided in letting our groups meet in a safe manner, and I'm sure you'll agree that we were very lucky that Hickling u3a were able to continue meeting through the pandemic. Our AGM is being held in July and our committee would like to invite anyone who feels they can help in the running of our Hickling Broad u3a to request a nomination form. Our committee meets as little as is necessary and usually try to hold meeting on the Friday prior to our monthly meet. If you are interested but would like more information please feel free to contact any of the committee members who will be willing to help you.

**Kate Fletcher, Chair**

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

On Friday 13th May professional performer and musician, Saffron Summerfield, came to present "When Birds Sing" An illustrated talk with birdsong recordings about how and why birds sing, along with the latest scientific research on the state of our British songbirds. Despite some initial technical difficulties with Saffron's equipment, we had another educational and entertaining afternoon. Thank you, as ever, to all our brilliant cake bakers for providing such a smashing selection of home made cakes for our meeting - it really makes the difference and everyone enjoys them so much. Thank you also to everyone who pitched in to help with set up and tidy away with the committee being a bit short handed.

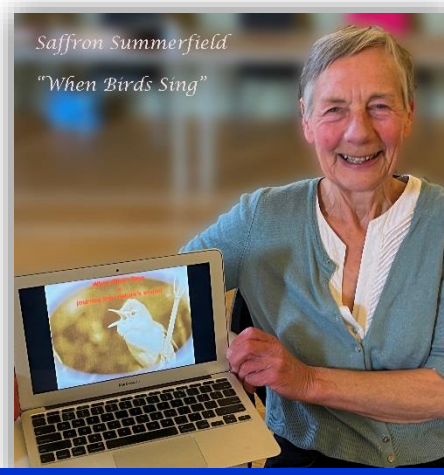
On Friday 10th June, 2pm at Hickling Barn, Gareth Davies will present "The Fall of Yarmouth Suspension Bridge" On 2 May 1845 the suspension bridge at Great Yarmouth collapsed killing 78 people, mostly women and children following a stunt conducted on the river by a visiting circus clown. It was the worst single calamity to befall the town in its history. The talk will explore such fundamental issues as: what happened, why did it happen, and could it have been prevented, as well as the legacy of the disaster up to the present day.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Sue Badger who is retiring from the committee. Sue has worked tirelessly supporting and assisting our interest groups and will be much missed as part of the team. This does mean that we are a pair of hands down, so if you've got a small amount of time to spare we would welcome you to talk to any of us about joining the committee. We keep our meetings and time commitment as short as possible, and are a friendly lot, so why not come and join us and become part of helping to make your U3A thrive!

### AGM Friday 8 July

Further details are sent with this newsletter.

Interested in joining your u3a committee?  
A nomination form is attached.



## News from our Interest Groups

### Group Contact Co-ordinator

*Susan Badger:*

Although I have been in this role for only a year, I feel I have learned so much about how a successful organisation like the HBU3A works, how it achieves its aims of providing a diverse range of activities with opportunities to try new activities, combining interest, pleasure and camaraderie, co-operation and inclusion. The 14 Interest Groups are all well run with group leaders who are confident and practised, friendly and welcoming, reliable and consistent. The U3A is also fortunate to have outstanding facilities in the Barn, accessed at such an extraordinarily generous rate.

Being Group Coordinator has allowed me to meet many more people than if I'd stayed within a group's bounds; overall, it has been great fun. If you would like to become further involved with your U3A, this is the role I'd recommend. The structure is there, as is the support. You could slide in as I slide out.

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

*Kathy Cooper:*

Bookworms met up at Hickling Barn for our monthly get together. The book we discussed was 'Brighton Rock' by Graham Greene chosen by Sue and although there were only five of us this month the book generated a really good discussion. Here is Sue's review:

"This novel was published in 1938 and over time has been regarded as a Modern Classic, regularly included in the English 'A' level syllabus and is held up as one of the most important early psychological explorations into the Catholic treatise of sin and redemption. It was generally not well received, though that was not altogether unsurprising given the nature of the book and the requirement to understand basic Catholic teachings. As a 'stand-alone' story, it felt clunky and disjointed. The characters had to be seen as representations of good and evil, of religious adherence and hedonism, of revenge and redemption. Many completed the book."

Overall, we decided to give this one a 3/10. Next month we will be reading 'The Return of Nora Wells' by Virginia McGregor which was chosen by Debbie.

### British History

*Steve Whitby:*

This month we left the comfort of the Barn and seven of us (plus Monty the dog) risked the changeable weather to go on a walk around Yarmouth's walls. Apparently Yarmouth is second only to York in the amount of wall it still has preserved - stretching around a mile and a half.

Our "tour guide" was group member Janet who gave a very informative commentary on events around the walls dating from medieval times right up to World War II. In addition Janet also threw in various other interesting facts - who knows why areas of our towns/cities are called "The Shambles", when is a hospital not a hospital?

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and the weather stayed fine, which was a bonus.

Our June meeting is back in the Barn on Thursday June 16th at 2 p.m. when Maureen is scheduled to tell us about "The Occupation of Jersey". If you would like to join us you would be very welcome.

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

*Dinah Slatter:*

### Creative Crafts:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) at Hickling Barn

*Rose Pigula:*

Our May meeting seemed to coincide with holidays for many of our group. However, 3 of us enjoyed a get-together in Rose's garden with our projects – and tea and cake. This could become a regular thing!

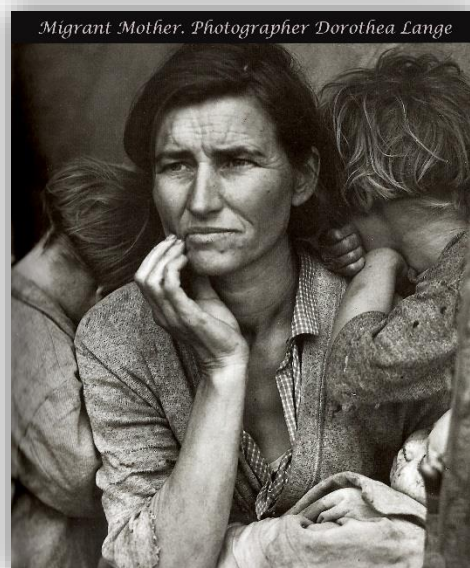
If you would like to join us on the first Thursday of each month and bring along whatever you are working on then just contact Rose on the email above or call 07503185419.



**BLURR – The Camera Group:**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn**

*Susan Badger:*

26 images were submitted on this month's theme of railway stations and trains. Such was the diversity of genres, it became an exercise to 'categorise' them: record shots, creative and atmospheric; social documentary; 'magazine', historic and picture-jigsaw shots. Some provoked more interest and discussion than others. The photographs selected for this month's newsletter are: Joan's Swanage Railway, near Corfe Castle in Dorset; Dick's Goathland on the North Yorks Moor railway; Sue's escalator from the Canary Wharf Station and Pat's busy station in Agra, India. The quiz postponed from the December meeting was finally run on an informal basis. This involved 20 iconic photographs portraying significant historical events in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – members were asked to identify the person/event, the location and the date. A good general knowledge was revealed, with a 'bonus point' awarded to John Gladwell for identifying the photographer of the iconic 'Migrant Mother' as Dorothea Lange.



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

*Roy Smith: [roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk)*

Seven riders joined the first cycle ride of 2022. We left from Alby Crafts and enjoyed just over 13 miles of cycling around some lovely countryside and pretty villages before returning to Alby for a very good lunch.

Contact Roy if you would like to join the June ride.

## Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

*Michael Steward:*



2022 is a landmark year for Queen Elizabeth as she celebrates being on the throne for an amazing seventy years. We all at HBU3A Croquet Group congratulate her on such a wonderful unique achievement.

Being an outdoor activity Croquet members are able to enjoy gentle exercise in fresh air whilst playing a competitive but fun game. But as you can see we did stop for coffee, yes just coffee in case you were wondering, and raised a toast to the Queen.

So, if you have been thinking you might like to give Croquet a go just come along at 10am on a Tuesday or contact Michael on 01493 509538 **OR** [msteward1214@outlook.com](mailto:msteward1214@outlook.com) for more information.



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

*Diana Fossett:*

*Sue Badger:*

The Hotel Wroxham was selected as Sue's last stand as Dining Club organiser, and it proved to have 2 conflicting consequences: firstly, the collapse in numbers to 8 resulted in our table being small and round, enabling good conversation involving all who were there. The second consequence was not so positive: the food was relatively expensive and the staff struggled to itemise the individual bills. A hefty deposit had been levied to secure the booking and had to be covered by 4 people counting out notes and coins – a slightly awkward end of meal negotiation. Under Margaret Baker's judging scheme, this venue would not have fared well. But the view was pleasant.

Diana takes over the reins for June, with arrangements being made for the Bluebell in North Walsham on Wednesday, 15th June - 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. Please let her know if you would like to attend by 8th June. Contact: [dianafossett1@gmail.com](mailto:dianafossett1@gmail.com)

## IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your committee have received several queries asking how to pay your annual subscription. Whilst it is very nice that people want to give us money there are no subs due yet from existing members.

**Existing members at April 2020** paid 12 months subs in advance but we immediately ceased meetings due to Covid. No monthly meetings were held until September 2021. Your committee therefore decided not to ask for more subs until 12 months after monthly meetings recommenced. This means that the next subs will be due on or before 1st September 2022.

The subscription charge payable on 1st September 2022 will be for 7 months. This will enable us to re-align our subscription year with our financial year reporting date (making life easier for the Treasurer!)

**Members who have joined since April 2020** have been charged subs until 1st September 2022 so their next payment will be due on or before that date.

To summarise, therefore, the next renewal date for all members to pay their subscriptions is September 1st and we will start collecting subscriptions at our August meeting. Further details will follow in due course



## Discovering the Broads

*Chris Foster:*

We are a new group set up to discover the Broads from the water. For our first outing we kept it simple and local. We picked up a picnic boat from Potter Heigham and persuaded the management to let us go under the bridge and head up to Hickling Broad. We were able to cruise gently across the Broad and discuss the different management techniques being used. We had coffee at Hickling Staithe and then headed to Horsey Mere. Lunch was enjoyed under the watchful eye of Horsey Mill. The final part of the day was spent exploring Martham Broad.

Martham Broad is a 60-hectare (150-acre) [national nature reserve](#). It is managed by the [Norfolk Wildlife Trust](#), and is part of the [Upper Thurne Broads and Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest](#). It is also part of the Broadland [Ramsar site](#) and [Special Protection Area](#), and [The Broads Special Area of Conservation](#). The reserve is composed of two shallow broads divided by the [River Thurne](#), together with fen, reedbeds and marshes. There are a number of bat species and breeding birds which include [bearded tits](#), [common terns](#), [Cetti's warblers](#) and [marsh harriers](#).

The weather was excellent with blue skies and great visibility. The boat proved to be comfortable and the whole trip was very convivial with lots of fun and laughter as well as a little learning.

Question – Why is it Hickling **Broad** but Horsey **Mere** ?

**Hickling Broad** - The Broads are mostly man-made, shallow lakes. They were formed by Medieval man digging out peat over a period of 300 years. The peat was dug out in vast quantities to be used as fuel for fires.

**Horsey Mere** - Technically a mere is a lake that is really shallow in relation to its size (breadth).

Answer – no good explanation to date. Further research required.

Next month we are cruising on the Wherry Albion – this trip is full. In July we are at Hunters Yard sailing on the traditional boats of the 1920's and there are a few spaces available.



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

*Jane Brooker: and  
Kate Fletcher:*

We discussed many aspects of gardening at this month's Gourmet Diggers. We were given 2 main crop potatoes to grow for our competition this year, which has resulted in us all comparing notes, including photos of our plants to see who's plants have had the most growth.

What we can do in our gardens to help reduce climate change along with some gardening tips to try. We finished off with the endless list of jobs to be done in the garden in the month of June.

We were then treated to a very tasty tasting cooked by Pam along with her assistant Brian. Pork Meatballs with Pasta. A very simple dish but loaded with flavour.

Rose organised a food quiz with some very interesting questions. Alan and Linda won first prize, a sunflower.

Next Gourmet Diggers is on Monday 27th June 2-4 pm in The Barn.

## **Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday, Newbies on alternate Thursdays**

*John Stacey:*

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

*Keith Mursell:*

The Ten Pin Bowling has been creeping along with mixed attendance, just a reminder that it is the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, providing it is not a school holiday as we have a discount rate of £9.95 for a two hour session allowing us to play as many games as we like in that period. The start time is 10:00. If you are attending please let me know as I can book two lanes if need be.

## **Voices of Hickling**

*Steve Whitby:*

Although the group is not currently recording new "Voices" there was still much to talk about at our May meeting. We are currently preparing two presentations - one for the Norfolk Records Office "Community Archives: Skills, Support and Sustainability" event on 9th June and also our update to HBU3A members on July 8th to show you what we have done over the past year or so. We will update members on website progress

([www.voicesofhickling.co.uk](http://www.voicesofhickling.co.uk)) and there will also be a new video receiving its "official launch" .

In addition to the presentations we are also starting to plan our "Voices" tea party - to be held in early autumn - and we also look to progress the transfer of our recordings and transcripts to the Norfolk Records Office where they can be made available to a wider audience of scholars and other interested parties. To date we have transferred about 1/3rd of our data.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday June 16th at 11.30 which will focus on the presentation to HBU3A the following month.

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

*Roy Smith:*

The forecast hadn't been good but we were so lucky, the rain held off till we got home! We all met, 13 of us, at Mautby Church and set off on footpaths around and through fields. The second half of the three mile plus route was using rural roads leading us back to the church. An enjoyable walk followed by an excellent lunch at Clipperby Hall.

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

*Chris Foster:*

For May's wildlife meeting we went to Barton Broad via the boardwalk close to Neatishead. A small but selective band of wildlife watchers spent a very relaxed and sociable couple of hours watching mainly the birdlife of the Broad. The Cormorants and Terns were continuously entertaining on the platform in front of us and in the background various geese, waders and grebes were to be seen as well as the busy Kingfisher. The fish also performed for us right under our noses. We started in light rain, it was then quite overcast but finally the sun came out and I certainly went home with a very positive feeling of mindfulness having sat and watched the wonders of nature in such fine company. For our next meeting we are planning to visit Upton Broad where hopefully we will be looking in particular for Butterflies and Dragonflies.



## Members Corner

*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](mailto:hbu3anews@gmail.com) with a brief description and maybe a photo. Space permitting, we will include it in a subsequent newsletter.*

### By an Anonymous Member of her Majesty's Grateful Public

Thanks for not making me Queen  
the life of hats and handshakes  
oh, how I'd hate it, those grey days  
turning up at some grey place  
to cut yet another wretched ribbon or open doors  
on yet another pretentious plaque  
while jumped-up dignitaries in neck chains  
call you marm by mistake and kowtow;  
thinking of extolling things to say  
about their grey place and all the time  
wishing you were home with your tea.  
Novembers' when you have a headache  
and still have to go to the Cenotaph  
and hold back tears for the noble fallen  
with the world watching.  
Julys' when the last thing you want  
is another cucumber sandwich  
and succession of honoured invited  
overdressed would be Sirs would be Dames  
who should be prevented  
At any cost.

Thanks for not making me Queen  
so I could watch the Coronation  
on a magical flickering little screen  
and have iced buns and jelly,  
and on the platinum jubilee, slip away  
to a peaceful river, and sit chin on hand  
in my country, while the miles and miles of bunting  
were in another England.

*Jackie Snowman*

### HICKLING COMMUNITY GARDEN

You may have noticed the newly formed Community Garden on Mallard Way, opposite Tate Loke, as you arrive at the Barn for our u3a activities and wondered what it's all about.

It was started in February this year by a group of enthusiastic volunteers with a vision to create a garden for the local community and visitors to our lovely village.

To date, raised beds have been built and planted out with herbs, vegetables and flowers. A local resident has kindly made wooden signs to tell you what is growing in each one. A variety of trees, shrubs and flowers are being planted on the perimeter and a recent grant is enabling the installation of a bench where people can sit and enjoy the garden. Working parties meet to maintain the areas and a watering rota is in place. Also, the local school children have been enjoying helping.

If you would like to find out more, and perhaps come along sometime to see what it's all about just let Rose know at a Friday meeting or call her on 07503185419. You can also find out more on the Hickling Community Garden Facebook page. If you haven't seen it yet, do go along and wander round.



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

Friday 10 June 2022	Gareth Davies: The Fall of Yarmouth Suspension Bridge
Friday 08 July 2022	AGM and Voices of Hickling
Friday 12 August 2022	Summer Social

All items for the newsletter should be sent to: [hbu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:hbu3anews@gmail.com)

# **NOTICE OF AGM**

**Hickling Broad U3A AGM will be held on  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 2:00 pm  
in Hickling Barn**

We hope to see as many of you as possible for our Annual General Meeting, and a presentation from The Voices of Hickling.

We would like to invite and welcome anyone who would like to join the committee. We keep our committee meeting frequency and duration to an absolute minimum, and we hold them the same day as a members' meeting so as not take up too much of everyone's valuable time. We are an open, relaxed and friendly team and hope that some of you might like to join us.

The nomination forms are attached with this news sheet and, if you would like to join the committee, please complete the form and have it signed by two other members. If you would like to find out more first, please do not hesitate to call Kate on 01493 717534 or Maggie on 01692 598324 or speak with any committee member at the next meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June.