

## Diary Dates: May 2023

Mon 01 May	Country Dancing
Tue 02 May	Croquet
Wed 03 May	Walking / Bookworms
Thu 04 May	Blurr / Creative Crafts
Mon 08 May	Crib / Country Dancing
Tue 09 May	Croquet
Fri 12 May	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Mon 15 May	Blurr
Tue 16 May	Croquet
Wed 17 May	Dining
Thur 18 May	Wildlife
Thur 18 May	British History
Mon 22 May	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 23 May	Croquet
Tues 30 May	Croquet
Mon 05 June	Crib / Country Dancing
Tues 06 June	Croquet
Wed 07 June	Walking / Bookworms
Thur 08 June	Creative Crafts
Fri 09 June	<b>AGM Members Meeting</b>
Mon 12 June	Country Dancing
Tues 13 June	Croquet
Wed 14 June	Dining

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday 14th April at Hickling Barn, our dear friend Peter Lawrence presented "Royalty in London". Ahead of King Charles' coronation, Peter explored the influence of Royalty on the development of London through the centuries. Peter always brings a mixture of fascinating facts and personal insights and we were delighted, as ever, by his presentation.

At our next meeting on Friday 12th May our speaker is George Cooper who is presenting Sea Palling Independent Lifeboat. George will come to give a lighthearted presentation on the history of our local independent lifeboat from its origins up to the present day, including the lifeboats dropped by the RAF in the Second World War which are now housed at the Museum of the Broads in Stalham.

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. Your hard work and efforts are always much appreciated.

## News from our Interest Groups

### Group Contact Co-ordinator

**Helen Foster:**

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

**Kathy Cooper:**

Bookworms meet at Hickling Barn on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4pm. The member who chooses the book to be discussed that month will lead the meeting.

The book we discussed on 5 April was 'Sunshine and Sweet Peas in Nightingale Square' written by Heidi Swain and was chosen by Mary N. Here is Mary's review:

"Heidi Swain lives in South Norfolk and this book was based in Nightingale Square, a fictitious area of Norwich. She wrote her first book, Cherry Tree Café, in 2014, it was successful and published a year later. She now has 3 series - Wynbridge, Wymouth and Nightingale Square.

The book revolved round the life of Kate who moved to Nightingale Square following the break-up of her marriage to her 'one and only' love. She soon became part of the resident community of the Square.

Nightingale Square was built by a Charles Wentworth in 1860, building the houses in the Square for his employees which were overlooked by Prosperous Place, a large mansion where Charles Wentworth lived. Over the years the house became unoccupied and fell into disrepair and it was thought it was going to be made into flats which the residents were anxious about and disapproved. However, it transpired that Luke, a distant relative of Charles Wentworth, had bought the property. The residents and Luke made a community gardens in the grounds of Prosperous Place. There were many interactions between the residents, Kate and Luke in particular and it all ended well."

Overall, the group felt the book lacked depth with too many characters but was an easy read most suited to holiday reading. It scored a 6/10."

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

*Dick Roberts:*

### **British History**

*Steve Whitby:*

Our April British History group was well attended when 14 of us gathered to listen to Maureen tell us "What happens when good people do nothing." Rather than take one specific topic Maureen gave various illustrations of racial and other prejudices throughout history - this led to a lively and far ranging discussion amongst the group.

We ring the changes for our May meeting - leaving the Barn and heading to St. Nicholas church in Yarmouth where Janet will be giving one of her highly informative talks about the history and development of the church itself as well as describing the lives of half a dozen or so individuals buried in the graveyard. We will meet at the church at the earlier time of 1.30 on Thursday 18th May in order that we can also visit the inside of the building. All are welcome but, if possible, please let me know in advance if you are planning to visit.

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

*Dinah Slatyer:*

### **Creative Crafts: 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Crib: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, Hickling Barn**

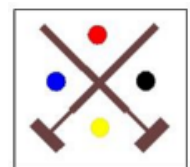
*Roy Smith:*

The next meetings are on the second Monday of the month. 8th May, 11.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Barn all welcome.

Contact Roy via the Contact Page on the website for further details

### **Croquet: Tuesdays at 10:00 am**

*Michael Steward:*



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

*Diana Fossett:*

On the 19th April 2023, a group of fifteen people went out to lunch at The Harnser, Sutton. The food had been pre-ordered and arrived within a few minutes of sitting down. The staff were helpful and if you wanted extra accompaniments, it was given by a smile. We all sat at one long table which made it hard to converse from one end of the table to the other but generally it seemed everyone was pleased with the lunch and some even had a dessert! Keith and Linda are organising the next venue which will be at The Lighthouse Inn, Happisburgh 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17th May.

If you would like to join the Dining Club, please contact me via the Contact Page on the website.

## Discovering the Broad's

*Chris Foster:*

This month we were due to explore the Bure Valley on a new electric picnic boat starting at Wroxham. Unfortunately, the boat was still in the boat yard unfinished so we have rebooked it for later in the year. Instead, we took the Queen of the Broad's, a 90ft, double storey 120 people monster of a Broad's Tours Boat. However, as it turns out it was a very pleasant trip. A Monday in April saw very few boats on the water and plenty of wildlife. The commentary on the boat was very informative and entertaining and its maneuverability meant on Salhouse Broad for instance we could sneak up close to a pair of Crested Grebes. The male was seen carrying a mouth full of nest material which was passed to the female who then knitted it into the nest. The boat was warm, dry and had refreshments on board – recommended but pick the season/day.

Next month we are on a Wherry, but this is fully booked. In June I have booked the Electric Eel boat from How Hill and there may be spaces. See also the report of Wildlife Group on here as the only way to visit the Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail is by boat. Fair winds.

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

*Jane Brooker: and*

*Kate Fletcher:*

How are the pumpkin seeds doing? That was the first question. Some of us have had results some of us are still waiting. Watch this space for progress reports. Although the weather has not been very encouraging for getting out in the garden the jobs to be done just don't go away and at this time of year there is lots of work to be done. One of our topics this month was 'How to get rid of Aphids' on plants the 'Natural Way'. Some very interesting methods were used. We all talked about the jobs we had achieved in the garden this last month, always an interesting and quite amusing discussion. We ended with a light hearted discussion about garden ornaments and I'm pleased to say that there wasn't a gnome in sight (apology to anyone who has a garden gnome and loves it).

What a treat we had waiting for us in the Gourmet part of the group. Pam and Brian presented a 3 course taster food. The letter D was order of the day. Chicken drumsticks cooked in a delicious gravy, followed by lemon cheesecake, the base made from crushed digestive biscuits, finished with Danish Blue cheese on crackers. Delicious.

We finished with a food quiz and the top 3 scorers received a pot of herbs and recipes to go with them.

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

*John Stacey:*

Planning for the 2023 season is underway and the main group resumed sailing on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and the 'newbies' on the 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## Voices of Hickling

*Steve Whitby:*

At our August meeting we progressed plans for our next tea party to be held in June and also how to proceed with our partnership with the Norfolk Records Office.

The importance of our project was brought into focus with the update that 13 of our recorded voices have subsequently died whilst several others are showing signs of frailty. Luckily they will live on through the audio recordings we made of them relating their early years growing up in Hickling and nearby.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday 9th June - venue tbc.

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

### Various locations

*Roy Smith:*

The April walkers met at Stokesby for a 5 mile walk and enjoyed lunch at Acle Bridge afterwards.

The May walk, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, is at Whittingham Country Park with lunch at the Flint Barn Café.



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

*Chris Foster:*

This month we visited Ranworth Broad using the NWT centre as our focus. Parking is free, a pleasant walk along a well maintained board walk, and then free entry to a well-designed and comfortable floating viewing platform made a very pleasant morning. The main focus for the volunteers running the centre was the presence of the male Osprey who could be viewed on the far side of the Broad. The male arrives a few weeks before the female and spends time making the roost as attractive as possible. All fingers are crossed that his partner will choose Ranworth and not fly on for greener pastures. There was a multitude of other wildlife to see with lots of nest building, dancing and pairing up and also clear evidence of plenty of fish.

Next month we are visiting the Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail on Thursday, 18 May. This is a very special place – anybody who is interested and not in the Wildlife group is welcome – please contact us for details.



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

May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Pat Nearney - Our old friend and lovable rogue Patrick Nearney – the “Norfolk Nut” will regale us with tales and songs to delight and amuse.
June 9 <sup>th</sup> 2023	<b>AGM</b> 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.
July 14 <sup>th</sup> 2023	Clive Evans – Priscilla Bacon Lodge. Volunteer ambassador, Clive, will tell us about the outstanding work at this local hospice.

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