

## March 2022

### Diary Dates

Wed 02.03.22	Walking
Wed 02.03.33	Bookworms
Thur 03.03.22	Blurr
Thur 03.03.22	Creative Crafts
Mon 07.03.22	Country Dancing
Wed 09.03.22	10 pin Bowling
<b>Fri 11.03.22</b>	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Mon 14.03.22	Country Dancing
Wed 16.03.22	Dining Club
Thur 17.03.22	Wildlife
Thur 17.03.22	British History
Mon 21.03.22	Blurr
Wed 23.03.22	10 pin Bowling
Mon 28.03.22	Gourmet Diggers
Mon 04.04.22	Country Dancing



In this month's meeting we were treated to a highly entertaining account of Captain Jon Warren's 25 years of adventures in the South Pacific seas as a commercial sea captain, part of the Bank Line's cargo shipping fleet. Each voyage lasted 4 months, traversed thousands of miles and called at 25 ports in 17 countries. We learnt about both the many exotic places the ships sailed to, but also the internal workings of the vessels and the daily life on board. The range of cargo was vast – from the expected products like farm machinery, steel, flour and spices, to the more dramatic - uranium (!), tuna fishing boats for Tahiti and an entire currency bound for the Solomon Islands.

However, Jon was adamant that people posed the greatest danger: unruly passengers, predatory pirates and desperate stowaways. His account included historical facts of the South Pacific Islands during World War 2, and fascinating descriptions of the Islanders' cultural heritage, illustrated with a range of artefacts. We even had an introduction to the Tok Pisin language of Papua New Guinea. A thoroughly absorbing and informative presentation.

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

Our February meeting was an excellent one, and all appreciated the very welcome return of homemade cakes. A big thank you to all that contributed to the baking! All contributions will be very welcome for our March meeting.

With covid restrictions easing, we continue to see members returning to monthly meetings which is lovely, and we are also very pleased to welcome new members. Long may this continue.

At our meeting at 2pm on the 11th March, Ben Craske from the Archant Local Recall Project will be coming to tell us all about the work of this local history archive project run by Archant Newspapers. Their work will make available their archive of 150 years of the EDP, enabling searches by topics or events. You will even be able to discover what the paper was reporting on your birthday! It promises to be another fascinating meeting - why not come along and find out more? If you want to explore the project a little before the meeting, you can do so on line from <https://www.localrecall.co.uk>

### Our February Meeting



## News from our Interest Groups

### Group Contact Co-ordinator

*Susan Badger:*

Storms permitting, Spring is truly on its way. Sailing and Croquet are planning to restart in April. There are a few places in the Beginners' Group for sailing and anyone wishing to join needs to complete a form which is available from me, Sue. Kate Fletcher has suggested that members wishing to partake in Art (painting) activities could join forces with the Creative Craft Group on the 1st Thursday of each month.

There is an exciting prospect ahead, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when the Croquet Group join with the Community Gym group to hold a Quiz Evening. Quiz and Cuisine. Information on team entries, ticket prices and timing can be obtained from Maggie on [dmprettyman@btopenworld.com](mailto:dmprettyman@btopenworld.com). Finally, in the quizzing spirit, here are 3 of my own:

1. When was the first U3A founded, and where?
2. Who helped start the U3A in the UK? Was it Peter Springall, Eric Midwinter or Gordon Fulsummer?
3. Approximately how many members currently belong to the UK U3A?

Answers at the bottom of this newsletter.

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

*Kathy Cooper:*

Bookworms met at Hickling Barn at 2:00pm on Wednesday, 2 February to discuss 'The Colour Purple' by Alice Walker. This book was chosen by Mary N who couldn't be with us to present her book but sent her review along with some questions for the group.

"Alice Walker was born in Eatonton, Georgia and is the Winner of the 1983 Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. She now lives in northern California.

Set in the deep American South between the wars, The Colour Purple is the tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', two children were taken away from her, she is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage. But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny. Gradually Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves."

Bookworms is currently full with 12 members. As spaces become available I will add it in this section of the U3A Newsletter.'

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

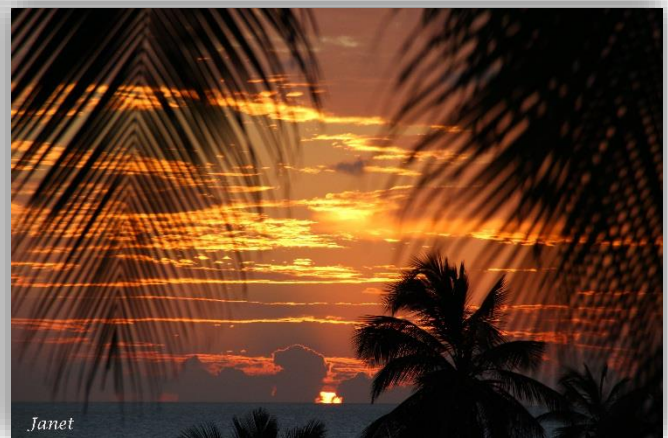
*Dinah Slatter:*

Many of the historical English country dances owe their survival to Cecil Sharp, an English-born folk song collector, musician and composer. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century he was a key leader of the [folk-song revival](#) in England, gathering thousands of tunes from around rural England, and with them the country dances and Morris dances. In 1909 he published The Country Dance Book with 18 dances; further volumes followed over the next 10 ten years which contained many dance interpretations from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century John Playford publication. Cecil Sharp House, the first dedicated folk arts centre in the UK, opened in Camden Town, London, as a memorial to Cecil Sharp following his death in 1924, and still organises gigs and dances, classes and courses, conferences and talks both in London and around the country.



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

*Susan Badger:*



HDR (High Dynamic Range) was the subject for experimentation this month, with 2 locations undertaken: St Peter & St Paul's church in Cromer and St Mary's church in Martham. Several members came to either one or both. HDR is a technique where 3 or 5 identical images, ranging from over-exposure to under-exposure are merged. This is useful when tackling scenarios where the contrast between light extremes occurs: an over-exposure captures the darker detail and under-exposure reduces burning out bright areas. Merging keeps the detail in both extreme areas. This can be done either in-camera or using various types of processing software.

In the monthly challenge of 'After Dark', 44 images were submitted. Members were asked to select their 5 favourite images and reflect on the reasons for their selection – what makes an image so appealing? The criteria considered were initial **Impact** – the 'Wow' factor; the **Technical** factors including composition, balance, focus, colour; and **Creativity** – its unique slant, quirkiness where conventional rules may have been broken. 4 popular images selected this month show a combination of these qualities: Janet's sunset, Dick's mole, David's street scene and Dorian's image of Pull's Ferry.

**British History: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

*Steve Whitby:*

Our talk in February saw Maureen give us a fascinating insight into the role of women in the Metropolitan Police. Tracing the evolution of the force from its founding in 1829 through to the first women recruits in 1914, Maureen set the scene for a series of reminiscences about her training for and time spent in the force in the 1960s. Notable stories included being offered sandwiches in the mortuary, halting Princess Margaret's car and being delivered to her bus stop after work in a Black Maria - if you want the rest of this story you need to ask Maureen yourself!

Normally after a talk our discussion rambles off in all directions so Maureen takes great credit in keeping us solely on topic for two hours (the first time in about 60 talks that this has happened)!

Turning to our March meeting - it is in the Barn at 2 p.m. on Thursday March 17th when Janet will talk about The Victorians and the Industrial Revolution. All are welcome to attend whether existing or prospective new group members.

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

*Diana Fossett:*

*Sue Badger:*

22 eager members of the Dining Club met at Filby Bridge Restaurant this month and were not disappointed by the quality (and quantity) of choice on the menu, a pleasant ambience and relaxed conversation.

We learned that Filby obtained its name from the Viking era: 'by' meaning village and 'File' from the conquering Dane in c.800AD. In 1280 Sir Ralph de Fileby was granted the manor of the village from Edward 1.

The restaurant is situated on the bank of Ormesby Great Broad with Filby Broad on the opposite side of the road. The present owners took over in 1983 when the building was little more than a shack with a corrugated roof, providing basic refreshments to people who hired boats. The original 'shack' was dismantled and moved further down the road, acting as a temporary village hall. The restaurant now has 2 dining rooms; the major one provides a stunning vista overlooking the Broad.

The lunch date for March is the 16<sup>th</sup> and will be a return to The White Horse in Upton. This month will be organised by Kate Fletcher. Please contact her if you wish to join the gathering.



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

*Jane Brooker: and*

*Kate Fletcher:*

March is a very busy time in the world of gardening. Lots of jobs to be done to get the garden ready for summer, the list seemed to go on and on.

We also discussed the buying of compost, what to look for to buy or not, the different composts to buy for different types of planting or for certain plants.. we then talked about what we had all done in our gardens since last month. Nikki updated us on her garden renovation and produced photos, it all looked very impressive.

This years challenge is to see how many potatoes you manage to harvest from 2 main crop potatoes.

Jane Brooker entertained us with a blind food tasting for the food section. We were given five makes of baked beans, tasting Tesco, Branson, Lidle, Heinz and Marks & Spencer. This came about as for many years Jane had kept her allegiance to Heinz, however whilst of a holiday in Derbyshire she had to have Branston and discovered how she liked them. Remarkably, the result of our tasting overall was Branston. Maybe we'll all be changing.



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

**Rose Pigula:**

Everyone who enjoys crafting is welcome to join our happy group. Initially we were mainly knitters, but now have members who enjoy a wide variety of different arts and crafts so please come along and bring your project. After throwing an invitation out to members of the, currently closed, Art group, we were pleased to be joined by our first artist. We would love to see more members, crafters and artists, there's room for all.

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

**Keith Mursell:**

Ten Pin Bowling is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, starting at 10:00 for a two hour session at JR's North Walsham. Still plenty of room for anybody wishing to have a go, its a nice form of gentle exercise. We have the special rate of £8.95 for our two hours so it shouldn't break the bank. We have had two new members join, I expect we might have a very good turnout for March, we normally have two lanes booked but I'm sure that can be increased if we have the numbers. Send me an email if you are interested.

## **Voices of Hickling**

**Steve Whitby:**

Our meeting in February went ahead on Friday 18th in the teeth of Storm Eunice. This caused us to cancel our face to face session and meet by Zoom instead. Our spirits, though, remained high as we had heard that we had received a grant we requested from Hickling Parish Council. Exact details are not yet to hand, but the grant will be used to fund our website, <http://voicesofhickling.co.uk>, and to allow us to run tea parties and send cards etc to our "Voices" contributors.

Other items discussed included topics for our forthcoming presentation to HBU3A on July 8th, the Heritage Lottery and website curation, future plans for Voices Tea Parties and future articles for inclusion in the local press. Our next meeting is due to be held on Friday 8th April at The Greyhound at 12 noon - assuming, of course, that no more storms are in the offing.

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

**Roy Smith:**



Our walk in February started at the car park in Bacton Woods.

We were a group of 12 who walked through the woods, then along a country lane to join a path alongside part of the North Walsham /Dilham canal. Having started in light rain by the time we reached Ebridge Mill the sun was shining as we continued back through the woods to the car park.

8 of us went on to Wayford Bridge hotel for an enjoyable lunch with coffee and much pleasant conversation .

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

**Chris Foster:**

The group was due to meet at Cley this month but Storm Dudley put paid to that - instead we met at Waxham barn. We thought the cafe would be nice and quiet on a Thursday in February' but it was heaving - possibly because the coffee and cake are so good. So after socialising for part of the morning' we moved into the breezy and cool barn to have a more formal chat - see photos.

We decided that next month we would try Cley and then in April we will enjoy the charms of Swallowtail (NWT wildlife tour boat) on Hickling Broad. We also exchanged books on wildlife.



Next meeting is on March the 17<sup>th</sup> at Cley visitor centre:- 10.00am for walkers and 12.00pm in the café for any others. All welcome.

### 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.*

#### Answers to quiz:

1. Toulouse, 1973,
2. Eric Midwinter
3. 450,000

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

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.

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