

Diary Dates: February 2023

Weds 01 Mar	Walking
Weds 01 Mar	Bookworms
Thur 02 Mar	Blurr
Thur 02 Mar	Creative Crafts
Mon 06 Mar	Country Dancing
Mon 06 Mar	Crib
Tue 07 Mar	Croquet
Fri 10 Mar	Members Meeting
Mon 13 Mar	Country Dancing
Tue 14 Mar	Croquet
Wed 15 Mar	Dining Club
Thu 16 Mar	Wildlife
Thu 16 Mar	British History
Mon 20 Mar	Blurr
Tue 21 Mar	Croquet
Wed 22 Mar	Cycling
Mon 27 Mar	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 28 Mar	Croquet
Thu 30 Mar	Cycling
Mon 03 Apr	Country Dancing
Tue 04 Apr	Croquet
Wed 05 Apr	Bookworms
Wed 05 Apr	Walking

News from our Interest Groups

Group Contact Co-ordinator

Helen Foster:

Bookworms – Reading Group: 1st Wednesday (2:00 – 4:00 pm) various locations

Kathy Cooper:

Bookworms meet at 2:00pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Hickling Barn. The member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

On 4 February we welcomed two new members, Jane and Rosemary, to the group which now takes us up to our limit of 12. Our book for discussion was “The Authenticity Project “ by Clare Pooley which was chosen by Katy and this is Katy’s review:

“This was a light, easy read and most of us seemed to enjoy it. Based on the idea that you could face up to what you really wanted from life and become a more authentic version of yourself, it involved a random group of people who, in turn, added their story to a notebook that was originally started by an elderly man. Each wrote about how they wanted to change their lives. The notebook was left in various places where it would be discovered and thus travelled from one person to the next leading them all to get to know each other’s hopes and dreams.

Our book to discuss in 1 March is ‘The Testaments’ by Margaret Atwood chosen by Mary H.

I will announce in the Newsletter as and when spaces become available.

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 10th February we saw the welcome return of musician and performer Saffron Summerfield who presented “Milton Keynes to Mississippi - My musical journey in showbiz”. We enjoyed an entertaining and lively musical performance featuring different styles of guitar music – from Classical to Folk and Blues – songs and anecdotes from a long career in the music business. Saffron talked about life on the road and performing with artists like Joan Armatrading, Long John Baldry, Rock Band FREE and recording at EMI Abbey Road Studios as well as with Blues musicians in Mississippi cotton fields!

At our next meeting at 2pm on Friday March 10th historian and author Sarah Doig will present “Norwich at Work: people and industries through the years”. Sarah will explore the many different trades, crafts and industries of our counties capital and fine city.

Thanks are due, as always, to our cake bakers who always make our afternoon tea and home made cakes after our speakers such a delight.

We are a group of people who are retired or semi retired and who want to learn new things or refine existing skills or knowledge in our leisure time. Our many interest groups range from sailing to country dancing and our monthly meetings are a time when we come together to enjoy hearing our speakers and to socialise together. If you think you might like to join, why not come along to our next meeting to be informed and entertained and find out more. Entry is just £2 for non members and all are warmly welcomed.

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

Dick Roberts:

British History

Steve Whitby:

Country Dancing: 1st and 2nd Mondays (2:00 – 4:00 pm) in Hickling Barn

Dinah Slatter:

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 and come along to our April meeting on Thursday 6 April.

Crib: 1st Monday, Hickling Barn

Roy Smith:

As Crib is a great success, we are going to continue all year long, so if you enjoy a game of crib come and join us. We meet at the Barn the second Monday of the month 11-30 am -1.30 pm. Further details contact Roy roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Cycling: 4th Wednesday various locations

Roy Smith:

If you have a bicycle rusting away in your shed and fancy getting out on the road again, come and join our very friendly group. We cycle about 15 miles, along quiet roads (where possible) at a leisurely pace and generally call for lunch on our way round our route.

Our first bike ride of the season will be on the 4th Wednesday of April.

For further details contact Roy roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Michael Steward:



Having stopped playing Croquet until April our group are still meeting for a social morning playing cards and board games in the Barn, along with refreshments and a chat. So for just £2 if you want a few hours in the warm whilst possibly learning a new game with friendly players then just turn up at 10.30am on a Tuesday morning.

If you would like more information before attending you can always contact Michael Steward on msteward1214@outlook.com
OR by phone on 01493 509538



Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

A group of 22 members attended our Dining Club lunch at The Greyhound in Hickling. Given the size of our group, we filled the dining room and, therefore, enjoyed having the room to ourselves. Tables were arranged in sixes and fours and allowed for good conversation between members. The food, which had been pre ordered was served in a timely manner and appeared to be well received by members. The service was also commented on favourably by the majority. Overall, it was another successful dining club outing; members enjoying good company, plenty of chat and nice food with good service.

I am organising the next lunch which will be at the Poachers Pocket, Bacton 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th March. Hopefully, all members of the club have received an email with more details and menus. If anyone has been missed or would like to join this club, please contact me.

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

*Jane Brooker: and
Kate Fletcher:*

What do most people have in their gardens? A Shed. That was the topic for the first discussion. We all brought in photos of the outside and inside of our sheds and we had a light hearted talk about them, but at the end of the day all our sheds stored the usual gardening equipment, some tidy, some not.

The word shed appeared in the English language as "shud" in 1481. Some dialects in England still call them shuds. David Cameron splashed out on a cool £25,000 on a shed so that he could write his memoirs.

We then discussed what we had all done in our garden in the last few months, some of us had done very little, others had made major changes. We were all interested to listen to Pam and Brian's "Is it a sink hole or is it something else?" appearing in their lawn. We wait with baited breath for the next instalment, providing they haven't fallen down the hole.

This month we continued with the theme of cooking through the alphabet. Jane provided food from the letter B. She made buns and biscuits. We had cherry buns with icing and a cheery in the top and lemon buns with icing. Biscuits were Ginger and shortbread. Tea and coffee was made to go with them, just like afternoon tea. All very nice. Thank you Jane.

Next month is the letter C. Another surprise from one of our members.

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 18th April and the 'newbies' on the 27th April.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

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

Roy Smith:

Thirteen of us met for this months walk at Fairhaven Park. The weather could not have been better - sunny and dry, the paths have all but dried up. We stopped of at Hemblington Church; inside there is a particular attractive Font. It is not known when or who built the Church. This walk took us through some lovely countryside and scenery. On completing the six mile walk we had lunch at Fairhaven café. Good food and company.

Date of next months walk 1st March all welcome



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

Chris Foster:

This month we visited RSPB Lakenheath Fen. Where once there was arable land, now there is a vast wetland of reed beds and grazing marshes bursting with life, as well as rich woodlands. Since 1995 the RSPB has created nearly 400 hectares of reed beds, ungrazed fenland and wet grasslands where wildlife abounds. With hindsight we should have planned for a full days visit but we still managed a very successful morning.

Recommended- £4 a head for non-members.

Next month we are at Hickling Broad NWT centre – March the 16th at 10.00am



IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

Annual Membership Fees were discussed at our latest Committee Meeting. The first **GOOD NEWS** is that it was decided that we would maintain our annual fee at £15.00 for full members; associate membership is available at a reduced fee for those who can demonstrate full membership of another U3A.

In pre-Covid times we made an offer of a discount of £5.00 for both full and associate membership for prompt renewals. The second **GOOD NEWS** is that we will be making this offer again to existing members for the renewals that become due at the end of March.

Without wishing to be self-congratulatory, members do seem to think that asking £10.00 for access to all that is on offer for the year is good value. There can't be many items in all our budgets that are showing ZERO inflation these days!

Details of the membership offer that was announced at the February Barn meeting are as follows:-

Who can benefit?

The offer is open to existing members (full and associate) at the time of renewal.

When is the offer open?

Renewals can be made from 1st March 2023. The offer of the discount will close at the Barn meeting in May (Friday 12th May 2023).

How do I pay?

The preferred method of payment is by Bank Transfer:

Account Name - Hickling Broad U3A

Account Number - 53118193

Sort Code - 20-62-53

Please include your name as an identifier, so we know who has paid!

Payment may also be made in person at the monthly Barn meeting by cheque (to Hickling Broad U3A) or cash.

If Bank Transfer is unavailable, and members cannot attend at the monthly meeting, payment can be made by cheque to:

The Treasurer Hickling Broad U3A

18 Beckmeadow Way

Mundesley

NR11 8LP

Again, please ensure that you identify which member, or members, the payment refers to.

How much is my annual renewal?

The discounted fee for prompt payment of Full Membership by existing members will be £10.00.

The discounted fee for Associate Membership by existing members will be £6.00. (It will be necessary to demonstrate that you are a fully paid up member of another U3A).

New full members and associate members joining after 1st April 2023 will pay at the rate of £15 or £11 respectively. (fees will be reduced for those joining part way through the year).

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 with a brief description and maybe a photo. Space permitting, we will include it in a subsequent newsletter.

The Snowman

Suddenly, as the sun rose
I woke and saw the filtry muted beams
whiten in a heightened glaze
reflected from the snow; and all the world
it seemed, was covered and transformed
and most of all, our garden; grass and trees
paths and ugly things like bins
smoothed and beautified with snow.
Of course we rushed outside
to gather spades, to make the snowballs and to roll
them round the garden,
laughing as we grew them huge with layer on layer
large enough, a body and a head.
Traditional, a carrot, coals and hat, a twiggie pipe,
The scarf too torn to mend; and as the light faded
we danced to see our snowman in the dusk
Tall and splendid with his icy grin.
But as the new day dawned
Yes, the snowman stood,
benign and massive, our created friend;
But all around, the trampled garden;
Snow scooped from every branch and ugly thing
Only our snowman to show for it; and we mourned
until the next day's snowfall hid our shame.

Jackie Snowman

What's on at your next monthly meetings

March 10th	Norwich at Work: people and industries through the years. Writer and historian Sarah Doig will explore the many different trades, crafts and industries of our fine city.
April 14th	Royalty in London - Peter Lawrence Ahead of King Charles' coronation, our dear friend Peter will explore Royalty's influence on the development of London through the centuries.
May 12th	AGM and Pat Nearney - After the business of our AGM our old friend and lovable rogue Patrick Nearney – the "Norfolk Nut" will regale us with tales and songs to delight and amuse.
June 9th	Norfolk Wildlife Trust Update (TBC) - The Norfolk Wildlife Trust will come to give us an update on progress and developments at Hickling Broad since its acquisition by the charity.

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