

Hickling Broad u3a – March 2024 Newsletter



Diary Dates: March 2024

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|--|-------------------------|
| Mon 04 March | Country Dancing |
| Tues 05 March | Croquet |
| Wed 06 March | Walking |
| Wed 06 March | Bookworms |
| Thur 07 March | Blurr |
| Thur 07 March | Craft Club |
| Fri 08 March | Members' Meeting |
| Mon 11 March | Country Dancing |
| Tues 12 March | Croquet |
| Thur 14 March | Crib |
| Mon 18 March | Blurr |
| Tues 19 March | Croquet |
| Wed 20 March | Dining Club |
| Thur 21 March | Wildlife |
| Thur 21 March | British History |
| Mon 25 March | Gourmet Diggers |
| Tues 26 March | Croquet |
| Mon 01 April | Country Dancing |
| Tues 02 April | Croquet |
| Please see Group reports below for details of meetings | |
| For sailing dates please see Sailing report | |

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 7 February Bookworms discussed 'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell. Hamnet was reviewed by Jane and here are Jane's comments:

"Hamnet is a book by Maggie O'Farrell based loosely on the death of William Shakespeare's young son, Hamnet. O'Farrell weaves historical fact with fiction in a lyrical and poetic way. The main themes are family relationships, love and grief.

William Shakespeare is never named in the book and the reader is not, therefore, distracted by any preconceived ideas about his life. The main protagonist, Agnes (Anne Hathaway) is an extremely engaging character and drives the story to a poignant conclusion.

Well received by the majority of the group, Hamnet was given 8/10."

Our book to read in March is 'The Olive Tree' by Lucinda Riley chosen by Mary H which we will discuss in April as the group will be having their belated Xmas lunch at the Cross Keys, Dilham on 6 March.

If you would like to know more about Bookworms, please give me a call or drop me an email.

HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 9th February, our dear friend Peter Lawrence returned to present 'Norwich - England's Medieval Second City.' Peter delighted us with an illustrated tour of medieval Norwich, highlighting the evidence of a city that, in ratio to its size, was equal to the wealth and institutions in the City of London. After Peter's presentation we enjoyed, as always, home made 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, on Friday 8th March, our planned speaker has, due to unforeseen circumstances had to cancel. Our replacement will be Stephen Poulter who will be looking at how cinema has used the plays of the great William Shakespeare as the inspiration for so many movies across all genres. We look forward to "The Bard on Film".

At Hickling Broad U3A we have a wide range of groups - from Country Dancing to Sailing, Crafts, British History to a Cooking and Gardening group to name but a few. We are a warm and friendly group of people who are no longer in full time employment, but who want to stay involved and active in all things fun and educational. We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings for for just £2 which includes tea and home made cake. Interested? Curious? Why not pop along to our next monthly meeting and find out if its for you!

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

Contact:

February 1st our little group stayed on home turf around Hickling to capture some different angles of an area that we all know well. A pleasant, relaxed and sunny afternoon, which we finished off with a cup of tea and biscuits at Willow Farm.

Our monthly Barn meeting on Monday 19th February had the theme of 'A single Tree' and we had a varied entry of type, angle, and colour mix of tree images to discuss. Unfortunately, our guest speaker was ill and we watched a Landscape DVD instead of the programmed 'Wildlife of Costa Rica Photographs' which we will now have at a later date.

The next Barn meeting will be on Monday 18th March at 2pm



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.

British History

Steve Whitby:

Our February meeting was led by Steve, who told us about the Craig Vale Coiners and how an eighteenth century counterfeiting gang in remote Yorkshire nearly destroyed the economy and resulted in a change in the way coins were minted.

Our March meeting sees us explore the History of Easter and Jackie will lead our session. We meet at the Barn at 2 p.m. on Thursday 21st March and all are welcome.

Creative Crafts: 1st Thursday (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Rose Pigula:

Our small, friendly group usually meets in Hickling Barn on the first Thursday of every month. We have a variety of different crafting interests and anyone is welcome to come along and join us. You will be very welcome.

Crib: 2nd Thursday, Hickling Barn (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

Roy Smith:

Crib meet second Thursday of the month at the Barn 2-4 pm. All welcome. Tuition given.

Contact Roy at roysidmith@yahoo.co.uk

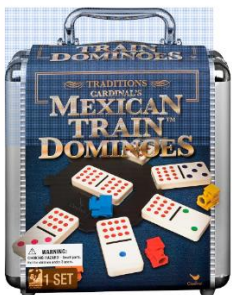
Croquet Group – 2024

Michael Steward:

The Croquet season does not start until April so we are currently enjoying board and card games in the Barn every Tuesday (10.30am to 1pm) until the end of March 2024. There is always free tea / coffee, biscuits (sometimes cake) and even the men get to do the washing up! According to Paul, he is the “fastest dishwasher in the west”. Well west of Hickling that is.

So even if you have no interest in Croquet do come along and keep the grey matter working by being shown how to play cards and games, including the new domino inspired game called Mexican Train. So if you have £3 for your train ticket you can get on board for up to a three hour ride on a Tuesday morning whilst enjoying a fun social event.

For more information find Keith or Michael at a U3A Meeting **OR** contact Michael on 01493 509538 E-mail msteward1214@outlook.com



Discovering the Broads

Chris Foster:

Dining Club: 3rd Wednesday (various locations)

Diana Fossett:

Gill Sage organised the Dining Club lunch in February and here is her report.

'Fifteen of us attended the lunch at Acle Bridge. Unfortunately, the menu had been changed at the beginning of the week but with all the choices available, a substitute choice was easily made. We sat in the main restaurant which was warm and surprisingly full for mid week, the service was friendly and we all ate at the same time. Those of us who had a view of the river could watch the boats and the river which was high due to all the rain we have had. Several of our party commented on how nice the food was. I think the menu was extensive from panini to full steak or fish dinners. There were also alternatives of good home cooked classic meals and a good selection of gluten free and vegetarian dishes.

Our next lunch will be held at the Ship Inn on Wednesday 20th March, 12:15 for 12:30.

If you would like to join the Dining Club contact me, dianafossett1@gmail.com

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

Jane Brooker: and

Kate Fletcher:

We have discovered a new way to garden. Forget digging, watering, planting and all those back breaking jobs. Lego flowers are the way forward, they will never die.

Jobs to be done in the garden for the month in March was next on the agenda. It's a busy time of the year preparing the garden for spring and summer.

No dig gardening. One or two of us all ready did this. An interesting topic.

Our competition this year is to grow a sunflower. A multistemmed variety, so not only will it be the tallest one but also the amount of blooms that are produced.

We ended up talking about what we had all done in our gardens this last month.



This month's cooking was the letter J. Steve gave us Jojo potatoes with garlic dip. The potato wedges are dipped in beaten egg and then coated in a mixture of flour, garlic powder, onion powder, lemon pepper and seasoning. These are then fried.

It wouldn't be J without jelly and Steve did not disappoint us as he then produced strawberry with mixed fruit jelly and cream. We now look forward to the letter K next month.

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

Chris Foster:

We had a yellow weather warning and forecast of high winds when we were due to head out for a bit of raptor watching this month so regrettably had to cancelled. However the next day I did go to Horsey to view the seals. The birthing season is all finished so no pups however we are now in the moulting season. About 2500 seals on the beach, all singing away and generally enjoying the sunny afternoon and it was a great spectacle. If you decide to visit please give them at least 10 metres and keep dogs firmly under control. You can walk the beach at low tide and great views from the dunes at high tides. However, because they are moulting it is important they are not disturbed or frightened into the water.

Voices of Hickling

Steve Whitby:

The group did not meet in February and no further meetings are scheduled.

Sailing: Every Tuesday and Friday

John Stacey:

Last month we advertised the sailing opportunities for 2024, we have had a number of people expressing an interest but we still have space for a few more. Please have a look at what is planned below and give us a call or email.

We are offering a taster session on Tuesday 16th April 2024, when you can attend and spend some time on Barton Broad to see if sailing is for you at the cost of £18.00.

All equipment will be provided by the Nancy Oldfield Trust who manage the sailing sessions and provide all the instructors and safety crew. The Nancy Oldfield Trust are able to cater for any lack of physicality.

If you would like to continue sailing after the Taster Session there will be a 3 day Newbies sailing course at the cost of £108.00 on Thursday 16th May - Saturday 18th May 2024. Thereafter instruction will continue within the main sailing group. The aim would be to get you to a standard where you could join the main sailing group that sail on Tuesdays and Fridays. However, if you have sailed before and are just a little rusty please contact us as other arrangements can be made, based on your ability, to get you back on the water. If you are interested in any of the above and/or would like further information please feel free to contact us on hbu3asailing@gmail.com or 07771914672.



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

Roy Smith:

This month's walk was back in Strumpshaw. Ten of us gathered at the Shoulder of Mutton pub. Our walk followed the path through Buckingham woods where we saw an abundance of snowdrops. Staying on the side roads we walked on towards Buckingham station.

We then followed the path beside the railway and back to Strumpshaw. The weather was kind to us with no rain and all enjoyed lunch at the pub after the walk.



What's on at your next monthly meetings

Watch this space next month for details of guest speakers for the rest of the year.

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