

## October 2022

### Diary Dates

Mon 3 Oct	Country Dancing
Tue 4 Oct	Croquet
Tue 4 Oct	Sailing
Wed 5 Oct	Walking
Wed 5 Oct	Bookworms
Thur 6 Oct	Creative Crafts
Thur 6 Oct	Blurr
Fri 7 Oct	Sailing
Mon 10 Oct	Country Dancing
Tue 11 Oct	Croquet
Tue 11 Oct	Sailing
Wed 12 Oct	Ten Pin Bowling
Fri 14 Oct	<b>Members Meeting</b>
Fri 14 Oct	Sailing
Mon 17 Oct	Blurr
Tue 18 Oct	Croquet
Tue 18 Oct	Sailing
Wed 19 Oct	Dining Club
Thu 20 Oct	British History / Wildlife
Fri 21 Oct	Sailing
Mon 24 Oct	Gourmet Diggers
Tue 25 Oct	Croquet
Tue 25 Oct	Sailing
Wed 26 Oct	Ten pin bowling / Cycling
Fri 28 Oct	Sailing

### HBu3a Committee Monthly Update

It was with immense sadness that our U3A learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and as our monthly meeting fell on following day it was felt too late to cancel at such short notice. However, our Chair, Kate Fletcher, led us with words of appreciation and respect for our late Queen, after which followed a minute of respectful silence and contemplation.

Kate then added "One quality of the late Queen Elizabeth was her sense of fun and her ability to enjoy life. Who can forget her James Bond piece before the London Olympics, or tea with Paddington during the Jubilee celebrations? The byeline of U3A is "learn, laugh, live". I am certain that she would support those aims wholeheartedly. Whilst this is a sad and somber time, we must remember our late Queen's 'joie de vivre' and carry that example forward in our daily lives."

Our speaker, Dr Sue Gattuso, then gave her planned presentation on Tutankhamen and the associated works of Howard Carter. The presentation was educational, informative and well received by our 60 or so attendees.

Our next monthly meeting is at Hickling Barn at 2pm on Friday 14th October when our dear friend Peter Lawrence will be presenting "Reading the Timbers" - a detailed exploration of the history and significance of East Anglian Timber framed houses. This promises to offer a rare insight into buildings around us and is not to be missed! After the talk we will, as always, enjoy our home made teas and cake - with our continuing thanks to all the members who so kindly bring them along.

### Your October Newsletter

As you read your newsletter this month you may be thinking that the Group reports are a bit thin on the ground. This is often due to some of the outdoor groups finishing their activities now until the Spring. Also, sometimes rain stops play at this time of year and there is no meeting to report on that month. However, all Groups will always appear so that new members can see what is available in our u3a and know who to contact. Meanwhile, do enjoy contributions from our members in the 'Members Corner'.

### News from our Interest Groups

#### Group Contact Co-ordinator

**Helen Foster:**

Well, I've read through the role and responsibilities of a Group Co-ordinator and after taking a deep breath and wondering what I had signed myself up for, I think I can give it a go.

We are really lucky at Hickling Broad u3a to have a very good mix of interest groups, which hopefully means there is something for everyone. They are led by enthusiastic people and I'm sure you are appreciative of their efforts. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that Roy is offering to organise a new Crib Group, maybe this is one that you have been waiting for.

If you have any suggestions for new interest groups - perhaps there is something that has always appealed to you, please speak to me and I'll see what we can do.

## **BLURR – The Camera Group:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (2:00-4:00pm) at Hickling Barn**

*Dick Roberts:*

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

*Kathy Cooper:*

After a summer break in August, Bookworms met up at Hickling Barn on 7 September to discuss *The Carer* by Deborah Moggach which was chosen by me.

*The Carer* tells the story of Mandy who is employed by Phoebe and Robert to care for their widowed father, James. With James being cared for by Mandy, the brother and sister are now free to get on with their - failing - careers. Things are going well with James and Mandy until Mandy suddenly dies from an aneurism. That's when the skeletons start to escape from the cupboard!

A bit later on, the book steps back in time and we are introduced to James' late wife, Anne, Stella and Ken and, after a few twists and turns the truth emerges which isn't well received by James' children. In the main, an enjoyable book with some sad and often funny moments. The group all enjoyed the book and we have given it a score of 8/10.

On 5 October we will be reading *The Foundling* by Stacy Halls which is chosen by Jeanne. If you would like to join us, even for a taster session, please give me a call on 01692 598611. You will be made very welcome.

## **British History**

*Steve Whitby:*

Unfortunately, our September meeting was cancelled at short notice due to illness and group members having other commitments. Jackie's planned talk on "The Witchfinder General in East Anglia" will be re-scheduled.

Hopefully we will all be fit and well for our next meeting on Thursday 20th October at 2 p.m. when Elaine will lead the meeting, for her first time, and present "A potted history of Wales". As usual we meet in the Barn and group members are welcome along with anyone who wishes to "give us a try out".

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

*Dinah Slatter:*

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

*Rose Pigula:*

Whatever your interest in crafting, you are very welcome to join our small, friendly group and bring your project. We have members working with fabrics, wool, cord or doing some painting and sketching. Just send me a message if you want to know more.

## **Crib: to be arranged**

*Roy Smith:*

If you would be interested in this group please let Roy know and he will keep you informed.

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

*Michael Steward:*



The Croquet season, according to the Croquet Association, finished at the end of September but as we have some hardy Croquet players in our Group we will continue for as long as we can, weather and ground conditions permitting.

Golf Croquet certainly is an outdoor activity where members are able to enjoy gentle exercise in fresh air whilst playing a competitive but fun game.

## **Cycling: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday various locations**

*Roy Smith:*

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

*Diana Fossett:*

In September, we continued to try different venues and this time 20 of us met at Cross Keys, Dilham, a traditional pub built in 1730. As usual, an opportunity for members to get together and have a chat and enjoy the home cooked food and good service.

The October Dining Club will be at the Ferry Inn Stokesby on the 19th October.

## **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.

## **Cycling: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (various locations)**

*Roy Smith:*

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

*Jane Brooker: and  
Kate Fletcher:*

Everybody was very excited this month as it was the final results of our "Grow your own Potatoes" competition. Throughout the year there has been much conversation about how the potatoes have been coming along, we have even had photos of the foliage. Well the results were in. Steve took first prize, with his produce weighing in at 4lbs10 ozs, grown in a plastic container in leaf mould. Watch out for next years competition. The endless gardening jobs for October were discussed, along with "Why gardening is so good for you". As we all had to produce our crop from our two seed potatoes given by to us by Jane in the spring, I then started a discussion on the potato and apparently there are over 5000 varieties in the world of which 15 are commonly used in the UK. We then came up with how many uses of the potato are there, when it came down to it quite a lot. Molly provided a lovely selection of picnic food from sandwiches, savoury pastry tarts and of course cake. Very nice it was too.



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

*John Stacey: [hbu3asailing@gmail.com](mailto:hbu3asailing@gmail.com)*

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

*Keith Mursell:*

## Voices of Hickling

*Steve Whitby:*

The group reconvenes after its summer break when we meet on October 7th at 11 a.m. Venue is "The Greyhound"

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

*Roy Smith:*

A dozen members enjoyed this month's walk starting from Pilson Green. Thanks to Gabrielle for planning and leading.

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

*Chris Foster:*

Due to holiday commitments we did not have a formal meeting this month. Some people may have visited Hickling Broad NWT at the normal meeting time and date - and we look forward to hearing what they found.

The October meeting will take place on October the 20th, 10.00am at the Barn.

## 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.*

### Plum Jam recipe

450g (1lb) stoned plums

450g (1lb) sugar

Juice of 1 lemon

Put stoned and halved plums into pan with a little water to prevent sticking, and simmer until tender. Add sugar and lemon stirring until sugar is dissolved and then boil to set.

### Crab Apple Jelly

Halve crab apples and put into pan with 1pt water to each 1lb of fruit. Simmer until tender then put through a straining bag.

For each pint of strained liquid add 1lb of sugar, 1tbs of lemon juice and 3 cloves. Stir until sugar is dissolved then boil gently to set.



### Some sad news .....

Joan Lockhart sadly died on Tuesday, 6 September. Joan was one of the founder members of Bookworms way back at the beginning of HBU3A and continued to be a member up until about a year ago. She was also a member of the U3A Tai Chi group which unfortunately didn't last very long but Joan enjoyed it nevertheless.

She was a quiet lady who lived alone but I know she had many friends and was keen member of the local Lunch Club and the Methodist Church here in Hickling.

## On Climate Change, or, Home Thoughts From the Broad

I'm glad to be in Norfolk, now September's here  
We shan't pretend it's summertime until July next year  
And now the storms and hurricanes, rain and cloudy skies  
only what we all expect and come as no surprise.

In optimistic April we planted out our seeds  
Laid in compost, string and fertiliser, all our garden needs;  
Towards the end of April the weather grew so warm  
That on the first of May there was a mighty thunderstorm  
We hoped a drop of rain would only help bring on the show  
Then overnight the temperature sank to 4 below  
And when at last we dared to leave the safety of our room  
The broad bean plants had withered and there's not a single bloom.

The local cricket derby was played in fog so dense  
You couldn't see the scoreboard - it really made no sense  
Undaunted by the weather both teams played so well  
That like the pinball wizard, must have been by sense of smell..  
The bowler played a blinder with all the strength he'd got  
And though the batsman couldn't see he hit a boundary shot  
The umpire gave a six without discerning ball or bat  
And the crowd, emerging from the mist, clapped and cried Howzat!

Throughout July and August it rained relentlessly  
Hickling Broad and Horsey did a merger with the sea  
To find an ark the only way to make survival sure  
But the Mississippi paddle boat had sunk beneath the Bure.

I'm glad to be in Norfolk now September's here  
The leaves will surely fall, and October's drawing near  
Perhaps a heatwave Halloween, November days of sun  
Unpredictability is half the blessed fun  
And when the kids break up from school, Christmas within reach  
Fit their sledge with little wheels and take them to the beach  
Rejoice! it's 40 in the shade and balmy breezes blow  
Stick cotton wool on window panes and make believe it's snow.

Next July, though it may rain, let sunshine fill your thoughts  
As showers drown your barbie and you shiver in your shorts  
And when it hails in August and your holiday's in bits  
Pack your winter woollies and remember that you're Brits.

Jackie Snowman

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

Friday 14 October	Peter Laurence - Reading The Timbers – A Study of East Anglian Timber Framed houses
Friday 11 November	Maggie Prettyman - A History of Hickling Broad and its Thatched Boat Houses
Friday 9 December	Bunty Gotts - A 30's Visitors Book



Lastly a report on an event that we don't usually cover, but since it concerns money from your subscriptions that our central u3a organisation spends on your behalf, we thought it might be of interest. It also gives some insight into some of the background work your committee get involved in.

## Third Age Trust AGM October 2022

AGMs can be dry and dull affairs. Those for the Third Age Trust (TAT), more usually referred to as National Office, are usually no exception, featuring exciting votes on the appointment of auditors etc.

However, this year's event promised to be different. Notification of the agenda included proposals to increase the annual membership subscription. This forms part of the subscription that we collect from you and is paid to TAT on your behalf by our Treasurer, Steve. This element was increased by about 14% two years ago.

The proposal was to increase this subscription to TAT ***"from 1 April 2023, and each year thereafter, by an amount based upon the UK's State Pension increase"***. The accompanying explanation said that the increase was needed to pay for an increased expenditure on "development projects", including raising the profile of u3a and improvements and additions to the services provided. This work required 40% additional paid staff. Also, income was projected to fall as a result of a significant drop in membership over the Covid period.

Your Committee discussed this proposal and formed the view that, at a time when we are all facing big increases in the cost of living, not least on energy and food, it was wholly inappropriate for TAT to be taking these actions and calling for more money from our members. We decided that we would vote against the proposals. Accordingly, our Chair, Kate, registered to attend the meeting, which was available virtually over a Zoom link.

The meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Kate joined the meeting, sat in front of her iPad in the kitchen, at 10:30. It became clear this was not going to be a quick meeting. Voting on the key funding proposals did not start until after 2pm. Many other u3as such as ourselves also disagreed with TAT's actions, a total of 19 amendments to the 2 funding proposals had been lodged. All had to be voted upon individually. The process took 2 hours!

The summary of the results was that all the amendments, and the 2 original proposals, failed by significant amounts. Votes varied slightly, but generally about 2/3 of the votes were against on each occasion.

Those running TAT were left somewhat stunned. They clearly had not anticipated this outcome and did not have a plan to deal with it. In her closing remarks, the Chair of TAT seemed to acknowledge that they had failed to communicate properly with the membership and need to go away and decide what they had to do next.

A few takeaways from the meeting:

- Those running TAT are hard working, well meaning and genuinely want to improve u3a for the membership.
- They have become disconnected from the needs of their general membership, the silent majority. They know that now and will be taking steps to rectify this.
- They know that they will not be allowed a funding mechanism that has automatic annual increases, be they linked to State Pension, CPI, or any other index. Future increases in subscriptions to TAT will need detailed justification and will be subject to close scrutiny.

Andy Fletcher

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