

## Diary Dates: November 2023

Wed 01 Nov	Bookworms
Wed 01 Nov	Walking
Thurs 02 Nov	Creative Crafts
Mon 06 Nov	Country Dancing
Tues 07 Nov	Croquet
Fri 10 Nov	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Mon 13 Nov	Country Dancing
Mon 13 Nov	Crib
Tues 14 Nov	Croquet
Wed 15 Nov	Dining Club
Thur 16 Nov	Wildlife
Thur 16 Nov	British History
Mon 20 Nov	Blurr
Tues 21 Nov	Croquet
Mon 27 Nov	Gourmet Diggers
Tues 28 Nov	Croquet
For sailing dates please see Sailing report	

## 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 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 4 October the group discussed 'The Fine Art of Invisible Detection' by Robert Goddard which was chosen by me.

Robert Goddard was born in Fareham, Hampshire in 1955 and studied History at Cambridge. He has written in excess of 20 books, his first, 'Past Caring' was published in 1986. He lives in Cornwall with his wife.

'The Fine Art of Invisible Detection' is set between the 1970's and the then present day of 2019. It revolves around five students living in Exeter in 1977, nuclear weapons and the Ban the Bomb movement of that era.

47 year old widow Umiko Wada is a humble secretary to Private Detective, Kodaka. Wada becomes involved in a case that takes her from her home in Tokyo to London, New York, Iceland and the Netherlands where she gets caught up with greed and murder whilst trying to find out who murdered the father of a client.

This book created a good discussion although the pronunciation of some of the names became a challenge! There were mixed feelings but overall most of us enjoyed it and gave it 8/10.

For November we will be discussing 'The Museum of Broken Promises' by Elizabeth Buchan which was Debbie's choice. If you would like to join us please drop me an email or give me a call.

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

At our meeting on Friday October 13 Gareth Davies returned to present "Pablo Fanque's Fair and The Victorian Circus". Pablo Fanque was the first recognised Black circus proprietor in Britain and was born in Norwich. Fanque presents an interesting phenomenon by contributing to popular culture over three centuries - his own, with regard to the development of circus entertainment in the 19th century; the late 20th century, as the subject of lyrics by John Lennon; the 21st, as an icon of multicultural Britain. The talk used his career to explore the growth of circus as an entertainment form and its contribution to popular culture. It covered the origins of circus and the 'industrialisation' of this form of performance; the circus apprentice system; moral attitudes towards women and children performance in the circus; the role of prejudice, race and entrepreneurship within Victorian society.

Our next meeting is at Hickling Barn at 2pm on Friday 10th November. In a very late change, our speaker will be Stephen Jeffery-Poutler. His talk is entitled "To the Hammer Born: Confessions of an occasional auctioneer". As an auctioneer and online dealer in antiques, vintage items and collectables Stephen describes how the auction business has developed and how the trade operates today. After the presentation we will enjoy, as usual, teas and home made cakes provided by our ever generous members. Thank you to everyone for coming along, we look forward to seeing you there.

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

### ***Contact:***

The Blurr group recently introduced the new 'team'. Jennie Mursell, John Tallowin, Peter Pigula and David Edmund-Jones between them have many year's involvement with the u3a Blurr photographic group and were keen to ensure it continued.

The group has been running in Hickling for a number of years and has seen member numbers and interests fluctuate over the years. The current focus is to have fun with your camera or smart phone, to enjoy the social elements and ultimately take better photos.

Members reflect a wide range of photographic skills from beginners all the way to experienced amateur photographers who are always pleased to provide guidance, mentoring and technical expertise in a friendly and relaxed setting.

The group hold regular monthly meetings in Hickling Barn and are planning a variety of photoshoots and tasks throughout the year where members get an opportunity to practice their skills and learn from each other.

This month's task was 'self portrait' with two entrants offering great photos Jane Crossley and Peter Pigula.



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

### ***Dinah Slatter:***

Please contact Dinah if you are interested in joining.

## **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.

## **British History**

### ***Steve Whitby:***

We were entertained in our October meeting by Elaine telling us about "The History of the Magistracy, tracing a path from 1195 through to the present day and highlighting the development of the role of Justice of the Peace from its inception in 1361. After her very informative talk Elaine asked us to adopt the role of a magistrate and try the hypothetical case of Ann Jones who was accused of shoplifting. We were given the facts and guidelines on what to consider when reaching a verdict - the fact that our decisions were almost exactly split between guilty and not guilty highlighted the difficult role of a magistrate.

On 16th November we have our last meeting of 2023 when Kaye will tell us about "The General Strike". As usual we meet at the Barn at 2 p.m. and all are welcome.

We have also agreed our programme of talks, guided walks and visits for 2024. If you are interested and would like to know more about what we have planned please contact Steve at the e mail address below.

## Crib: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, Hickling Barn

**Roy Smith:**

The next meetings are on the second Monday of the month, 11.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Barn all welcome.  
Contact Roy [roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roysidsmith@yahoo.co.uk) for further details



### HBU3A CROQUET GROUP – 2023 / 2024

**Croquet at the Barn every Tuesday - April to October – 10.30am to 1pm**

**Board/card games at the Barn - November to March -10.30am to 1pm**

**The Croquet season starts again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024** and played, weather permitting, on two Courts behind the Barn. Members enjoy gentle exercise and competitive fun so even if you have never played but would like to give it a try please find Keith at a U3A Meeting **OR** contact Michael on 01493 509538 / e-mail [msteward1214@outlook.com](mailto:msteward1214@outlook.com)



**KEITH**



**MICHAEL**



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

**Diana Fossett:** [dianafossett1@gmail.com](mailto:dianafossett1@gmail.com)

For this month's Dining Club, we went back to Salhouse again but this time to the Stag. This is a newly refurbished pub which opened in late August. We were a small number this month with 10 of us. They all agreed that those who couldn't make it missed a treat. All seemed to enjoy their meals, and a few had dessert which proved to be entertaining. Trios of ice cream were ordered by two. When brought to the table each was presented with three separate bowls, a computer hitch on ordering we were told. Definitely one to revisit at some time.

Our next venue is on Wednesday 15th November 12.15 for 12.30 p.m. at the Fur and Feathers, Woodbastwick Road, Norwich.

If you would like to join the Dining Club, please contact me - [dianafossett1@gmail.com](mailto:dianafossett1@gmail.com)

## Discovering the Broads

*Chris Foster:*

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

*Jane Brooker: and  
Kate Fletcher:*

Gourmet Diggers answer to Calendar Girls. What whoppers we produced. Glenda won our pumpkin competition coming in at 25 and 29lbs.

Most of us struggled to get our seeds to strike whilst others managed to produce flowers and lots of leaves, but no fruit. Kate's pumpkin was perfectly formed, rather sweet, but no bigger than an orange, but we all had a lot of fun talking about it through the year. Well done Glenda.



Jobs to be done in the garden for November was our next topic, tidying up the garden for winter seemed to be top of the agenda.

A little bit of fun and lots of chatter about some useful tips on how to change the way we garden eg. using coffee grounds to keep pests at bay, using broken terracotta pot pieces as plant labels, using honey to propagate cuttings along with many more ideas. We ended up saying what we had all achieved in our gardens in the last month.

This month we reached the letter H. and thanks to Kathy Andrade we had a lovely selection. She started with home made humous with some cheese straws and biscuits. This was followed by Honey & Rum cake, delicious. I have added the recipe below should anyone wish to have a go.

As we never meet in December, next month will be our Christmas celebration. If anyone is interested in gardening and cooking and likes a good laugh, Jane and I would be happy to see you then.

### HONEY-RUM CHOCOLATE CAKE

#### INGREDIENTS

175g butter  
175g brown sugar  
125g honey  
2 eggs  
1 tablespoon rum  
½ teaspoon vanilla essence  
2 tablespoons cocoa powder  
200g self-raising flour  
Pinch of salt  
120 ml sweet sherry

#### FILLING

300 ml Whipped double cream

#### METHOD

Cream the butter with brown sugar.  
Add the honey and beat until mixture is light and fluffy.  
Beat in the eggs one at a time then stir in the rum and vanilla.  
Sift the cocoa, flour and salt together three times (this helps to give a light texture to the finished cake).  
Fold into the creamed mixture alternately with the sherry, beginning and ending with flour.  
Turn into the prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes, or until a fine skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. 80 deg C, 350 F, (Gas Mark 4) adjust for fan assisted.  
Allow to cool in the tin for a few minutes then turn out onto a wirerack to cool completely.  
Fill with whipped cream and dust the top with icing sugar.

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

*John Stacey:*

The future is looking good for the group as more members are coming in but there is always room for more, if you are interested please contact us on 07771914672 or [hbu3a.sailing@gmail.com](mailto:hbu3a.sailing@gmail.com)

## Voices of Hickling

*Steve Whitby:*

The group did not meet in October and currently have no further meetings planned this year.



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

*Roy Smith:*

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

*Chris Foster:*

If you go down to the woods today you are sure to have a surprise. We were surprised to meet Grumpy Old Man as shown in the photo and were also pleased to have a chat and catch up with him. This occurred as part of our visit to High Ash Farm. Free parking and excellent access to some really interesting landscapes and habitat made this a wonderful morning walk.

Many will have heard of Chris Skinner, who has been a regular on Radio Norfolk and he now produces his own Podcast - "Nature, wildlife and countryside living with Chris Skinner from High Ash Farm". Anybody interested in nature, farming and rural living will enjoy this podcast and much of it comes alive as you wander around the Farm. [Chris Skinner's Countryside Podcast](#)



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

November 10 2023	Stephen Jeffery-Poutler - "To the Hammer Born: Confessions of an occasional auctioneer".
December 08 2023	Bunty Gotts – Bring a plate of food to share
January 12 2024	Maggie Prettyman – A short history of Hickling village
February 09 2024	Peter Lawrence - Norwich: England's Medieval Second City

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