

TOWN and AROUND



ISSUE 174 APRIL 2020
PRICELESS!

NEWS FROM
NW NORFOLK
FREE

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES: Your calendar for the month ahead
THE GREAT OUTDOORS: Sport, gardening, farming, nature and wildlife
LOCAL NEWS: Business, jobs, schools, clubs, council, civic and churches
FEATURES: A Page from the Sage, Lifeboats, Money Matters and more...

First word

Things are likely to get a lot more difficult over the coming weeks and it is quite possible that we will all be spending more time at home than we'd anticipated, however, the days are lengthening and spring is here.

We are working on a plan to get future editions of Town and Around out to our local communities in NW Norfolk. We usually deliver through a network of volunteers and via business outlets but many are likely to close or self-isolate so we are making a Plan B. Rest assured magazines will be available! Some of the local supermarkets have already agreed to have extra copies.

This edition is as full as ever and there's lots of news from the schools, local businesses and organisations. Our letters page is also quite lively.

My thanks as always to our advertisers, contributors and volunteers, you are all truly appreciated.

We are posting a lot of stories on our website between print editions, often several each day and you can keep up to date by logging on to townandaround.net

We would appreciate your stories being sent to us. Try to make them as factual and complete as possible with a decent photo as well - it doesn't have to be serious or about coronavirus. We really love a good news story to share with the world.

Most importantly, be safe. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

With best wishes

Elaine and the T&A team

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FABRICS CURTAINS BLINDS
Christyana

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PAUL SEARLE IS CROWNED 'HOLIDAY HERO' AT TOURISM AWARDS

Two top distinctions saw Searle's Leisure Resort of Hunstanton go under the spotlight at this year's Norfolk and Suffolk Tourism Awards.

At the glittering annual celebration of the region's top tourism businesses, the park was named as overall winner of the Camping, Glamping & Holiday Park of the Year award.

But judges still had another accolade to present to the park, and it came in the form of a very special individual honour for its director Paul Searle.

In front of VIP guests from across the two counties, Paul received the Outstanding Contribution Award for his longstanding services to the tourism industry.

Sponsored by holiday bookings giant Hoseasons, the award celebrates Paul's tireless efforts to champion the visitor sector not just at his own park, but across East Anglia.

Searles is one of Norfolk's largest and most popular holiday centres which Paul manages in partnership with his brother



From left Joanna Searle, Eleanor Searle, Paul Searle, Vicky Searle

Andrew and sister Joanna.

Paul said he was "absolutely thrilled" when the Outstanding Contribution award was announced at Kesgrave Hall in Suffolk by ceremony host David Whiteley from BBC's Inside Out.

"Our family has been running

Searles for over sixty years, and we are immensely proud of the value we bring to the local economy and employment," he said.

"That's also true of the many high quality tourism enterprises which flourish in Norfolk and Suffolk, and which provide a fantastic holiday experience for visitors.

"A lot of these, like ours, are long-established family businesses and have never been afraid to invest to ensure we stay at the top of the game in the domestic tourism market.

"But we are also aware that our success couldn't be achieved with the support of our loyal, hard-working staff, so they must share the credit for our two honours in these awards," added Paul.

Searles was founded in 1954 by Paul's grandfather, Geoffrey, and began life as a modest touring park where a pitch could be exchanged in return for a bag of potatoes.

Successive generations of the

Searle family have put their own stamp on the park's character, and added to the range of facilities, attractions and accommodation options.

Today, Searles provides more than 500 privately owned and rented caravan holiday homes and lodges, as well as 300-plus touring pitches plus luxury timber camping pods.

The park employs around 200 people, plus an addition 50 staff at its Heacham Manor hotel which was converted by Searles from a listed Elizabethan building.

Not that Searles is any stranger to awards, and its many accolades include the gold David Bellamy Conservation Award for its raft of initiatives to protect the natural world.

Paul is married to Vicky, and the couple have two children. Paul's sporting interests include hockey, in which he has competed at senior regional league level, as well as cricket and golf.

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Across: 1. Abbridging, 6. Dowel, 9. Deflect, 10. Seaweed, 11. Orange, 12. Brighton, 14. Lent, 15. Mainstream, 18. Springtime, 20. Part, 23. Machismo, 24. Gemini, 26. Caribou, 27. Trainer, 28. Obese, 29. Taxi ranks
Down: 1. Androcles, 2. Refrain, 3. Dredge, 4. Iota, 5. Gastromome, 6. Draughts, 7. Wrestle, 8. Laden, 13. Tantamount, 16. Mardi Gras, 17. Envious, 19. Recurve, 21. Avignon, 22. Repair, 23. Macao, 25. Styx

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

The background of the poster is decorated with several colorful Easter eggs in shades of blue, green, and pink, some featuring yellow stars and others with polka dots. Interspersed among the eggs are four cartoon dinosaurs: three green ones and one light green one, all with friendly expressions and small teeth. The text is centered over this background.

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Lambing season lands at Snettisham Park

Sophie Hooker

Lambing season is upon us and local working farm Snettisham Park have been very busy preparing for the new arrivals.

The first flock arrived in January and will continue through to May, with two hundred lambs already born and around four hundred more to come. They are looked after by a team including staff members Gracie, Grace, owner Trevor and head shepherd Paul.

Snettisham Park houses four breeds of sheep, which are Suffolks, Mules and Texels and a few Herdwicks. The ewes are all scanned before birth to know if the lambs are healthy and if they are expecting



singles, twins or triplets.

The public are invited to help feed the lambs three times a day. These are for lambs that are mainly born as triplets or ones who get poorly. Staff member Grace Baldry-Roberts says: "Mum can look after two really well, and she can look after three but eventually one of them or the mum will go downhill, so we take one off to be bottle fed instead."

On the topic of lambing and the hard work it takes to look after the arrivals, Grace says: "Normally these guys are spread out over a couple of weeks, but the first flock decided to lamb in about two days, so that was fun! It is hard work, but if you love it it's not too bad."

Snettisham Park is a 329-acre working farm first opened to the public in 1986 and is owned by husband and wife Trevor and Colleen



Staff member Grace Baldry-Roberts feeds the lambs

Walters. They house a number of farm animals including pigs, cows, chickens, rabbits, sheep and goats. There is also a deer safari where visitors can meet their red deer herd.

As well as lamb feeding, visitors can enjoy activities such as egg collecting and grading and pony grooming and riding (during school holidays only). There is also a children's play area and a gift shop and café.

Snettisham Park is open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm at Bircham Road, Snettisham.



Colleen Walters runs the farm alongside her husband Trevor

Application submitted for 69 houses in Snettisham

The vacant plot of land just north of Poppyfields Drive in Snettisham may soon be home to almost 69 new houses if a new application is approved.

The application, submitted to West Norfolk council for their approval, details "the erection of up to 69 homes, including 30% affordable dwellings, together with the creation of a new priority junction (with all matters reserved except for access), provision of public open space and associated infrastructure."

If permitted, there will be 48 houses ranging from 2-bed bungalows to 4-bed houses, 14 'affordable houses' and 7 discount to market properties.

A discount market sale is a low-cost home ownership scheme where you can buy a property at a discounted price from a local council participating in the scheme in collaboration with developers.

This discount is typically around 20% – but can be as high as 50% – however a restriction is placed on the property's Land Registry Title to ensure that the property remains at that discounted rate for future purchases.

A comment supporting the application details the local need for



affordable housing, that it is in line with the neighbourhood plan and that the application gifts land to Snettisham Parish Council to protect the green space.

You can view associated documents and comment on the application via the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's planning portal, quoting the reference 20/00226/OM.

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Ageing population and disappearing coastline highlighted as key Norfolk challenges

Disappearing coastline, a growing and ageing population and fast evolving technology changing people's lives – these are among the challenges and opportunities Norfolk faces in 20 years' time, a recent summit has heard.

Now, the county council and other Norfolk organisations, including the District, City and Borough Councils, have carried out detailed research and pledged to work together to tackle these issues – and make the most of opportunities, such as autonomous vehicles.

The county Council brought together public sector and business organisations from across Norfolk for the First Futures Summit, along with representatives from the education sector and local organisations, including Extinction Rebellion, to discuss these challenges and how to work together to face them. The Summit was also joined by North West Norfolk MP James Wild.

Council leader Councillor Andrew Proctor said: "The future brings challenges as well as opportunities. Issues like our ageing population, climate change and increased automation mean that we cannot afford to stand still.

"By looking ahead and understanding these issues, we can work together on a bold and collective response – shaping future



investment and enabling us to get the best outcomes for the people of Norfolk.

"The Council has today acted as a strategic convener, bringing together leaders and influencers to draw on their expert knowledge, but we will only succeed if we are all committed to work better together, for the long term."

The council has carried out an extensive review of the issues that are likely to affect Norfolk over the next 20 years, which was presented to a summit of Norfolk organisations this month.

Key issues include:

- A 15 per cent overall population increase and a 96 per cent increase in the number of over-

85s – so there will be fewer working people, as a proportion of the total

- 75 per cent of new jobs will be in Norwich, posing issues for rural areas
- 30 per cent of current jobs will be automated
- Norfolk will have some of the biggest rises in temperature nationally and coastal marshes in north Norfolk could be lost to the sea
- Declining turnout at elections and declining membership of political parties – creating a risk that more people will disengage from democracy

The Futures Summit agreed to:

- Explore the public sector's ability to support talent, entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs to set up in Norfolk and offer workers of all ages an opportunity to use their talents in the workplace
- Look into developing a strategic sustainable infrastructure and environment plan for Norfolk
- Work to make Norfolk a place to be born, thrive and live out long lives full of opportunity as engaged citizens
- Recognise that Communities are built from the bottom up, and to work together to celebrate and build on the initiatives that are already happening on our doorstep to deliver better outcomes for all

Villages to receive funding for road improvements

£919,000 is set to be invested in 153 parish highway schemes, thanks to a county council initiative.

The council's parish partnership scheme invites communities to bid for cash for improvements such as vehicle activated signs, bus shelters, "trod" footpaths (simplified, low-cost footways, often constructed using recycled road surface material) and village gateways.

This year, the county council is set to provide £401,000. With match funding from

parish and town councils and, subject to a decision from the safety camera partnership, this could bring total investment up to £919,000 in 153 schemes across Norfolk.

Bircham's bid for trod footpaths totals £3,160, Docking's bid for flashing speed awareness messages (SAM2) is £3,608, Ingoldisthorpe have bid for new posts totalling £4,591 and Ringstead's bid for new village gateways totals £1,542.

Snettisham will see the most investment in the area with a bid for £10,000 for new trod

footways and £2,500 for new village gateways.

Councillor Martin Wilby, cabinet member for highways, infrastructure and transport said: "I'm delighted with the popularity of this scheme, which enables communities to identify the highway improvements they would most like to see. Our money attracts match funding from town and parish councils and the safety camera partnership, enabling us to invest more than £900,000 across Norfolk."



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Hunstanton residents have their say on new flats



Plans for what the new flats could look like were on display

It was a chance for residents to drop in and have their say about the controversial plans to build 32 flats on the Beach Terrace Road end of the Southend Road car park on Thursday 27 February.

The consultation was held at Hunstanton Town Hall where representatives from West Norfolk council were on hand to talk visitors through the plans on display. The plans revolved around a new library and the building of flats as part of Phase 1 of the Southern Seafrost Masterplan.

Dale Gagen, representing the borough council, said: "The response has been more positive than negative today. Today is about having that bigger conversation where we can listen to residents' issues and explain why we're doing things that way and the solution to the problem."

Mr Gagen revealed that there will be 100 spaces left of the Southend Car Park and that a proposal has been raised to open the coach car park car for all cars during peak days to combat the issue of lack of parking spaces.

On the new library, he described the plans

as "replacing a tired facility with a state-of-the-art building which will enhance the conservation area of Hunstanton."

Explaining what a suitable replacement for the bus station would be should the new library be built, he confirmed that two large bus stops will be created by the Spinney and the Princess Theatre. He confirmed that all

routes and stops will stay the same following talks with Lynx buses.

However, many were unhappy with the plans for the new dwellings on the car park. Speaking to *Town & Around* at the consultation, Seagate Road residents expressed fears that access to their homes will be further compromised by new dwellings and loss of car parking, as they already have issues with parking their cars near their house.

There were also fears that Hunstanton's infrastructure would struggle to cope with more residents, with particular concerns revolving around the size of the current GP surgery. A point was also raised about building on an area (the Southend car park) that regularly floods.

Topics raised also included the issue of the flats being purchased as holiday homes and therefore contributing little to the local economy, the council not utilising buildings they already own such as the Valentine Road offices and that signs describing Hunstanton as a 'Victorian Seaside Town' should be torn down.



New funding for up to 1000 smoke alarms in Norfolk homes

Norfolk Safety CIC have donated £5,000 towards the installation of up to 1000 smoke alarms in homes across Norfolk. The alarms will be installed by Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service as part of their home fire safety checks which they carry out in the homes of the most vulnerable people in Norfolk.

Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet member for Communities and Partnerships at Norfolk County Council, said:

"Our fire and rescue service play a vital role in protecting those most at risk in our county. This funding will allow them to provide piece of mind and an early warning for thousands of people in Norfolk who need it most."

Norfolk Safety CIC's Managing Director Glenn Floyd said:

"Smoke alarms should be an essential part of every home as early detection can significantly reduce your risk of harm. We are therefore delighted to be supporting the work of the fire and rescue service, made possible from delivering Fire Marshal and First Aid courses to businesses and organisations across the county."

The smoke alarms will be installed following home fire safety checks which Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service carry out for those considered to be most at risk. The checks aim to help residents prevent a fire in their home by reducing the potential risks and advises them



how to stay safe if one occurs.

The checks are carried out following an assessment of need which includes checking if residents have mobility issues, live alone or whether anyone living there is profoundly deaf.

Last year Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service carried out 4000 fire safety checks and helped to install 3000 Smoke alarms.

Checks will often be carried out following a referral from a professional but people can self-refer online.



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Heacham duo's children allotment dream becomes reality

Sophie Hooker



Claire with Stanley (left) and Rosie with Bayla (right)

Local mother and daughter duo Claire and Rosie Sanders are almost ready to launch their voluntary children's community allotment in Heacham, The Magick Patch, but they need your help.

Former hairdresser Claire discovered the therapeutic power of allotments when she was signposted to the mental health charity Mind after suffering from depression and anxiety and helped tend to their community allotment in King's Lynn. "From there, I decided to turn my front garden into a veggie patch, and I had all the local kids in the neighbourhood knocking on my door asking if they can come and help me," Claire says.

It was this overwhelmingly positive reaction that made her want to create a proper group for local children where they can experience the mental and physical benefits of growing produce in a safe and controlled environment; thus, The Magick Patch was born. Claire chose this name as the term Magick denotes working with the natural elements and powers to produce change.

Claire's daughter Rosie is a qualified teaching assistant who has worked in a special needs school and is currently undertaking her British Sign Language course. It is her experience with working with children with mental health issues and seeing for herself the lack of provisions for them that inspired her and her mum to undertake the

project.

The age range will be 2 to 20 and there are going to be two groups making scheduled and chaperoned trips to the allotment each week (days are to be confirmed) and those interested in joining or if they would like their child to attend can message Claire on 'The Magick Patch' Facebook group. They are hoping to be up and running later this spring. Parents will also be able to attend with their children.

They will be all-inclusive and will welcome older people if they have a lower mental age. There are also provisions in place for non-verbal people to communicate and the allotment will be paved so it is accessible for those in wheelchairs. There will also be two trained therapy dogs, chihuahuas Stanley and Bayla, and there will be a designated quiet space on a swing.

Claire says: "Ideally, even if I can just help one child that would be amazing. There are so many children that suffer with anxiety, depression and with special needs and I think if we can help as many children as we can just to be able to realise that their feelings that they're feeling will eventually pass and they will get through it."

"When you're experiencing it, you feel like it's the end of the world and there's nothing past that. So, it's just a case of showing people it will go away. Also, there is so much pressure at school and if you're not academic, but we want to show them that there's skills you can learn with your hands. It's about raising their self-esteem."

It was a grant from Broadland Housing that enabled the allotment to get off the ground and they have received help from friends and clubs such as Hunstanton Men's Shed who erected the shed, laid the slabbing and made some of the raised beds. Ridgeons also provided wooden stakes, felt for the shed roof and buckets, all free of charge. Jim from Just the Job Property Maintenance has also proved a godsend as he made the rest of the raised beds and erected the fence. They are registered with the Garden Organic charity which is all about growing plants organically and who offer extra support, advice and help with the allotment.

However, despite all of their progress there are still a few things needed to fully launch the project off of the ground. This includes funding for insurance and DBS checks, more concrete slabs (second-hand ones are fine), peat-free compost (it must be peat-free for environmental reasons) and prizes for competitions. They are also hoping to find a sponsor that can offer a couple of bottles of squash and water and some snacks for the children.

If you can help Claire and Rosie with any of these things, please make contact with them via their Facebook page 'The Magick Patch'.



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A Page from the Sage

Well now here we are again with a Page from the Sage for Town and Around for April 2020.

Flooding

Well now we have a lot of rain and windy weather, but we have not been too bad here in west Norfolk, but lots of people in other parts of the country have been flooded out and not for the first time. It seems to me that the government, Environment Agency and a lot of agencies do a lot of talking before they take any action whereby the police and the fire brigade are always first on the scene.

On the night of the 31st January 1953 the east coast of England had the most worst peace time disaster in the history of our island, the Great Flood, with the eastern side of the Wash being the worst hit: 15 people were drowned at King's Lynn, 25 at Snettisham, 9 at Heacham, 31 at Hunstanton which included 16 Americans and their families, but if it had not been for the speed of the rescues the death toll would have been much worse.

Hunstanton received the brunt of the sea's assault upon Norfolk. The alarm that the sea had come over and that many people were trapped in their homes came at around 7.30pm and straight away the police, the fire brigade and the St John Ambulance were on the scene. A first aid post and rest centre was set up in the Sandringham hotel ballroom and the dancers were given their money back, though some of them including some Americans stayed to help out.

By 8pm the news of the disaster had reached RAF Sculthorpe and the base group captain sent out for volunteers to assist in the rescue work. Among them was Airman 3rd Class Reis Leming USAAF who received the George medal as did staff sergeant Freeman A Kilpatrick USAAF, who at the time lived down the beach at Hunstanton. All these people and many others worked throughout the night and many of them risked their lives. At the dawning of the day the whole devastation of the area came to light: of all the bungalows along Heacham South Beach Road only three remained standing. It was also found out that there was no water supply to Hunstanton, so a call was sent out for water bowsters with fresh water to be sent in and they came from as far afield as Colchester and Cambridge. By nightfall an adequate supply of fresh water was available to everybody in the town and this service was kept going till the piped fresh water supply was re-established to residents of the town on the 7th of February. It was also found that a length of the Hunstanton to Kings Lynn railway line

by
Dick Melton
01485 535658

between Hunstanton and the village of Heacham was washed away and this to was rectified within seven days.

On the Monday morning after the storm a mate of mine who was out of work at the time went to sign on the dole and he was told he had to go to work for FW Shanks, clearing up the rubbish and rubble from the bungalows down the South Beach. He was told in no uncertain terms that if he refused this job his dole would be stopped so off he went and stayed with Shanks till the clear up was done. During the next few months the town was very busy with heavy machinery and workers everywhere. The fairground took a right old bashing as most of the stalls and rides were made of wood, also did the front wall of the blue lagoon swimming pool as some of the concrete from the wall was washed onto the beach; it is still there today though covered in sand. The promenade had a lot to be done to it and a new sea wall was built between the fair ground and the power boat slipway as there had been no wall there before the flood as this is where the water rushed in.

Everyone worked very hard and it was really amazing how a lot of things like the promenade, sea wall, swimming pool wall and the fairground got rebuilt so did the boating lake and the roller-skating rink. Some of the attractions were open again by Easter and most of them were open by Whitsun, this story tells that most of this damage done by this great flood was rectified within four to five months though some of it did take longer. Once the water went back at places like Wolferton, Dersingham and Snettisham then tons and tons of lime from a lime pit at Hillington was spread on the land but a lot of the land had to be left for three years before the farmers could grow crops on it again.

Queen Elizabeth, who was staying at Sandringham, came to Hunstanton on Wednesday the 3rd of February to look at all the damage and to speak to some of the



rescuers and survivors and also the workers that were busy clearing up. One good thing was our dear old pier withstood the storm and stood there for another 25 years till 1978 when it got washed away, but this time there was no loss of life.

Around the coast there was also a lot of damage and loss of life: at Wells and over the days immediately "Operation Sandbag and Shovel" was implemented by UDC workmen and hundreds of troops and volunteers to plug the breaches in the sea defenses. Work started on Sunday the 1st of February to seal a gap in the defenses at Salhouse with five bulldozers, flood lights, workmen, and 300 airmen. Further along the coast with a strong military presence and hundreds of volunteers the breaches were blocked and made safe from sea encroachments by the weekend of 14/15th February and the people of Sea Palling could look to rebuilding their little village again. This great flood happened in 1953, 67 years ago and except for some of the farmland and marshes, everything was back to normal within a year; I wonder how long it would take nowadays.

The circus

This is a write up about circuses: they have been coming to Hunstanton and before the First World War there was usually a circus twice a year and sometimes they would set up on a small field at the top of hill street or another field at the bottom of Seagate. Most of the heavy equipment arrived by road, the poles and tarpaulins for the large marquee, the wooden seating and other paraphernalia, as well as the caravans for the circus people and some of the animals would travel in cages on the back of wagons and later on lorries. A long convoy took to the road in those days before the Second World War there was no mention of cruelty to animals, rather it was the cunning and bravery of the trainers which people admired and all wondered at.

In addition a lot of the animals arrived by rail, especially those able to walk to the circus field. The short journey from the station usually took the form of an advertising procession when a small band would lead the procession followed by a few horses and their bareback riders, a clown or two and maybe a juggler throwing balls up into the air. But the stars of these processions were undoubtedly the elephants ambling along beside their keepers. Memorable occasions such as these so thrilled the crowd of onlookers as to be recalled over the years with a tingling in the pit of the stomach; this kind of simple but robust entertainment has no equivalent

nowadays.

The regular circuses that toured the country were Sanger's, Bostock's, Chipperfields, Billy Smart's and Bertram Mills who had a permanent base at Olympia in London; these circuses only went to large towns and most of the one's mentioned came to King's Lynn at some time or another. There was one particular advantage to be had when a circus came to a seaside town like Hunstanton and that advantage was a flat sandy beach: steeply shelving and pebbly resorts did not fit the bill so well. The elephants especially enjoyed a walk on the beach and a paddle in the sea and crowds would gather to mingle amongst them

as they and their keepers walked along the sands. I have been told that Billy Smart's circus came to Hunstanton in the 1960s, if anyone can remember this let me know.

Car Parks

What an interesting article in Town and Around about the car parks in Hunstanton and how much money (£1,168,669.10) the borough council takes off of us; you would think they would at least let Hunstanton have the odd (£168,10). You would also think they would get the names of the car parks right as there are no car parks in Seagate, the one they call Seagate East has since it was made into a

car park, called the Market car park. The other one, Seagate West, has for over 70 years been called "a" car park. The entrance to both of these car parks is in Beach Terrace.

Well, that's it for now it is still raining, but never mind it will make the sanfar grow. I am now off to Swaffham to do a day's troshin' for nothing.

All the best,

The boy Dick (the Sage)
Sunny Hunny (and wet)

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Over 75-year-olds who watch TV advised to see if they can receive Pension Credit

The Borough Council is encouraging over-75-year-olds to check if they're eligible for Pension Credit as this could mean they do not have to pay the TV licence fee when the free licence concession is withdrawn in June.

Under current rules everyone aged 75 and over can receive a free TV licence. From June this will change to only those over 75-year-olds who receive Pension Credit in order to help the poorest pensioners.

Cllr Adrian Lawrence, cabinet member for Housing, said: "Age UK say that up to £3.5bn of Pension Credit and Housing Benefit goes unclaimed each year by older people. With the rules changing for over

75-year-olds paying for a TV licence I would recommend that people visit gov.uk/pension-credit and click on the Pension Credit calculator or telephone 0800 99 1234 for advice.

"People successful with a claim for Pension Credit can also check to see if they are eligible for other benefits."

Across the UK over 1.5 million households with residents aged over 75 could receive free TV Licences funded by the BBC if they receive Pension Credit. TV Licensing will operate a self-verification system where individuals need to demonstrate their receipt of Pension Credit in order to qualify.

Flag raised for Commonwealth Day

Hunstanton's Mayor Cllr Tony Bishopp was joined by representatives of the Town Council and David Jones from Hunstanton Lifeboat Station to raise the Commonwealth flag at the War Memorial on 9th March to mark Commonwealth Day.

Cllr Bishopp said: "Fifty-four countries, today come together, to celebrate Commonwealth Day; together, we work to build peace and harmony through social and democratic development.

"The theme for 2020 is 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming'; his theme was chosen because the governments and people of our diverse family of 54 Commonwealth countries connect at many levels through far-reaching and deep-rooted networks of friendship and goodwill.

"Together the countries and people of the Commonwealth tackle climate change and its impacts; we work to find sustainable ways of using the natural resources of our planet, its land and ocean, so that our environment is protected.

"Together, we encourage inclusive economic empowerment and fair trade so that all people, particularly women, young people and those in marginalised communities can share the fruits of progress and prosperity.

"Together, we are delivering a common future by connecting, innovating and transforming our societies."

A message from the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth included: "Public gatherings to raise the Commonwealth flag on Commonwealth Day have swiftly become well established as an imaginative annual demonstration of Commonwealth connection. They provide a splendid opportunity every year for people from all walks of life to join with others in their local community to celebrate Commonwealth Day in association with fellow citizens throughout our worldwide family.

"Together we number over 2.4 billion people, a third of the world's population. Each and every one of us has something very special to offer, and as Commonwealth citizens we gain and draw benefit from vast interconnected networks of mutual support and collaboration."



Cllr Bishopp and David Jones with the Commonwealth Flag



Youth survey

Hunstanton Town Council are launching a Youth Survey to all the schools in and around the Hunstanton area about youth facilities or the lack of them.

All young people are asked to take part in the survey which aims to find out what is needed for youth leisure activities in the 21st Century.

Chief among them is the result of an enquiry by ten-year-old Caleb who was brave enough to come to a Full Council Meeting and ask about the possibility of a Skatepark returning to the sea-front.

The Survey will be going out to schools, is currently available from the Hunstanton Tourist Information Centre, can be downloaded from Hunstanton Town Council website or available to complete online at <https://forms.gle/JRq8SaEyJfZoyUqM9>.



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Hunstanton & District Civic Society

Andrew Murray and Sheila Kent

What's happening now

It is with great sadness that the Committee has decided that, in line with our Government's advice, we should close down all operations for the time being. This includes our Talks.

In addition, we believe that we are well advised to shut down the Heritage Centre with immediate effect.

Now that we are confined to barracks (as it were) there are lots of things that can be done 'in the background' to improve displays and other things so when we do open up again and can operate normally, we will be in an even better position. We hope so.

Stay safe everyone, look after yourselves and we hope to see all of you back in harness sometime soon. We shall keep you advised as things progress.

Heritage Centre official opening

Following the very successful and enjoyable official opening, the Centre gained excellent publicity. Gary Tuson, the Norfolk County Archivist came to the opening and said that as it was impossible for the Record Office to gather a comprehensive collection, it was important that heritage centres like ours put together records of their local area.

When a lady came into the Heritage Centre and offered some photos of her family enjoying themselves on Hunstanton Pier, it set Margi Blunden, one of our volunteers, thinking about the importance of donations.

The gathering together of hard evidence of our past has been going on for centuries. And this has led to people creating places such as museums for the public to enjoy. Human beings seem to like collecting things which reflect aspects of what we have created, invented or imagined; made for all kinds of purpose, either to help ourselves progress, make life more comfortable, or simply to express ourselves.

The invention of capturing an image has had far reaching effects. Each moment of our lives can now be documented.

But how was that done long ago? At the Heritage Centre we have not only photographs and paintings but images of creatures who lived so far into the past it is hard to imagine what the world was really like then. And these images are set in limestone! Nature has her ways of informing us....

Development and Regeneration

Several members of the Civic Society were able to attend the Consultation event on 27 February about the proposed development of the car park along the Southend Road. Although it was noted that the design incorporated some attractive features, it is far larger and extends further around into the car park than previously suggested. The main problem however is that it does not correspond with the vision for the town's redevelopment outlined in the 2008 Masterplan or its revision, the Prospectus of 2017. Unless a restriction is placed on the sales, we suspect that many of the apartments will become investments or holiday homes and thus not give the local economy any significant boost. The Civic Society response can be viewed on the website.

Hunstanton Town Council news

In the light of the most recent advice from the Government, Hunstanton Town Council is taking a proactive approach to mitigate the risk of the virus:

Hand sanitisers have been installed at the entrance to all our public buildings and visitors are urged to use them on entering and leaving. The Annual Town meeting originally scheduled for Friday 17 April has been deferred to Friday 29 May 2020 and the Saturday Car Boot sales originally intended to begin on

Saturday 11 April will be deferred to Saturday 6 June. All dates are subject to further advice from the Government.

Indoor events due to be held on VE Day (Saturday 9 May) will be deferred to VJ Day on Saturday August 15, again subject to further advice.

Town Council: 01485 532402



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Upcycling a tenner

West Norfolk Woodshop is a new business set up by two Year 8 boys as part of the four week Tenner Challenge.

Tenner is a National Enterprise Challenge, helping thirteen year old students to develop an enterprising mindset and prepare for the world of work as students aim to make a business work with a £10 start up fund.

Ethan Newton-Walters and Joshua Wylie attend Glebe House School in Hunstanton and for this challenge they chose to focus on reclaimed and natural inspired products. Joshua describes the start up on the website that he designed saying: "It all begins with an idea, we decided to participate in the young enterprise tenner challenge. Maybe we could design clothes, maybe we can rent supplies. Until collectively we decided to woodwork. Market research was conducted, positive feedback given and we decided on making coasters, place mats and cutting boards.

"Well the name, the name was the real challenge. We had a lot of bad names. We started on some strange suggestions and some non-professional ones. But we eventually settled on something clean, simple and professional: West Norfolk Woodshop.

"So our business was born and work could begin. We had work to get on with, wood to cut and sand, and websites and social medias to grow and create. This idea started because of the tenner challenge. But it became so much more!"

Sourcing their raw materials from charity shops, parents' woodpiles and old pallets the boys have made a variety of products. Additionally their upcycling projects have included turning redundant laboratory equipment into stylish pieces for flower arranging and wooden boxes and draws have been repaired and restored.

Sales have been made and Joshua and Ethan plan to continue with the business when the challenge ends. They have booked a stall at the Purfleet craft fair at St Nicholas chapel in King's Lynn on May 23rd and hope to attend other craft events throughout the



summer.

The Tenner challenge judges look for evidence of innovation, creativity and problem solving within all the awards along with stories of teamwork and personal development And the winners will be announced on will be announced on 8th April.

Visit the West Norfolk Woodshop website at:
westnorfolkwoodshop.co.uk

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For ages 0-5 years

Embracing the outdoors from a young age

Marie Day

With its wide open beaches, coastal paths and rich countryside, Hunstanton and the surrounding areas provide young children with a fantastic environment to enjoy, play and learn. At Glebe House Nursery we believe that it is vital for children's learning, development and well-being to spend as much time as possible outdoors. We are very fortunate that each individual year group has their own outdoor space catered to their needs. We use these spaces not only to play and explore but also as an extended classroom promoting as much outdoor learning as possible through fun activities and forest school type learning.

As children move into school life this helps to promote a healthy focus on outside learning and encourages pupils to take responsibility for caring about the world and the environment, now and in the future. Headmaster of Glebe House School, Louis Taylor, said, "To get the children outside, enjoying nature and their surroundings is so beneficial to their learning and well-being. Spending time outdoors during the school day allows them to simply enjoy the exercise, the sunshine and a chance to enjoy the natural beauty around them. They come back into the school feeling refreshed and invigorated with an appreciation for their environment".

On the 2nd May, Glebe House Nursery invite children aged 0-5 years to grab the hand of their favourite teddy and come along to a very special Teddy Bears' Picnic from 10am-1pm in aid of the NSPCC. As well as enjoying your own picnic in the fresh air, 'Hunny Bear' from the Princess Theatre will lead an enjoyable 'Teddy Toddle' around our outdoor spaces. Hartbeeps will be bringing along all the magic of their baby and toddler music and movement classes with a fun 'Teds in Grub' session. Other fun activities will be available inside

and outside the nursery with refreshments and an ice cream van also at this EYFS event.

If you would like more information on Glebe House Nursery please contact either:

Marie Day, Nursery Manager
mday@glebehouseschool.co.uk
01485 532809 ext 2

Tamzine Fraulo, Registrar
tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk
01485 532809 ext 3

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BUDGET 2020: "STABILITY TODAY" AND "PROSPERITY TOMORROW"

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The 2020 Budget was extraordinary. It marked a significant swing in economic policy from austerity to a level of "borrow & spend" that nobody would have imagined possible from a Conservative government.

Wherever you go, the Coronavirus is at the forefront of everyone's mind – and this Budget was no different. The Chancellor's "temporary, timely and targeted" measures all spoke of a government that is willing to intervene and do "whatever is necessary".

Business Rates Relief was increased to 100% for retail, leisure & hospitality businesses with Rateable values up to £51k.

Small businesses in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief, will get a £3,000 cash grant.

For individuals, there were a range of measures to provide security and support, including Statutory Sick Pay from day one of absence from work due to the virus (or Employment Support Allowance for the self-employed).

After the special Coronavirus measures the Chancellor moved to the main business of the Budget, including:

- Nothing much on Personal Tax and National Insurance. Increases in the NIC thresholds will be worth £104 to most employees and £75 to the self-employed
- The tapered pensions Annual Allowance Charge thresholds will be increased by £90k each
- Corporation Tax rates held at 19%
- Entrepreneurs Relief Lifetime Allowance was cut back from £10m to £1m for disposals on or after Budget Day
- Structures & Buildings Allowance increased from 2% to 3% wef 1 April 2020
- Fuel duty frozen for the 10th consecutive year
- Fuel subsidies for "red diesel" scrapped "for most sectors" in 2 years' time – agricultural, rail and non-commercial (e.g. domestic heating)



excluded, but concern raised by the Construction Industry as it is said that this measure will add c.£3k to the cost of a new house

- Home Working deduction has been increased from £4 p.w. to £6 p.w.
- The Capital Gains Tax Annual Exemption for 2020/2021 increased to £12,300
- No delay to the new rules for reporting and paying Capital Gains Tax on chargeable residential property, so the deadline becomes 30 days
- ISA allowance remains at £20,000 p.a. but Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund investment limits increased materially from £4,638 to £9,000 to encourage saving for the younger generation

All in all, it was a remarkably benign Budget designed to stimulate the economy and prevent Covid-19 tipping the economy into a deep recession. However, sooner or later there will be a financial reckoning, so, beware: "spend today, tax tomorrow". Hence we all need to be braced for the Autumn 2020 Budget as somebody is going to have to pay for all of this!

If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice, please contact either myself or my assistant Nicola Tarry FCA on 01485 534800 or email kate@kathryngigg.co.uk if we can assist in any way.

Mrs K H Gigg FCA

Caution: The information listed on these two pages is for general guidance only. You should neither act, nor refrain from action, on the basis of any such information. You should take appropriate professional advice on your particular circumstances because the application of laws and regulations will vary depending on particular circumstances and because laws and regulations undergo frequent change. Whilst I endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither I nor my firm shall be liable in damages (including, without limitation, damages for loss of business or loss of profits) arising in contract, tort or otherwise from any information contained in it, or from any action or decision taken as a result of using any such information.

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Happy spring

Forget chocolate eggs, the real treats are the spring collections and colourful accessories – plus some bargain buys later this month, writes Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney

Of course the big moment this month is Easter and spring is all around with pops of colour appearing everywhere in nature. It's also the perfect moment to review what's hanging in our wardrobes and to refresh it with some fabulous pieces from the spring/summer collections which are in-store now.

Floral prints and chic monochromatic pattern is big news this season so, whatever your style, there's plenty to choose from. A lovely example is this lightweight t-shirt from Michä which combines the two in a well-cut, lovely fabric. If you haven't discovered Michä yet, I urge you to pop in and see this season's collection. As a Danish label, exactly as you'd expect, it's known for its stylish design and attention to detail.

If you are looking for something a little more dressy, Michaela Louisa has delivered yet again with some fabulous pieces including this gorgeous shift which features a pretty floral print. Again, cut perfectly, it's chic and comfortable to wear, something that can't always be said of occasion wear.

Accessories are a great way to add a pop of colour to your wardrobe and we have some fantastic, inexpensive costume jewellery – something as simple as a bright, chunky necklace can transform a simple top, so pop in and let us help you to add some chic to your outfits.

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Thaxters plant of the month - Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Wendy Warner

If you are looking for a magnificent display of exotic colour in your garden in late Spring, azaleas and rhododendrons are the perfect choice. Although they are known by different names, actually they are both members of the rhododendron family and their cultural requirements are very similar. Their origins however are different with most azaleas coming from Japan and rhododendrons from the Himalayas.

Generally, rhododendrons are usually larger shrubs than azaleas and most have large leathery leaves. Azaleas have thinner softer leaves with multiple small stems and many azaleas are deciduous. They can range from compact, dwarf varieties suitable for a rockery to huge 'trees' for a woodland. Flower colours cover the whole spectrum from white through green, yellow, orange, pink, purple, red and even mauve-blue. Particularly notable are Rhododendron 'Molten Gold' with stunning variegated foliage and purple flowers and 'Percy Wiseman' with peachy pink and cream flowers, fading to creamy white which is a compact variety ideal for smaller gardens or pots.

Dependent on the variety and size of plant they can be used in pots, containers, beds or borders. Wherever they are, they will require acidic soil. If your soil is naturally acidic they can be grown in the ground with no problem. If you have more alkaline soil, it would be advisable to grow them in pots using an ericaceous compost. Larger varieties could be grown in larger containers such as half barrels or large tubs. The advantage of smaller plants in pots is that they can be brought into a prime position when flowering and then moved back somewhere more shady afterwards.

Most azaleas and rhododendrons prefer dappled, semi-shade with cooler growing conditions. Deciduous trees with small leaves and an

open structure such as birch could produce this. They are shallow-rooted, so don't plant them too deeply, and they require a moist but well drained position and dislike water-logging but would require additional watering if growing under established trees as the tree roots will absorb most of the natural water from the soil. If possible, use rainwater collected from a water butt, especially if you have hard water and feed them with an ericaceous feed containing iron.

Azaleas are one of the few groups of plants that don't require deadheading as seed heads rarely develop. On larger rhododendrons, removing seed heads will encourage new growth to develop more quickly. No regular pruning is required, just remove any damaged or dead wood. If older plants become leggy, hard prune them after flowering.

In North Norfolk, a stunning nationally important collection of rhododendrons can be found at Sheringham Park National Trust - they are definitely worth a look if you are over that way.

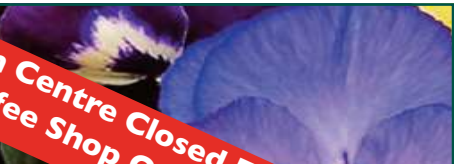




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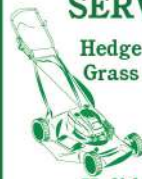
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Mudpies & Butterflies

with Louise Barby

"April....hath put a spirit of youth in everything" Shakespeare

As I write, I am feeling very ready for spring, more daylight hours, more sunshine and lots more time to enjoy outside. So start having a think about your garden and what you can achieve this year, if you put your mind to it.

Free plants:

Divide plants that have become congested. Snowdrops can be divided and repositioned, most self set perennials such as aquilegia can also be moved. Many divided plants improve in their appearance following this process.

Wild flowers/seeds

Annuals can be sown directly towards the end of this month. Purchase a few packets and scatter your own mix. You can even purchase a wild flower mix or even pre sown turf.

Flowers and shrubs:

Evergreen shrubs and trees can be moved now, provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged. You will need to ensure they are watered regularly until the roots have established.

Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as dahlias and ixia for something a little different in to beds, border and containers.

Put plant supports in place now so the plants can grow up through them.

Tie in climbers and roses to their supports.

Finish cutting back dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grasses.

Trim winter-flowering heathers to prevent plants becoming leggy, do not trim in to bare wood.

Deadhead daffodils and tulips, but leave the foliage intact, allowing it to die back naturally.

Vegetables & Fruit:

Prepare vegetable seed beds and start to direct sow. Onions, shallots and garlic are an easy starter crop. Asparagus crowns are a great idea, nothing tastes better than super fresh asparagus. Buy two year old crowns so that you can crop can be harvested this year.

Strawberries can be planted out once frosts have passed.

Apply slow release fertiliser around the base of raspberry canes and fruit bushes.

Lawns:

Lawn seed can be sown now, aerate very damp or compacted areas with a fork and brush away worm casts.

There's still lots of time to plan a garden or bed transformation, put pen to paper and gather lot of the new seed catalogues for inspiration and start to have a real think about what you'd like from your lovely garden this spring and summer.



Go wild at Easter

Family fun at RSPB Titchwell Marsh Reserve
From 1 to 18 April

Escape to the wild and get back to nature this Easter. Grab a backpack and cram it with everything you need for a wild adventure on the reserve. Trek along nature trails brimming with wildlife, go pond dipping, discover what owls eat for breakfast, explore rock pools and so much more (charges apply)

Find out more at
www.rspb.org.uk/titchwellmarsh

The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC0337894.


Easter fun at Titchwell

Carrie Carey

It's inevitable that sometimes we get stuck in a rut. Busy families juggling the demands of work, home, school and social pursuits are governed by schedules on smart phones and tablets. Modern parenting has become seemingly 'tech reliant' to help us keep up with the pace but being constantly hard-wired to tech may be limiting time that families spend together.

There are definitely moments when it's good to stop googling and start experiencing. Getting outside, stretching cramped limbs that have been huddled over laptops, opening eyes that have been squinting at screens and breathing in some fresh air – these are all things we need to do from time to time. I'm not saying that everyone has to negotiate white water rapids, climb the Three Peaks or have an epic adventure in East Africa; it's more about stepping momentarily away from a demanding routine and investing time in self and family.

While your planning Easter activities, why not fit in some nature along with trips to the cinema, soft play havens and the skating rink? RSPB Titchwell Marsh reserve will have a variety of activities for families to do and it's all about making your day, your way. If your tribe has restless legs then let them scamper down to the beach for a bit of rock pooling or enjoy a scavenger hunt along the strandline. Looking for mermaid's purses and collecting shells is always a favourite and you can borrow a bucket and spade if you forget your own.

Along the way stop and look for skydiving marsh harriers, their aerial acrobatics are pretty spectacular. Keen eyes might spot labyrinth spiders lurking in funnel shaped webs on the bank or beautiful male bearded tits hiding among the reedbeds, look out for their tell-tale black moustache. We'll be running some pond dipping sessions in the shelter of the Meadow Trail. There are lots of exciting creatures to find here and it's brilliant fun to look for tadpoles as they start to hatch; legless

squiggles in constant motion.

Hire a backpack and fill it with everything you want to have your own adventure on the reserve. Grab some binoculars and a magnifying glass to look for things close up and far away, pick up some ID sheets and do a spot of birdwatching or follow our tracker trail, complete with creepy crawly brass rubbings. If you're happy just to explore by yourselves then why not give the kids a compass and off you go!

True adventurers will want to join us on Wednesdays when we'll be looking at moths and discovering what owls eat for breakfast. If you're looking for an Easter Egg Hunt with a difference then join us on Easter Sunday and Monday when Mother Nature will be at the reserve. We'll start with a short story then send eager explorers off to find a variety of bird eggs. When you're finished come back and share your success with Mother Nature for a small prize.

We reckon that Easter could be the perfect excuse for busy families to ditch the habitual routine, get outdoors and experience a sense of wonder. If you visit on a Free Family Friday then entry to the reserve, backpack hire and pond dipping are all free (activities will be subject to availability).

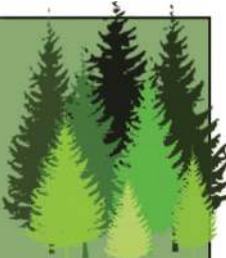
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Anglia in Bloom

Chris Earnshaw

Despite the winter rain and gales there have been pockets of colourful bulbs to cheer us up through the dark months. The In Bloom committee really appreciate the shops and businesses that have made the effort. But now we have to prepare the town for Anglia in Bloom maintaining the high gold standard of the last few years.

As reported last year we were also awarded Gold by Britain in Bloom and exceptionally, the Royal Horticultural Society has invited us to enter again for the 4th year running. This is a very unusual accolade, but we believe it is because we came so close in 2019 to winning Best in Class for Coastal Resorts.

Apart from impressing judges with our clean and pretty town there are several other categories where we need to show ongoing improvement. Tree planting and habitats for wild life are high on the list which is why the verges and grassy swathes are not mown so often or left to grow longer. Wild flowers **MUST** be allowed to bloom – it is not a cost cutting exercise!! I hope we all agree that flowers, even daisies and dandelions, are far prettier than stalks. Indeed 30% of the marks are for Environmental Matters and we hope to do more for recycling plastic bottles and aluminium cans with a Reverse Vending Machine. The Town Council has shown support by declaring its premises free of single use plastic, and supports water refill scheme. We need more nesting boxes and bug hotels – any offers to make or provide would be most welcome



We have always had good Community Involvement from schools, clubs, businesses, gardeners etc but new participants are always welcome. As 30% of the marks are awarded in this category we must be seen to be making a difference. Perhaps by sharing knowledge across the generations and including marginalised or disadvantaged people in activities. Do we need some new projects? Any ideas? If you would like to be involved please contact Chris Durham our Operations Manager chris.durham@west-norfolk.gov.uk Tel 01553 782078 or me as secretary, 2chrisearnshaw@gmail.com

The other 40% is for the Horticultural aspect which is where the Borough gardeners will transform the Esplanade Gardens and other areas supported by the Adopt-a-Bedders. Many residents and businesspeople will enhance their properties with lovely, planters, troughs and hanging baskets. Some will enter the Best Front Garden competition which also need to be bee, bug and bird friendly. Please support Hunstanton's entry for Britain in Bloom and Anglia in Bloom. Our goal is to get Best in Class.




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Nature notes with Roger

But first a note from your Editor: I'd like to thank Joanna who has written our Nature Notes column for many years. Her observations from around the local area made for excellent reading and were truly educational. Joanna has been unwell recently and has decided to retire from writing and move closer to her family. We all wish her well in her new home.

Luckily for T&A readers Roger Fickling offered to take over the Nature Notes, so welcome to the team Roger!

The times they are changing

As Joanna bows out from writing this monthly column, I will be stepping up to fill her shoes and trust I will be able to follow on her excellent contributions. I know her writings were greatly appreciated.

Firstly, let me introduce myself. My wife and I have been living in Norfolk for around 30 years now, with the last six, since retirement, being spent in this delightful corner of the north west of the county. It was fairly new to me when we came but I have so enjoyed getting to know the different areas and discovering the wildlife that abounds here. My interest in wildlife, and particularly birds, started as a youngster and has been with me all my life, during which I have volunteered with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and currently with the RSPB at Titchwell. My knowledge has been largely self-taught with numerous forays into the countryside, copious reading, and learning from those with far more experience. So while I am not naturally "steeped in country matters" as was Jo, I do have a great passion (my wife would say obsession), and an interest in imparting some knowledge to others. I shall continue, as Jo did, with my observations on the countryside and wildlife as I travel round this wonderful part of the county of Norfolk.

This is not the only change taking place, however. At the end of March and the beginning of April there are big changes in our bird populations. A few of our winter visitors are still lingering on before making their journeys north to their breeding areas, while many summer visitors will be arriving to take their place on nature's stage. At the time of writing, right at the end of February, nearly all the "pinkies" - pink-footed geese - have begun the return flight to their summer residences in Iceland, but good numbers of winter thrushes such as fieldfare and redwing can still be flushed from the hedgerows bordering the narrow lanes. In a month's time, by the end of March, the earliest of our summer visitors will be with us. One of the first to be seen and heard is the chiffchaff, which makes an incredible journey from north Africa, over 1500 miles (nearly 2500 kilometres), to arrive on these shores. It is a small fairly indistinctive brown bird, but what it rather lacks in appearance it makes up for in its call, which is a ringing two tone "chip" "chap" "chip" "chip" "chap" "chip" "chap", which gives the bird its name.



In my travels around I am also noticing big changes in the road verges, hedges and woodland copses. While the bushes in the hedges are still bare, enabling a discreet look into the fields beyond without being observed by the lapwings and partridges on the other side, the ground beneath and the banks are beginning to sprout with early spring flowers. I have seen lovely displays of snowdrops, daffodils and primroses, the former looking best in small clumps in a woodland setting. Road verges are gradually showing a wonderful splash of colour as crocuses begin to push up through the warmer soil. And blackthorn, usually the earliest shrub to flower, is suddenly giving us a lovely display all along our roadside hedges.

Finally, as you read this, I do hope the weather has made some changes too, from the very wet, windy and at times bitterly cold days we had through February to the milder warmer days of spring heralding in the time of Easter and new birth.



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Hunstanton Gardeners' Association

Hunstanton Gardeners' Association held their first meeting of 2020 in their new venue - the Town Hall, to hear Julia Stafford Allen speaking about the National Garden Scheme.

Julia explained that garden tourism is not new - Michael de Montaigne left diaries in which he wrote about visiting gardens in 1580 and the 17th century diarist John Evelyn was an enthusiastic garden visitor. Initially, only the upper class was welcome to the most prestigious gardens but as the time went on the more ordinary folk were allowed in.

Many of us enjoy visiting the private gardens opened by their generous owners to raise money for the charity National Garden Scheme. What we didn't know was that the idea was started in 1859 to raise money for district nurses, but it wasn't until 1928 that it became the National Garden Scheme. Garden owners were asked to open their gardens for a "shilling a head" and 609 gardens opened and raised a total of £8,191. By 1930 900 gardens opened including those of Sir Winston Churchill and Vita Sackville-West.

Now there are over 3,700 private gardens open in England and Wales which raise an amazing amount of money donated to nursing and health charities.

Chairman Canny Jones thanked Julia for her interesting and informative talk.

Anyone interested in joining the Hunstanton Gardeners' Association should contact the Membership Secretary June Hammond 01485 535763.

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My grandfather was a true gentleman of the land...

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

In 1955 George Limb took the opportunity to purchase a heavy Keuper marl clay farm just down the road from Tuxford in North Nottinghamshire, comprising of only 240 acres. He had previously been employed by Derbyshire County Council as an estate manager after leaving Leeds University with a first class honours degree in agriculture, as did my father. Following his lifetime involvement with the NFU, he subsequently was nominated for, and received an OBE.

There was not one flat or straight field on the farm and, at the time, my grandfather refused to buy a four-wheel-drive tractor: "Two wheels have always been fine – why should we change now?" The Butterley Brick Works was just across the valley – I think that says it all.

Priors Park Farm was absolutely beautiful, and would have made a great horse eventing course, but it was a nightmare to farm. Trying to combine up hill and down dale with a 1530 New Holland Clayson combine was near to impossible. You were either blowing all the grain out of the back or filling the tank with chaff. I finished one night at 1.00am in the morning when my dad came to look for me. The down-rated six cylinder 110 hp Ford engine was immediately shut off – that was until greasing around the following morning – greasing the nipples was not a sexual offence by the way. I think I could find all 28 of them in my sleep even to this day.

The steepest field that we rented was on 'Nickerbush' – possibly because of the need to change your underwear afterwards. "Everything upwards and trust in the Lord" as my father used to say. The land was unforgiving, although we did grow some respectable sugar beet crops on it. But farming on a one-in-five slope is not much fun – especially in a wet autumn.

My grandfather had the opportunity to buy the adjoining 400 acre farm in 1968, but declined to pay £400/acre at the time. With inflation running at 25% at the time, he would have got his money back in two years – you were literally being subsidised to borrow, but George had grown up in a time of post-war austerity and refused to take what he thought were financial risks. What a shame – we would have been farming over 1,000 acres of land as a result, and could have provided an income for all three families – me included.

Shortly after acquiring Priors Park Farm, George was offered the tenancy of a sand-land farm only seven miles away near Clumber Park. The two soil types could not have been more diametrically opposed. We used to joke that if we had taken a load of soil backwards and forwards every time we travelled between the two locations we would have had the perfect soil type.

The Bunter Sandstone soil is a bit like Skegness beach – you can always travel on the land as long as the tide is out. Without

irrigation it would have been impossible to farm the land. The spring wind blows were devastating. We re-drilled sugar beet three times once in 1974. Irrigation was totally from river abstraction, which left you vulnerable to licence restrictions in a dry summer – exactly when you needed it the most. What would the general public prefer most – freely available fresh vegetables or the luxury of leaving the tap running overnight?

Back in the 1970's we thought a 100 horsepower tractor was the bees' knees. Little did we realise that within a few short years it would just be pulling the shooting cart on a Saturday afternoon. The first truck we ever bought outright cost £1850. It was a twin-axled Commer and did have the facility of a 'Diff Lock' and an Eaton two-speed axle, which was quite useful when travelling over sandy land.

“It is a sad fact that more experience has been lost over the years than we shall ever know”

My main memories were of the devastating winter of 1981/82, and the drought years of the mid 1970's. By definition you would need to be carrying 35 foot-long sprinkler pipes over potato ridges in the searing heat. I would be up at the crack of a sparrow's fart and come back from the pub at midnight, after switching off the Perkins P6 irrigation engine. Happy days or what?

The sand land was easy to work, but difficult to control weeds on. Fat Hen and Annual Nettle were the worst. I spent a week in bed trying to recover from heat exhaustion after pulling Fat Hen plants in the blazing heat with no hat on or water to hand. You can stuff that job where the sun doesn't shine forever and a day. Later on the same year we experienced severe winter weather. We lit straw bales under the tractors just to get them to start at temperatures of minus 12degC. In those days winter grade diesel was not available, and 'waxing up' of fuel was a huge challenge.

The most amazing thing was that one morning none of the Fords would start, so we resorted to firing up the old Fordson Major that had been sat out in the cold and pouring rain all night – it started instantly. With a set of jump leads we struck up all of the other more 'modern' tractors, much to my huge amusement. They didn't call it a "Power Major" for nothing.

I suppose my fondest memories of the family farm were those where everything



appeared to go swimmingly. However the farm workers were always the greatest obstacle to productivity. We had ten men employed on two farms and most of them hated each other. My diplomatic skills were honed at a very early age, especially when trying to manage the workers that were old enough to be my father. But the most rewarding thing was that just occasionally one of these men (sorry no women) would let slip a little nugget of lifetime knowledge. This was priceless, and I treasure such advice to this very day.

It is a sad fact that more experience has been lost over the years than we shall ever know. As a result we will continue to try to reinvent the wheel, as opposed to learning from our 'Olders and Wisers'. My most favourite employee, Frank Antcliff, taught me how to plough; set up a plough; and turn a reasonable furrow. Check chains were not necessary if you got the pitch, roll and yaw right.

At one time my grandfather had 20 Shire horses on the farm. In the days before tractors, this was the only motive power on the land. Oats to fuel the horses required up to 10% of the available land area. Our heavy land farm used to be described as 'Four Horse Land', because it would require four to do the work of just one on sandy soils. The humble horseman knew he'd done a day's work after arriving home to his 'Ploughman's Lunch' which is still a pub staple to this day.



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Introducing our four **NEW** businesses that have joined Drove Orchards so far this year...

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A passion for children's fashion

The way we shop has changed over recent years with discerning shoppers eschewing the larger shopping centres in favour of interesting rural oases that have been popping up around the country.

Always best with a core (pardon the pun) business, Drove Orchards, on the A149 at Thornham is an example of an outstanding site with a collection of interesting and exciting businesses to tempt shoppers.

Nippers of Norfolk is the newest childrenswear shop to open at Drove Orchards - and it is beautiful!

With toys and clothes for babies and children up to twelve, this exciting store is run by friends Charlotte and Torie who have six children between them ranging from one to twelve so they know a bit about clothing youngsters.

The ladies met at the school gate and have children in the same classes, but that's not all, they are both from the Fens and their fathers are farming neighbours.

The business has an easy to navigate website too and you can order online at: <https://www.nippersofnorfolk.co.uk/>

The range of clothes, toys and accessories is impressive and includes some very well known brands including Noa Noa, Deux Lapins, Toffee Moon, Turtledove London and 3 Sprouts amongst many others.



Charlotte (left) and Torie

Nippers of Norfolk has had a great start, and when we visited Charlotte was re-ordering stock from toy supplier Djeco after just 10 days trading! (see pic right).

Drove Orchards also welcomed three other new businesses to the site this month making it possibly the most exciting and diverse retail oasis on the Norfolk Coast.

Don't miss the Easter Egg Hunt around the Orchard 9-14th April.





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One thing we're asked about is how 'green' double glazing is by homeowners looking to make eco-sensitive choices. There is often confusion about single-use plastics and PVCu but there is an important distinction to be made. In fact, in addition to being one of the most thermally efficient choices, PVCu can be recycled up to ten times and if, on average, each cycle is 35 years, means the material has a lifetime of over 300 years. At West Norfolk Glass, we are committed to recycling materials as far as possible and waste is collected to be reused back into production.

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Sustainable improvements

We recycle our bottles and cans, but have you considered how green your home improvements are, asks West Norfolk Glass' managing director Geoff Parker



April is traditionally home improvement season and a great time to take stock and review the appearance and condition of your home. Are the seals of your windows and doors sound or do they let in draughts or moisture? If you have double glazing, is it fit for purpose or do you have any panels which are fogged or have moisture inside? Is your front door sound and secure enough to withstand the elements or unwanted intruders?

It's also the moment when typically we get going on those grand



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On the turf with Charles Joyce

April brings in a long overdue change to betting regulations. No longer will gamblers be able to build up massive debts on credit cards to finance their gambling addiction. They will still be able to drain their bank accounts by using a debit card. But much of the problems from gambling does come from the ability to run up massive debts without the resources to pay the bill. One anomaly this will stop is the credit card company charging for the use of the card to pay into accounts held with bookmakers. Generally the bookmakers don't charge to deposit the money from a credit card but the credit card company has done in the past.

Town and Around readers may not have got the winner of the first race at Cheltenham, but hopefully the warnings were taken in January and all avoided placing hard earned cash ante post on Envoi Allen, because he was an absentee from the race. For anyone who ignored the trends would have had the extra financial pain when the gelding won the first race on Wednesday. Henry De Bromhead did win the Arkle Chase, but not with Notebook who ran below par. Instead the first mare in forty years won at 14/1. Who has not said Put The Kettle On! The four year old handicap hurdle went against us when Night Edition ran second at 16/1 (22/1 earlier in the day) being beaten by a Gordon Elliott handicap hurdler only added salt into the wounds, but Willie Mullins delivered for Town and Around in the very next race with Ferny Hollow at 11/1 (earlier in the day 16/1). Thursday showed Town and Around was right to take on Faugheen who finished third behind, Samcro, one of the Gordon Elliott chasers, who was 4/1 (earlier 5/1). Going into Friday Gordon Elliott (6 wins) Nicky Henderson (4 wins) and Willie Mullins (3 wins) between them had 13 of the 18 winners and shared the first three in the Gold Cup betting. Not to be considered a back number Willie Mullins won the first four races including the Gold Cup, but almost prophetically his son Patrick could only finish second behind It Came To Pass who won the amateurs' race winning at 66/1 and over 240/1 on the betting exchanges.

With many sports event postponed a reflection on some bets still running. Atletico Madrid are into the quarter finals of the Champion League and are now as short as 10/1 against the previous 33/1. Chelsea and Arsenal are in the quarter final of the FA Cup where Manchester City are as short as 4/6. Whoever lifts the trophy at Wembley City at 4/6 are a price to avoid. They are second in the Premiership, but are not getting the results of last season, and with the third, fourth and fifth teams in the Premier League still in the tournament the bookmakers are being very greedy, especially as City will not play any match at the Etihad being due to travel Newcastle for the quarter final match, with the semi-final and final played on neutral ground.

Recently I saw a rerun of the Quantum Leap series on Forces TV. In the last episode Sam Becket goes back in time to tell Beth, the first wife and only true love of his hologram friend Al, that Al was still alive and he would come back from Vietnam. During the clip Beth is dancing alone to the legendary Ray Charles's soul classic Georgia On My Mind. Ol Blue Eyes himself called Ray Charles, the only true genius in show business.

When the Rolling Stone magazine's 2008 list of the 100 greatest ever singers resurfaced last year Twitter had to have its say. Plenty of comment, about the places for Bob Dylan, Elvis and Steve Nicks, while George Michael, Frank Sinatra, Bette Midler, Grace Slick and Jimi Hendrix did not even make the list. Few argued against it being topped by Aretha Franklin with Ray Charles at number two.

I can't help wondering how many walls of the baby boomers, especially the male of the species, were plastered with pictures and posters of Grace Slick (Jefferson Airplane) and Stevie Nicks (Fleetwood Mac). The Airplane, who's White Rabbit provides the background music to a TV advert for cruises, headlined Monterey, Woodstock, and the first Isle of Wight festivals. There were numerous stories about wild parties of the sixties and seventies. One that didn't quite get out of control was when Tricia Nixon invited, Grace Slick, another former alumni of Finch College New York, to a reunion in her father's residence on Pennsylvania Avenue. Grace decided she would take Abbie Hoffman (one of the Chicago Eight who was an anti-war icon of the counterculture era) as her partner. The two turned up with the written invitation from Tricia, but were refused entry by a member of the secret service who recognised Abbie or Grace or probably both. Taking it upon himself to refuse them entry he decided that they were not the type of person who should be allowed in to the party irrespective of the written invitation. Later Grace said the plan was to drop some of the hallucinogenic drug LSD into the President's drink.

The song Georgia On My Mind reminds me that April is usually the month when the green jacket is handed out for the player who has triumphed among the azaleas and dogwoods of Augusta National, Atlanta, Georgia. Unfortunately, along with many other events the Masters has been postponed. So I'll end with the usual message. Remember the golden rule of punting. Pay the bills first and under no circumstances bet if you cannot afford to lose, because even the best professional punters lose more often than they win.

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Linking Up

Article by Norfolk County Councillor Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance

Adult Social Care in Norfolk - some facts and figures

Last month I reported on the budget that Norfolk County Council delivered and talked about the reasons why Council Tax needed to go up.

This month, I thought it would be useful to focus on the largest 'Spending Department', Adult Social Care, to drill down into what we (you) are actually paying for.

On any day in Norfolk:

- We spend over a million pounds a day on Adult Social care.
- So on any day, we are supporting around 14,000 people – the equivalent of the town the size of Wymondham
- Just over half of those will be older people; the other half will be people with Learning difficulties, physical disability and mental health.

Adults Social Care Budget

Norfolk County Council spends about £448m a year on Adults, out of a total £1.4 billion spent by the Council.

The vast majority of that goes on 'buying' care for people – from home care providers, Care Home providers, specialist providers. One of the largest and best rated of these is

our own, wholly owned Care Home provider, Norsecare Ltd.

- We spend around £175m on services for around 7,900 older people
- We spend around £123m on services for around 2800 people with learning disabilities
- We spend around £27m on services for people with physical disabilities
- We spend around £22m on services for people with mental health.

Spending on adults by the Council has increased by 26% overall over the last 4 years. Children's spending has also increased by 32% while all other areas of council spending have reduced. See the table at the end of this article to see how we have had to cut our cloth to meet our statutory (and societal) obligations).

Some of the main things we must think about when planning our funding, both now and in the future, are:

More people using our services – the population grows in Norfolk every year and gets older; as the population ages, so we need to be there for more people.

Norfolk's people will be older than other



comparable counties and we are likely to see a reducing tax base and increased demand on our services. Our young population (0-16) will grow by only 1.4% over the next 20 years, whilst those aged between 65 and 84 will increase 29% and those over 85 will increase by 96%. While this is clearly a Good Thing, it has to be planned for and current central government assistance to counties like ours has historically been slanted against us.

Gross Expenditure Budget	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	%
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Change	Change
Adult Social Services	355.500	369.422	410.205	427.598	448.339	92.839	26%
Children's Services (non-schools)	172.344	184.178	191.662	205.513	227.024	54.680	32%
All other non-school services	471.187	438.338	414.585	426.556	441.177	-30.010	-6%
Total	999.031	991.938	1,016.452	1,059.668	1,116.540	117.509	12%

Can Remap help you?

Remap is a UK charity that helps people with a disability to live more independent lives by designing and making customised devices which are then provided to the user free of charge.

This unique charity brings together the two communities of people, volunteers who are skilled at making things and disabled people who find themselves needing a specialist piece of equipment that they cannot buy commercially, regrettably we do not copy commercial items.

There is a local group of Remap based in Kings Lynn which covers the large rural area out to and including Hunstanton, Wells-next-the-sea, Fakenham, Swaffham, Downham Market, Wisbech and Holbeach.

Throughout the UK Remap has just under 100 groups and each year produces around 4000 custom made devices to help the disabled, our local Norfolk West group receives between 30 and 40 referrals mainly from Occupational Therapists at hospitals or in Social Services but

also from the caring charities like The Stroke Association and the Motor Neurone Association and directly from prospective users.

If you know someone who could use a device made by Remap or if you would like to volunteer to help Remap design and make items you can visit our website at www.remap.org.uk or contact us locally by calling John Chamock on 01553 631872 or John Cole on 01485 542412.



Borough Council News Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Terry Parish Independent Borough Councillor

(Currently) Leader of the Independent Group, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Happy Easter to you all. As I write this self-isolation has entered the vocabulary and the question of when Council is affected has arisen. Officers who do the work are all below, well below, 70 years of age but many councillors are not. So, councillors might be prevented from doing a proper job. What difference will it make you might ask? Not a fat lot would be my immediate response.

Almost half the Council are opposition councillors.

The function of councillors is to steer policies and ideas through panels and committees, make recommendations and, most importantly, challenge decisions (which emanate from Cabinet) through scrutiny. Scrutiny can be done in two ways. Sufficient numbers of councillors may request that a decision is referred back to a different panel and that panel may disagree with Cabinet and throw it back to them or to Full Council. Or, recommendations that come forward may be questioned, challenged, at Full Council.

During the last month or so the process of scrutiny, already considered token by opposition groups, is now either thought of as fiction or in the process of becoming so.

Local politics is either Tory or something else. Tories hold the majority on Council; all significant panels and committees are chaired by Tories and a majority of their members are Tories. Effectively, decisions are whipped. All the Cabinet are Tory councillors and what the Cabinet decides is never questioned by Tory Councillors at Council. The only significant and consistent questioning at Panels is from opposition members. The only questioning at all at Full Council is from opposition members. (One Tory councillor occasionally says something).

At the last Council, questioning from the public and from opposition councillors meant that the meeting reached the 3-hour limit set

by the constitution. It could have been extended but the leader proposed it was terminated and the Tory majority agreed. Debate was cut off mid-sentence, a motion (to do with climate change) was not heard (again).

The Leader is now proposing that questioning is restricted by time and numbers. Tory councillors will be allocated some of this time and, though they have never questioned before, you can be sure they will do if it further restricts opposition questioning – scrutiny.

There is no digital recording of Borough meetings including Full Council. Consequently, the discrepancies between written minutes and what actually is said, is a cause for concern. I proposed a motion at Council that meetings should be recorded several months ago. It was kicked into touch by the Leader even though the County Council, of which he is also a member, does record. The proposal is supposed to be resurfacing soon.

So, coming back to corona virus. If panels and Council come down to emails between members, the Y (yes) keys will have it and the N (no) keys will not. Scrutiny will move from ineffective to isolated. Spot the difference if you can.

Enough of this politics. Has anything happened of great significance to yourselves? No, not really. The Environment Policy, covering all sorts including climate change, plastics, trees, house building and developments etc etc, is slowly, so it is said, coming to a conclusion. The Local Plan Task Group is being thorough considering the ramifications of various policies emerging for the new Local Plan. The mix of houses is becoming more important. Energy generation and efficiency is being taken seriously though there remain market limitations – cost – as national dictates and building regulations are



not changing fast enough. The proposed Gaywood development, 380 homes, will all be fitted with photovoltaics or air source heat pumps; they will be available to rent, buy, shared ownership etc. Various national grants for town centres are being chased which, if successful, will mean something for Lynn.

Locally, not a lot. Heacham awaits movement on Cheney Hill, still; a few minor applications court controversies and, as always, discussing proposals with the Parish Council would help. Parking charges at South Beach were reconsidered following my request but no answer has been forthcoming.

Sedgeford was quiet but I have this minute been informed that a consultation is to begin on the proposed closure of the primary school from 31st August. It remains to be seen if either Sedgeford or Fring will benefit from national budget proposals re buses. I doubt it but will pursue that with County Councillors once more is known.

Last thing. I will be interested to hear of the impact of the corona virus on local businesses – problems or opportunities – will all of England holiday in Heacham and Hunstanton this year to avoid stranding in foreign parts? In which case, the sewage system will be tested.

See our website for local news between editions: www.townandaround.net

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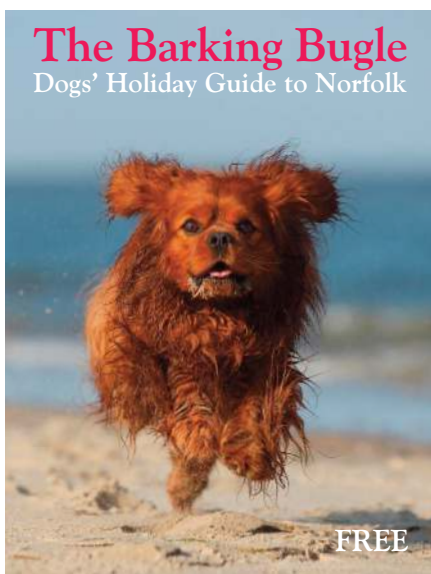
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DOGS' HOLIDAY GUIDE TO NORFOLK 2020 - OUT NOW!

Hello and huge woofs to everyone out there! I am Pupstar Cavalier, Editor and intrepid repawter at the Barking Bugle. I'm really excited to tell you all that the third edition of our 'Dogs' Holiday Guide To Norfolk' will very soon be published, and I can't wait to receive feedback from all my furry friends from around the country who will be itching to get their paws on a copy! My team and I have worked extremely hard to tell you about all the important things that every doggy tourist should be aware of. The magazine is packed full of information about beaches, walks, days out, tourist attractions and details about the best places to stay.

The guide has been growing in popularity since we first started work in 2018, and whenever I have been out and about recently doggies of all sizes and breeds keep asking me when they can woof all about the 2020 edition. Well, the simple fact of the matter is that copies will be available in a few weeks' time at the beginning of April.

As usual the magazine will be free of charge (How good is that?) and will be distributed by the gang at various Tourist Information Centres, a vast array of dog friendly establishments and visitors' attractions, hotels and eateries across the county. If you are unlucky enough not to get a copy you will still be able to view it online on our website at the end of April.



The Barking Bugle has recently been featured on ITV News and members of the team have appeared on Sky News, BBC Breakfast TV, BBC Radio Norfolk, The Telegraph, Heat Magazine, and on ITV's 'Britain's Favourite Dogs - Top 100'.

Once again I would like to thank each and every member of the Barking Bugle team, the businesses, advertisers and our friends at Hunstanton Town and Around. We would really like to woof our appreciation to all

those advertisers who have stayed with us this year and to those who are new - without you we would not have been able to bark about our printed pawblication. Thank you all so much!

We really hope you enjoy reading our 2020 edition. For a full list of outlets across Norfolk please visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

Very excited woofs Pupstar

I'm a bit worried about some things I am seeing on Facebook. Please tell the humans that: COVID19 Does not affect and is not spread by pets.

According to a newspaper repawt today: The Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, has stated that the elderly will be able to go out and walk their dogs during months of self-isolation.

If any humans have COVID19 symptoms and have to stay in for 7/14 days, find some fun things to do together indoors: hide and seek the dog treats, get out the snuffle balls and tuggies, learn some new tricks (have a look at you tube) snuggle up and have cuddles.

There is no reason for any pets to be abandoned! Some pawrents will be finding it hard to feed us - if they can spare a little of our food please ask them to donate it at Lily's Pet Supplies in Hunstanton and we will distribute it to some hungry dogs.

Hugs Pupstar xx❤❤

Lost dog Susie's story

Ros Pugh

Susie was taken into the Border Collie Trust G.B. Staffordshire on 21st February 2019 from a farm in Northern Ireland as a failed working sheep dog who had a notch cut from the tip of one ear and a vertical cut down the other. She was vaccinated, micro chipped and neutered by the trust.

Following this very frightening experience she was understandably a very worried girl. She did not know how to walk on a lead, had no interest or knowledge of toys or treats, was unresponsive to commands but was good around other dogs.

Susie just froze when on a lead and had to be carried to an outdoor enclosure where she was too worried to explore, she just cowered in a corner.

I was advised that this beautiful, gentle, scared girl would never come willingly for a fuss but after a while travelling home with her in the back of the car she cuddled up to me for comfort and affection. When we arrived home she explored the garden and house, immediately adopting a corner of my bedroom as her "safe place". It took her three days to discover the comfort of my bed, she cuddled up to me on top of the covers and pawed at my book if it was receiving more attention than her!

Susie had to be taught how doors work, what glass windows are and to toilet outside. With her problems I was unable to take her on a lead in the garden that I was convinced was safe with 6 foot fences and gate which three of us had examined. Sadly this was not the case and Susie managed to escape on the evening of 30th May 2019. With no idea of her whereabouts she panicked and ran and is still running, especially from humans. If you see her please ring or text me on 07894160440. I desperately want this lovely girl home with me.



Illegal ear cropping in dogs on the rise in East Anglia

Norfolk and Suffolk RSPCA officers are concerned following a flurry of calls about ear cropping in the region. They say: 'Please don't buy dogs with cropped ears - it's not normal!'

RSPCA officers in East Anglia are urging people not to buy dogs with cropped ears after a string of calls to the charity about the illegal practice.

The warning comes after a number of reports to the charity's cruelty hotline of dogs with cropped ears and 'bleeding, stitched up wounds' coming in from Dereham and Diss, Norfolk, and Lowestoft in Suffolk.

In 2015, the RSPCA received 14 reports of ear cropping and cropped ears from across England and Wales. But, last year (2019), that had risen 236% to 47 reports.

And officers working across Norfolk and Suffolk said they've seen a flurry of calls in the last six months - having had very few in the past.

Local RSPCA inspector Dave Podmore said: "Ear cropping has been illegal in the UK for a long time and it's not something that I've seen much of during my time working at the RSPCA."

"But in the last few months I've had a number of reports coming in from local people in Norfolk and Suffolk who have



Photo RSPCA

grown concerned after spotting dogs in the streets with cropped ears or after seeing puppies with bleeding, stitched up wounds on their ears."

It is illegal, under Section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to crop a dog's ears but the RSPCA fears that images shared on social media, especially from the USA and in Europe

where the practice is legal or unregulated in many states/countries, celebrity culture and an increase in bull breeds seen in advertising is normalising the look and making it more popular.

Dave added: "I wanted to let people know that no matter a dog's breed, this is not normal. Dogs aren't born this way and there are absolutely no benefits to having their ears cropped. In fact, it's a process that is extremely painful and barbaric, and can cause them health and behavioural problems throughout their lives."

"So please don't support this awful practice and don't buy a dog with cropped ears."

An RSPCA spokesperson - from the charity's Special Operations Unit, responsible for investigating serious and organised animal cruelty such as ear cropping - said: "We believe ear cropping is being carried out illegally in this country. And we also believe that many breeders, sellers and buyers are sending dogs abroad to have their ears cropped before bringing them back home."

"Anyone who is concerned that someone might be cropping dogs' ears themselves or sending their dogs abroad to have the procedure done should report it to us by calling our 24-hour emergency hotline on 0300 1234 999."

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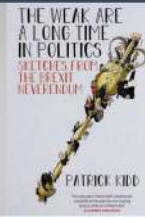
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Letters to the Editor

In respect to the Concept Plan..

Parking is always going to be a problem in Hunstanton whatever solution you come up with. It simply was not built with the motor car in mind.

I know when I had the hotel in Avenue Road to restrict parking to permit holders would have had a detrimental effect on the business as would double yellow lines. I can understand that similarly many businesses in town would have the same fears.

Residents parking too is difficult. I know in Brighton you can purchase resident parking permits but they issue three times more permits than there are parking spaces. No-one is going to buy a permit if they cannot then find a place to park.

In a number of places, I know of towns in the West Midlands and in residential areas close to London underground stations, where parking is prohibited for an hour a day. Usually this is around the times that shops are closed for lunch so as to cause minimal disruption to local businesses. This has the effect of preventing cars from being parked all day and also means that to police the parking needs a warden for that short period.

The argument against this is that residents will have to move their cars for one hour. Perhaps this is where a resident's permit would work. It would give them exemption for an hour and ensure a parking space for the remainder of the day.

As I said from the start there is no one fits all solution but if plans go ahead to reduce off street parking the situation in Hunstanton will get much worse.

Bob Frewin

Hunstanton Car Parks

My name is Alfie Rake and I live on Seagate Rd I was very interested in your article on Hunstanton car parks but one thing that was left out in the article was the fact that none of the car parks have change machines. This means that as not all people have the correct change on them so they have to put in more than the desired amount. What happens to the extra money?

As I have done a little homework for myself I will tell you, the WNDC treats it as a non-taxable gift, and as nobody can be sure exactly how many people have the correct change and who does not, that then leaves an element of doubt in the trustworthiness of the council officials.

After speaking to several members of the council there have been sums banded around of 100s of thousands of pound but we (the people who live and work in the area) will never know.

This does not leave a warm fuzzy feeling in regards to the morals of the WNDC which leads on to the propose new development of the car parks on the old railway station and the development of the town's Library.

What is WNDC thinking of? We already have 3 new overpriced estates at various stages of construction in Hunstanton all 3 are in the region of 120 homes on each estate, so that would be 360+/- new homes going up. It has been said that at least 1 in 3 are already sold as 2nd homes/holiday homes.

They are also trying to push through a new development for the town library which looks good on paper but how much is it going to cost, bearing in mind that we as Hunstanton residents already pay a premium for living in Hunstanton on our council tax.

What Hunstanton desperately needs is investment in the infrastructure, so sell the current town library (it has no parking anyway) for redevelopment and relocate it to the old school on Valentine Road; also the old school could be made into a medical day centre with the library in one corner of the old school. This would then help the local residents who normally have to go the hospital in Kings Lynn just to change a bandage or receive basic medical advice. As it is opposite the doctors surgery then anything more complicated could be referred across the road instead again having to go through to Kings

Lynn.

As for the loss of car parks for a one off payment to the council, Hunstanton is a holiday destination which get most of its income from holiday makers both day trippers and people staying in the numerous holiday camps and homes around Hunstanton but the vast majority need so travel to Hunstanton by road as the public transport is so unreliable/none existent after 9pm.

So if the WNDC want to sell off the car parking areas on or near the seafront are they going to open new ones outside of town and create a park and ride in and around Hunstanton, or will they just take the money and run!

Also with all the extra housing comes extra population with extra demands on schools, Smithdon is already maxed out, with some of the classes well over the national recommendation of teacher to child ratio, will the payments that the WNDC get from the sale of the car parks pay for extra teaches and extra facilities for the new children coming into the area ?

Food for thought

Alfie Rake

Seagate Rd, Hunstanton

Car parking

Thank you for an excellent article about the car parking situation and proposals

Having read this and done the online consultation for the southern seafront, it would seem to me that there is a drive to turn Hunstanton into some sort of Butlins type resort.

I feel that we risk losing what is good and attractive about Hunstanton- the independent shops, the walks along the seafront, a shoreline and the unobtrusive amusements. The town is busy with day trippers at weekends and school holidays and they obviously come to enjoy what is here. Taking away carparking beggars belief-what a foolish move that would be. More and cheaper parking is needed.

It is also ridiculous to develop a sea front of a Mediterranean resort style - we do not have the weather for this so please will everyone continue to campaign to save our town from over development and keep the balance as is with minor tweaks as time goes on.

Carole Hawkins

Development

Having read your comments regarding the amount of money that the Borough Council makes from Hunstanton Car Parks which are the highest in the Country apart from London, I was not surprised that this was mentioned when I attended the meeting at the Town Hall last Thursday, but the Council Member did not bat an eyelid. All he was interested in was all the building work that they are planning so called for the long term!

Having spoken to the Council Member I am not sure whether the Hotel is still in the pipeline, and as you state the obvious this reduces the amount of car parking spaces. With all the houses being planned for the southern end of Seagate/Beach road carpark this reduces them by approx. 100 spaces, but they informed us that they would use the Coach Park but this would still result in a reduction of approx. 25 spaces.

With all the extra houses being built ie:- Butterfield Meadows and the Bennetts plot at the northern end of Hunstanton on main road, do we need the Seagate houses?

Regarding moving the Bus Terminal and rebuilding the Library complete with Toilets and possible shop units along with various flats above, would these be available for locals? This part of the proposed plans I would agree with.

Taking all of the above into account the Council is forgetting how all of these visitors are going to travel to Hunstanton, they should be enticing people to travel by public transport; it looks like we are never going to get the railway back, as far too much land has been built on, we are in the 21 century, should we not be looking at a small Monorail which would take up less ground area. It could be built a section at a time from Hunstanton back to King's Lynn.

With regard to upgrading the southern Promenade nothing was

mentioned but this could be done :- firstly carry the lights on to the end of Hunstanton boundary and install some waste bins so that people do not have to put their rubbish in the dog bins as they did last year.

David Cook

March 2020 issue

I just wanted to congratulate you on a very interesting edition of Town and Around this month - there were all sorts of snippets, as well as longer articles, which I found of particular interest.

Do keep up the good work!

Pamela Austin

Editor's note:

Thank you all for writing to Town and Around. Copy date for the May issue is 12th April. I look forward to hearing from you.

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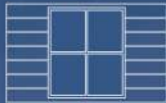
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A remarkable and talented man

By Dick Melton

A week or two back I had a gentleman called Frank Gibson ring me up. No doubt some of you have heard of him as I had, but I knew nothing much about him. Well what an interesting man he turned out to be.



Frank (left) enjoying some home brew with his good friend and neighbour Norman Whye one June day in 2013 T&A

Frank was born in Manchester 96 years ago, by the age of twelve he had learned to play the violin, saxophone and the clarinet; he was so good at playing these instruments that he got to play in some large orchestras in the Manchester area, Frank then went on to train as an telegraphist.

Around about 1942 Frank was called up to serve in the Royal Navy and of course he joined as an telegraphist, the ship he joined and served on was HMS Mignonette that was built in Aberdeen in 1939 and straight away they were sent to escort convoys on the North Atlantic run which was a very dangerous place to be, especially right in the middle of the second world war.

On the 7th of February the Flower-class corvette HMS Mignonette along with HMS Campanula rescued 37 survivors from the merchant ship Afrika which had been torpedoed by the German submarine U 402. On the 15th July 1943 the Mignonette contributed to the sinking of U 135 alongside HMS Rochester and HMS Balsam. On 21st of January 1945 HMS Mignonette helped to sink U 1199 along with the destroyer HMS Icarus, the corvette was sold in 1946, in 1948 it became a merchant ship that was named Alexandroupolis later in 1948 it was lost at sea.

After the war Frank went back to work in the family business of fish and chip shops, and after a while Frank bought a newsagents business in Welling Garden City; this was hard work with early mornings. Frank had six people in the shop in the early mornings sorting out the papers and 15 newspaper boys and girls delivering them.

In 1988 Frank gave up the newspaper business and decided to come to Hunstanton, he had never been here before but decided to give it a try. He has now been living here for 31 years.

After living here for a while Frank decided to try his hand at painting. He would go out and look at a view, memorise it, and then go back home and paint, for seven years Frank had his pictures on show at the Lavender Fields shop at Heacham and he sold many of them.

In Frank's house the walls in every room are covered in his paintings. Frank estimates that since he took up being an artist he has completed over 2,000 paintings, most of them are landscapes, Frank Gibson is certainly a very talented and remarkable man.

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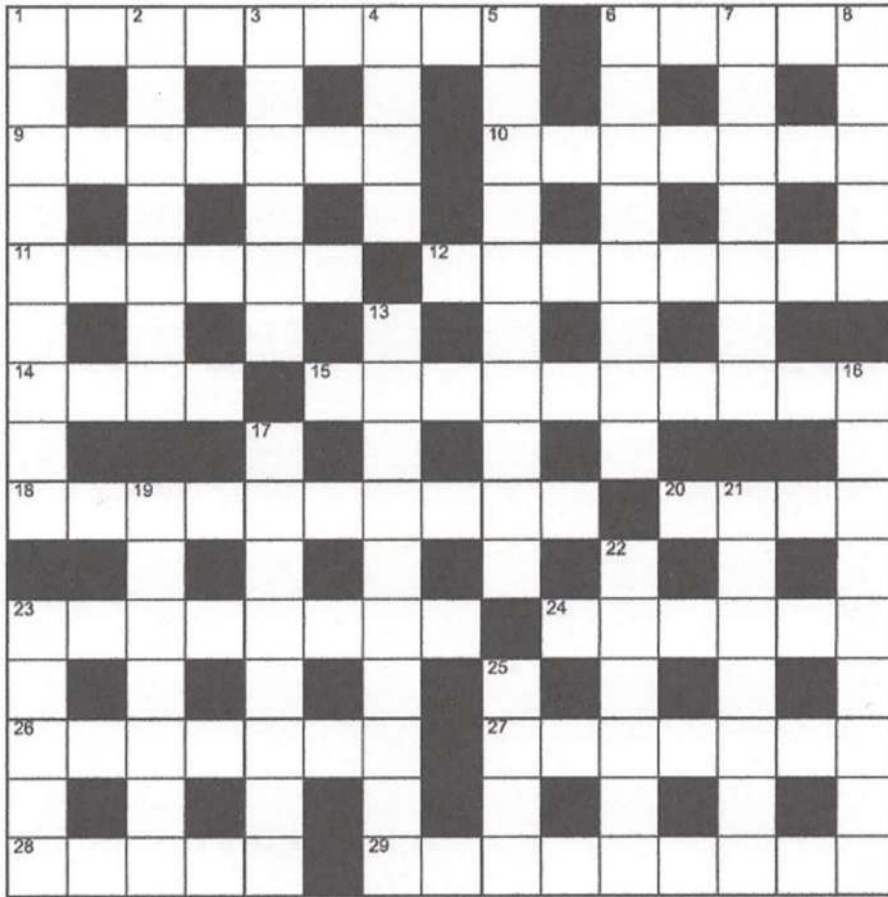
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David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword



Crossword solution on page 4

Crossword Clues Across

1. One no longer intended to drop English and German with spirit lessening (9)
6. Be successful when contracted as a joiner (5)
9. Swap sides, keeping left and change direction (7)
10. It is viewed in the main with amazement when found in pit (7)
11. Love compass, it's comprised of segments (6)
12. Resort to blackmail at first? Agreed! (8)
14. Allowed the use of for a period just before Easter (4)
15. Middle of the road is source of electricity for means of transport in Spain (10)
18. Release spell – right now! (10)
20. Head keeper was last of six to get salmon (4)
23. Scot on short time hides his masculine pride (8)
24. A group of stars squeeze into vintage minis (6)
26. Snow shoveller is made from vehicle this guy's half paid for (7)
27. Terrain is rocky for coach (7)
28. Massive decoration is undertaken by a couple of contractors (5)
29. Parking spots for transporters? (4,5)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Lion tamer with large score to settle (9)
2. Leave off brake, as stated, when departing – official! (7)
3. Clear rubbish from bed – doctor needs to sit on side (6)
4. Idiot on trip abroad starts scrap (4)
5. Gourmet means to go cook with top restaurateur... (10)
6. ...game for drinks? (8)
7. Grapple with law, restless in custody (7)
8. Large area of earth is piled up (5)
13. Article about race and one on build-up are roughly the same (10)
16. Butter up police officer on drug detail? It might be seen as fair (5,4)
17. Appealing to allow half a dozen access (8)
19. Bend back over always when picking up dog (7)
21. A French wine with great body on show here? (7)
22. Withdraw record used in infrequent broadcast (6)
23. Master small operation in a region of China (5)
25. Dead flower (4)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

Easy first...

...then the more challenging

4								
				2			6	
7	8			3	4	9		
1	9		8			3		
	7	8		5				
5	3		7			6		
6	2			1	8	4		
				7			2	
3								

		4				6		
			4	1	9			
	3	2				5	9	
	7			9				
	6	8	7		5	3	1	
			3		7			
	1			8			2	
		3		4		9		

Round the bend with Dean Baker

Ring the changes or leave it to a professional

As regular readers will know I have always called my children 'the littles' ... well, they are littles, no longer. Perhaps, I should refer to them as 'the brand new middles', because they're growing like weeds! Anyway, this article concerns my middle aged kids no! .. that doesn't work either.

A couple of weeks ago, when I got home from work, one of the littles and a friend were camped out in the downstairs loo. I didn't think that there was much mischief to be made and I was gasping for a cup of tea so I carried on to the kitchen.

Revived, I set off upstairs to change out of my work clothes, a small task, but one that the current Mrs B sets great store by. Passing the downstairs toilet again the crowd had swelled to 3 children and a dog. They were engrossed in flushing the toilet. As I approach I hear them giggling with glee as the water in the bowl reaches perilously close to the rim of the toilet bowl.

"Your Dad's here", they scatter, except for Toto, who gazes up at me with a quizzical 'can we fix this' gaze.

Toto -yes we can! Toilet overflows are most likely the result of either a blockage in the toilet or an error in the tank flow mechanism that regulates the water flow. You can adjust the height of the 'ball valve' in the cistern which will regulate how much water goes into the pan.

The toilet may be blocked because too much waste has been flushed. Using a combination of hot water, baking soda and vinegar will do the job as well as well of any commercial drain cleaner. Boil a kettle and while it cools add 1 cup of baking soda and 2 cups of vinegar to the pan. The water mustn't be boiling, as it could crack the pan. Pour the water from waist level. Let the mixture stand overnight and the blockage should be cleared.

If the loo doesn't clear on the second flush it's time to get serious... enter the drain rods.

You can buy a decent set for around £30. Drain rods work by pushing the rod through the drain until you reach the blockage. Then force it through the blockage to loosen it. To do this, you will need to push the rod back and forth and in and out of the drain. If you need to twist the rods, make sure you turn them clockwise so they will not separate while you are using them. At this point I should say that you can also use a coat hanger. But you can also use your phone and call a plumber. It's usually a straightforward job and us plumbers are used

to the mess!

After I've finished I change my clothes. Toto goes to find Busby to tell him all the news. Then the littles go to a friend's house for tea. And for the first time, in a long time, Mrs B and I eat our evening meal on a tray in front of the telly. Someone, a great deal wiser than me said, "the secret of life is enjoying the passage of time."

I have face masks, hand gel, my own soap and water, plus clean hand towels (thanks Mrs B) ... Business As Usual...

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New organ donation law presumes consent

By Susan Dayment, Associate Solicitor, Hayes + Storr

Around 6,000 people in the UK are on the transplant waiting list. In 2018 alone at least one person a day died while waiting for a transplant, according to the NHS. New laws in England on organ donation consent come into force in May this year with the expectation that hundreds of lives will be saved.

According to the government 80 per cent of people in England support organ donation but just 38 per cent have actively opted in to the current NHS Organ Donor Register.

'This often leaves bereaved families with difficult decisions to make,' says Susan Dayment, associate solicitor at Hayes + Storr. 'If a family is not aware of someone's wishes, then most do not consent to their loved one's organs being donated. Whatever your wishes, this new law is a useful reminder that it is always a good idea to formalise your wishes concerning your end of life arrangements.'

What presumed consent will mean

When the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019 comes into force, anyone who dies will now be presumed to have consented to donate all their organs unless they have actively opted out or their relatives refuse permission.

Presumed consent will be limited to routine organ transplants and will not extend to rare procedures such as face or hand transplants.

What it means for you

If you are 18 or over, you will automatically be considered a potential donor, unless you decide to opt out or you are excluded under the rules. If you are happy for your organs to be donated after your death, 'deemed consent' means you do not need to do anything. People will be excluded if they lacked mental capacity when they passed away. Your family will be consulted, and your faith and beliefs will also be taken into account before organ donation goes ahead.

How to opt out

The best way to opt out of deemed consent is to register your objection via the NHS Organ Donor Register. You can also use this to register your consent to certain organs being donated, if that is your wish. You can further express your wishes in your Will and or Lasting Power of Attorney for Health & Welfare. You should take specialist legal advice if you are considering these options.

If you choose to opt out, it is wise to tell your family and friends what you have decided.

Changing your mind

If you change your mind about organ donation, you must then update the NHS Organ Donor Register. If you made a Will or Lasting Power of Attorney in which you opt out, consider amending these with your

solicitor.

Safeguards for individuals

The law includes an important safeguard known as the 'soft opt-out' under which relatives can make known any unregistered objection of the deceased to organ donation that the deceased had.

If you are identified as a potential donor, specialist nurses will discuss donation with your family to ensure your wishes are respected.

For further information, please contact Susan Dayment on 01328 863231 or email law@hayes-storr.com.



This article aims to supply general information, but it is not intended to constitute advice. Every effort is made to ensure that the law referred to is correct at the date of publication and to avoid any statement which may mislead. However no duty of care is assumed to any person and no liability is accepted for any omission or inaccuracy.

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Heacham home care company takes its message to the street

The well-being of elderly friends and family, and advice on services to help keep loved ones independent and in their own homes were the main topics of conversation during a popular high street pop-up run by care leaders in West Norfolk.

Extra Hands, based in Heacham, opened a temporary home in the Vancouver Quarter where they highlighted the issue of caring with the King's Lynn shopping centre's visitors over a two week period.



The West Norfolk home care company, whose Heacham operation was rated outstanding by the Care Quality Commission, invited other organisations linked with the care industry to share their space to create a unique one-stop information centre.

Anita Walter, public relations and marketing director at Extra Hands, was delighted by the steady flow of interested and curious shoppers, and she said they hope to run a similar event again.

The well-being check-up service offered by the award-winning Extra Hands, which has been providing care and help for more than 25 years in the county, was also of particular interest to passers-by.

"We were the first home care provider in the county to offer this service for carers who need to be reassured when they cannot make their usual calls and now this service is in its fifth year and continues to grow in popularity as our pop-up event showed with the amount of people who mentioned it."

A variety of professionals from organisations including the Care and Repair service run by West Norfolk Council, the independent living service Lily and Wiltshire Farm Foods all spent a day with Extra Hands, which also has offices in Horsham St Faith near Norwich, over the fortnight it was at the temporary Broad Street address.

Anita continued: "Our visitor from Wiltshire Farm Foods came along with hot soup and cake, which drew even more people in because it was such a cold day. It was really nice to meet so many people and offer them advice and information they may not have been aware of."

The winner of a prize draw held during the fortnight was Gill Brown, of Hunstanton, who was presented with a bumper hamper of goodies by Extra Hands founder Hazel Evans.

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Hunstanton Lifeboat Station

Geoff Needham

Thursday 5th March at 18.34. UK Coastguard requested launch of Hunstanton RNLI Lifeboat to report of a Mayday received from a vessel in difficulty off Brancaster. Hunstanton volunteer RNLI crew launched, and proceeded to Brancaster, on arrival at scene a 34ft yacht was located aground on the sands North of Scolthead. Due to the low tide, the Lifeboat was unable to get to the vessel. The Coastguard then tasked the CG Helicopter. Hunstanton Lifeboat remained on scene until the lone yachtsman was evacuated by the Helicopter, and landed at Brancaster into the care of the local Coastguard team, as no other persons involved, lifeboat was released to return to station, returning at 21.00. High Water. Thursday 14.36. Wind. NE.3 Sea state slight. Vis. good.

As the weather warms up and daylight hours get longer, boat owners will be wanting to take their craft to sea, having stood covered up on a trailer in the drive over winter, 'running OK last summer' - first decent spell of weather, let's go for a spin? But before setting out to sea, basic checks are essential: weather conditions, tide times, all equipment, not just the boat engine, fuel tank, the trailer too if it's been subject to salt water, flares check the expiry date, lifejackets, radio/mobile fully charged, anchor, the cleats you secure the anchor to. A bit of a sloppy sea will soon find out the weak spots, and it won't be the first one to part company if a tow home is required. Charts, paddles, first aid box, bilge pump, baler, compass, tool kit and something to drink. And let someone know your intentions and ETA back, breakdowns can happen at any time, the weather can change fairly quickly, and visibility can close in, a call to the Coastguard will alert us, but if you don't know your position, finding you may take some time. Stay safe enjoy the coming season, sea safety advice is always available from the local coastguard or us.

The same advice is given to visitors to the coast, either walkers, bird watching dog walking or whatever activity you do, vast expanses of sand soon become covered by the incoming tide, and people find themselves in trouble, their route back to the safety of the beach cut off.

Another hazard on our beaches is ordnance left over from the Second World War; the area was used by the military during the war and was a range, over the years as the sands shift they come to light, see photo above of the type of object you may come across, do not



interfere with one, but report it to the coastguard or police, who will arrange for the Bomb Disposal Unit to deal with it.

Our Respect the water campaign and advice to Holiday makers: Tidal waters have strong tidal currents, especially the approaches to the harbours. General coastal safety tips. 1. Check the Weather and tide times. 2. Read signs. Be aware of local hazards, ie; sandbanks. Channel Strong tidal currents. 3. Carry means of calling for help. 4. If you see someone in danger dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard who will page us.

Video footage of some recent rescues can be seen on the RNLI website www.rnli.org.uk

The RNLI is a Charity that is supported by voluntary donations and volunteer crews

For information on the RNLI the Charity that saves lives at sea visit www.rnli.org.uk

Remember the important things - and write it down!

Sandra Hohol

At Norfolk Holiday Homes, besides taking bookings for self-catering holiday homes, we have to ensure all the legalities are up to date and have various useful pieces of information on file which may not seem important but useful 'even if you don't ever need it'. Like items you may save (hoard) in the garage, shed or cupboard for example. Keeping all this up to date with holiday home owners is a nightmare and that is another story below. I am talking about power off points for electricity and gas, plus oil. Do you know where yours are in case your pipes leak, you have a cistern problem or having new bathroom installed? Someone is bound to ask. Like my plumber did the other day when my overflow was dripping at my own house. Oh my God, could I think where my stop cock was? Under the kitchen sink? No. In utility room with washing machine? No. Behind either toilet? No. So apologies to my plumber. Total brain block

for about ten minutes. Ah, yes, now I remember! Under the bath with the water meter. Of course it is. Message to organised head - write it down somewhere handy and prominent just in case someone else needs to know. And.....remember where you write it!

On the subject of legalities, we spend much of our time chasing clients, the owners whom we are agents for, for various items of paperwork throughout the year. I have to say that the majority of them do follow our advice and are prompt too, but there are those (like in many businesses) who think that these rules and regulations do not exist for them; they do not have to have insurance, fire risk assessments, Landlords Gas Safety Certificates, oil and electricity checks, etc. They also believe that there is not a time limit or expiry date for any annual inspection etc. They also believe that we will not stop bookings if all the legal stuff is not done. I

hate to say this but they seem to be on another planet and if any one of them is reading this, then yes, it is you. And not just our percentage of holiday home owners who want to bury their heads in the sand so the nasty lady will go away. We all do it for some reason or another in the hope that if we don't see it, it will go away. We can chase by phone, emails and post to ask them to get up to date. But no. I can be subtle and threatening, polite and tactful, plus demanding without being rude in my communications in order to complete paperwork, but sometimes we are all banging our heads against a brick wall with people in order to get a job done satisfactorily that they are paying us for.

Maybe I have banged my head so many times now, that is the reason I could not remember where my own stop cock was..... Norfolk Holiday Homes tel: 01485 534267 info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency

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Where's the snag? A guide to new-build surveys

Helen Jarvis, Partner, Residential Conveyancing

When buying a property, a building survey can pick up issues that can affect the value of the property. A survey can bring up issues that the buyer can ask the seller to fix before completion or to otherwise reduce the selling price accordingly.

We always strongly recommend that buyers have a survey. We have heard horror stories from buyers who decided against a survey, only to spend several thousand pounds within a few months of moving in, repairing problems that a survey would have flagged.

Surveys will pick up issues ranging from slipped roof tiles or missing flashing all the way up to larger problems such as damp or subsidence. As these issues tend to be associated with older properties, people buying new build properties are less likely to commission a survey.

A special type of survey for new build properties does exist and it can potentially save you money down the line. Rather than looking for signs of wear, the survey, known as a New Build Survey or New Build Snagging Survey, checks whether the property has been built to a high enough standard.

People buy new builds on the expectation that everything will be in good condition and built to the latest specifications. You wouldn't expect the roof to leak or to have issues that

can come with older wiring or plumbing. On top of this, most buyers expect to be protected by their warranty.

A traditional survey can be excessive on a new build property, where the most common problems are cosmetic, such as plastering, tiling and brickwork. A new build can, however, have more serious problems that relate to damp-proofing, ventilation or insulation. These issues can include badly fitted windows, damp proof courses that have been bridged as well as drainage and waste pipes that are not connected.

The best time to have a snagging survey done is after the builder has completed the work and before moving in. However some developers don't allow a survey before completion. In this case you should arrange for a survey as soon as you have moved in.

Although it depends on the terms of your contract, you can have up to two years to report issues found on a new build home but it is advantageous to report any issues early while the builders are still on site. If you leave the survey until after the builders have moved on, it may take longer to get the repairs completed.

You should also be wary of relying on a warranty too much, many buyers report difficulties in getting a claim to stick and the



cover is more limited than many people expect. A snagging survey will usually result in a faster resolution of your issues.

The residential conveyancing department at Fraser Dawbarns have helped thousands of people into their new homes, providing friendly advice and support throughout the process. If you would like help with buying or selling your home or with any other legal issue, please contact Fraser Dawbarns today.

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Hunstanton Eyecare Blog

There are not many topics that deserve a mention two months in a row, but I think SEA2SEE certainly does. We have now taken delivery of probably the most eco-friendly spectacle frames in our industry. If you missed the March issue of this lovely magazine you may not have heard of SEA2SEE, a new company that manufactures beautiful spectacle frames made entirely from recycled marine plastic waste. They have collaborated with coastal communities in Europe and Africa, working particularly with the fishermen to collect plastic that is discarded into our oceans, killing millions of fish and marine animals each year. It is then processed into a usable raw material suitable for making into frames and sunspecs. I love the photo of Italian fishermen, so pleased that their redundant plastic fishing nets are recycled to make a fashionable item such as spectacles.



We have included a range of sunspecs for those of you who do not need to wear prescription spectacles or are contact lens wearers and just need the sun/UV protection, many have polarised lenses so are great glare eliminators.

We are reminded so often of how we are damaging our planet and the suffering we cause to our rich and diverse wildlife, we are delighted that we can do just a small thing to start making a positive impact. At present SEA2SEE frames and sunspecs are only available from independent optical practices such as Hunstanton Eyecare. So, if you are thinking of new specs, or just fancy some new summer sunspecs, come and view this new collection knowing that you can also do something good for our oceans.

We look forward to seeing you soon
Annette



Heacham and Hunstanton at night

Terry Parish

Spring has sprung, grass needs cutting and the birds are nesting so leave the hedges alone.

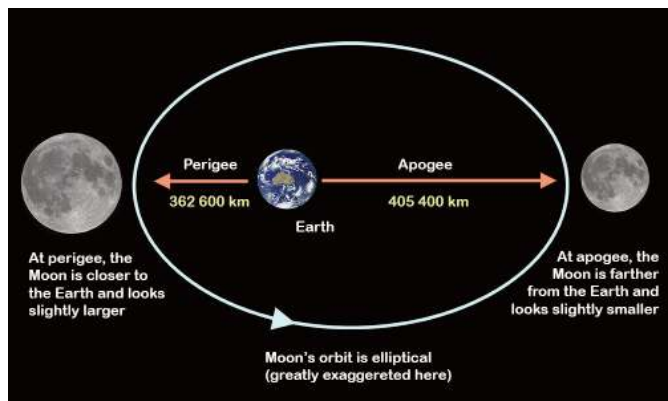
Self-isolation will provide many of you, including me, the excuse to look at the sky more often. This month allows you to catch up with Venus. It has dominated the evening sky for several months and will continue to be a lantern in the SW during April.

It is so bright that it dazzles in a telescope and, in order to observe its phase, you either have to use filters or look at it at twilight when there is still some blue in the sky – the contrast is less. Venus is moving towards us (relatively speaking) and its phase will change from half to crescent. Maximum brightness is on 28th April when it will be visible until after midnight.

There is a special event on the 3rd April when this edition appears so I should have told you last month. Venus passes the Pleiades star cluster and it will be surrounded by bright stars. The effect will still be seen on the 4th but not so well. If you miss this, then go for Venus and the crescent Moon on the 26th.



The Pleiades, Messier 45, are a cluster of 'new' hot, bright, blue stars which illuminate the nebulae gases around them; an excellent sight in binoculars. The brightest star, Alcyone, is of magnitude 2.8; Venus will be magnitude minus 4.5 (remember, the lower the number the brighter the object).



On the 8th April the Full Moon will be the brightest of the year. It is one of the four 'Super Moons' this year. They occur when the Moon is at a distance of less than 367,607 km. The previous night, the Moon is at perigee, closest approach, at 356,900 km. On the 8th it is a tad further away at 357,029 km. It will appear almost a third brighter than the

faintest Full Moon (occurring when the Moon is furthest away). These changes in distance are due to the elliptical orbit the Moon describes. It is almost circular but not quite; no orbits are.

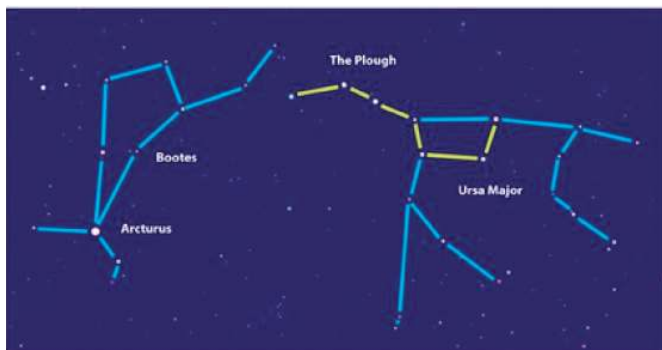
Other planets easily visible are morning objects again. Look low in the SE at around 5.30 am to find Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. The Moon is just below them around the 15th and 16th.

Meteor showers are back. The Lyrids peak on the 22nd in the early morning though the night before, the 21st, will do for most of you. For once, there is no moon light to wash them out, so all we need is a clear night. They are not so prolific as some showers, maybe 18 / hour, but some of the meteors will leave persistent trails. They are the remains of the comet Thatcher. Look NE for the radiant, the point they appear to come from. This moves higher as the Earth turns and is at about 60 degrees above the horizon by 3am on the 22nd. Meteors can appear in any part of the sky and lying on a recliner, looking up, is your best bet.

A telescope object to try for is the minor planet or asteroid, Vesta. This passes over the top of the Hyades star cluster in the middle of the month. You need to Google and/or use Stellarium software to pin its position down.



Use the warmer evenings to look at the constellations of stars in the sky. The Plough is an asterism, part of the constellation of Ursa Major, The Great Bear. The pattern remains a favourite as it is easily recognisable and it is sometimes referred to as The Saucepan now as ploughs are a little different than they used to be. Americans call it The Big Dipper.



Star patterns have remained more or less the same for several thousand years but, as stars move in different directions and speeds, patterns will alter and the sky in the distant future will look very different. However, all the stars that make up The Plough, except Dubhe and Alkaid, are about the same distance from us and are all

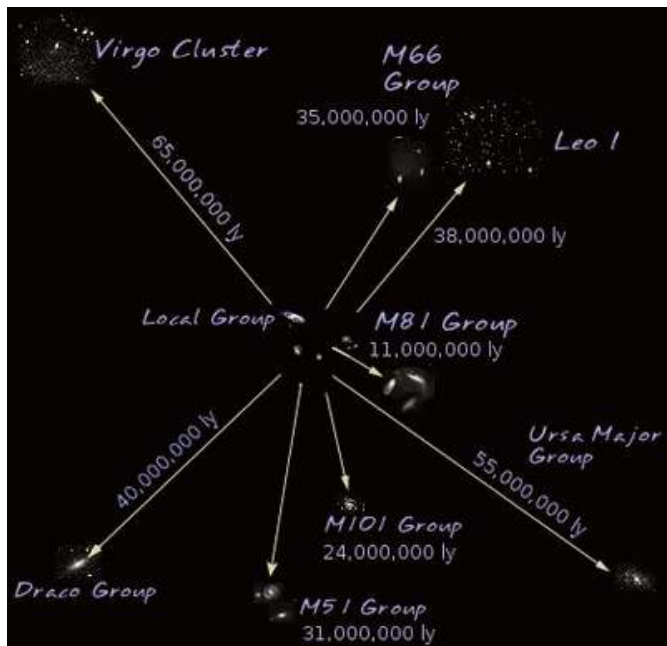


moving in the same direction, so it will be more or less recognisable for a very long time.

The star at the middle of the 'handle' is Mizar. Good eyes on a clear night will discern that it is a double star. Binoculars will split the pair easily and Alcor, Mizar's companion, will be revealed.

All the individual stars you see are within our own galaxy, the Milky Way. This is part of a Local Group of about 80 galaxies (a new one was just identified). The Andromeda Galaxy is the biggest member of this group and has its own cluster. The Milky Way is second largest with its own cluster; both clusters are moving towards each other.

The Local Group is part of the Virgo Supercluster of 2000 very large galaxies. The Virgo cluster itself can be seen in the constellation of Virgo immediately south of The Plough and about half way up the sky. A small telescope on a clear night will reveal many fuzzy blobs.



The gravitational force from the Virgo Cluster which ensnares our own Local Group emanates from a distance of around 60 million light years.

No matter how far away from each other astronomical objects are, they never achieve isolation because there is always some way they can connect.

May the Force be with you.

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Searles Resort Golf AGM donates £3500 to NARS

The Searles Resort Golf Club AGM took place on Friday 21st February to elect new Captains' for 2020. However, the first order of the evening was to present the NARS (Norfolk Accident Rescue Services), Searles 2020 Captains' Charity with a cheque for £3500.

The superb amount was raised from Captains Day, Gala Day in June, Ladies 100 hole challenge, the captains chaos and Dave Cox's Friday quiz nights. Junior member Louise Palmer raised over £1000 of the total by selling golf balls lost on the course.

Paul Strutt NARS Fund Raising officer was there to collect the cheque, stated "they are a small charity and the impact donations to NARS have when even their insurance was £7 to £8000 a year". He thanked the club for their continued support and Louise Palmer for all the balls sold to raise money.

Searles are delighted to have donated an ongoing total of £12,900 to NARS since 2017.

Searles Golf Manager Edward Howes was pleased to announce that David Cox was continuing as Men's Captain, Keith Whiting was elected as Seniors Captain and Teresa Hills as ladies Captain for 2020. Searles Resort Golf Club and Fountain Bar hold Monthly competitions as well as numerous other events and social competitions.

Membership is now available starting on 1st April, full annual membership costs £414 and summer membership £314 with no joining fee.

Visit www.searles.co.uk or call 01485 536010 for more information.



From left Teresa Hills, (Ladies Captain) David Cox (Men's Captain), Paul Strutt (NARS Representative),



Peter Wills (Outgoing Seniors Captain)

From left: Paul Strutt (NARS Representative), Louise Palmer (Junior Fundraiser)

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Searles & Heacham Manor Junior Selected for England Regional Squad

Twelve-year-old Chloe Tarbard who started the 2019 season with a handicap of 15 has now been selected for the England Regional Squad having reduced her handicap to an exact handicap of 5.5.

Starting back in April 2019 with a win in the U14 Norfolk Schools Championship at Eaton, she was also 2nd in the overall gross. Chloe continued the season with runner up in the Norfolk Girls Spring meeting at Royal Norwich and qualified to play in the Norfolk Ladies County Championship at Hunstanton.

At her home club of Heacham Manor she won the gross junior open and played to scratch in the ladies' club championship coming second shooting level par 73.

Other achievements in 2019 year include Winning the Searles Golf Club junior Championship for the 3rd year running, runner up in the Bungay and Waveney Junior Open and runner up in Royal Norwich junior open.

To complete the perfect year Chloe also had her first hole in one at the Dereham Junior Open where she finished runner up.

Chloe who started playing golf at Searles Golf Club at the age of 7 has been trained by PGA Professional Ray Stocker who is very proud of her achievements and is looking forward to many more in the future.

Searles welcome juniors looking to get into



golf and are proud to support Golf Girls Rocks holding a FREE taster day on 17th of May to find out more and get into golf.

Contact Searles on 01485 536010 or visit www.searles.co.uk/golf



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More details on this special evening and also details of how to get tickets will be revealed soon.

Snettisham Beach Sailing Club

Special prices for 7 year old + novices in 2020 for kids learning to sail this July

Are your holiday plans for this summer falling apart? Then you'll be looking for something to occupy the kids, perhaps? This year there's a special offer for the youngest Novice sailors at Cadet Week at Snettisham Beach Sailing Club from 27th to 31st July.



Instead of the 2019 price of £85.00 a person for the week, Novices - 7 years and older - can now take part for £60 each, and if they book with a friend the 2 Novices can pay just £100.

Novices take part in 5 sessions each day of Cadet Week from Monday to Friday, each session lasting 3 hours, with a Prize Giving following on Saturday.

Choose between daily Morning OR Afternoon sailing sessions:

Mornings: 9.30 to 12.30

Afternoons: 1.30 to 4.30

Only 24 places are available so make sure you book now. Participation is only available to Club members, so have a look at snetbeach.co.uk/about-us/how-to-join/ to see how you can join and email memsec@snetbeach.co.uk with any questions about the type of membership that suits you best.

If you want to try sailing then have a look at the opportunities on the Club's website at

If you want to get afloat check out the opportunities on the website at www.snetbeach.co.uk and speak to James Trim, Chief Instructor courses.snet@gmail.com 07938 190 846

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Keep on moving!

Having only just launched two new classes the last thing Julie-Ann @ North Norfolk Zumba wanted to do was cancel the classes quickly after but unfortunately to ensure the safety of all that come to class that is exactly what she has had to do in response to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, in line with the Government & PHE advice.



Despite this, she is determined to keep all of her members moving and will be hosting her weekly Zumba and Zumba Gold classes online for people to follow at home and stay as active and healthy as they can. She's also keen to make sure everyone stays in touch with each other and helps where needed most or where at all possible.

With this in mind anyone is welcome to tune in to the online classes via the North Norfolk Zumba YouTube Channel by searching for North Norfolk Zumba or by following this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJPYXRz_y8cA15Tph3I9cQ

The Zumba Gold classes will be available from 10am on a Monday each week and the Zumba Fitness classes will be available from 6:30pm on a Thursday. We are aiming to have each video available for the entire week and then replace with a new class every Monday and Thursday.

If anyone would like any further information then they can get in touch a number of ways:

online at: www.facebook.com/northernorfolkzumba, via mail; northernorfolkzumba@gmail.com, or call Julie-Ann on 07795 246364 Stay safe everyone

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Fenland Aviation museum is in danger of being lost

Chris Herring, Museum Chairman

Established in the mid 1970's, the museum is actively involved in the research and recovery of historical aircraft. It has been created to house and exhibit many remarkable finds unearthed over the years and to honour those who lost their lives in so many different accidents.

Our lease ends in 4 years and we will never be able to afford the new lease rental costs the owner is going to asking for. We need to raise £50,000 at least to try and purchase the site. Otherwise we will have to try and find a new home and relocate, the cost of which is likely to be even more. If we can't it will all have to be sold, given away or worse still scrapped with the history being lost forever.

Over the last 30 years our members have recovered crashed WW2 aircraft from sites all over East Anglia. These have then been displayed with the story of the crews that often made the ultimate sacrifice for the Allied forces. Despite our small size the local history recorded in our museum cannot be underestimated. We have had relatives of some the lost aviators visit us from as far afield as New Zealand to see the remains of the aircraft their family member was in when they perished and many a tear and story has been shared.

KIDS GO FREE and adults are only £3 entry.

Unlike some larger museums, people can sit in some of our aircraft and pretend to flying a real jet fighter, 747 Jumbo jet or cold war Shackleton which is based on the Famous Lancaster bomber airframe, while learning about the often forgotten local history. They might even get to meet one of our members who was a WW2 bomber crew member who was the only survivor from his plane when it was shot down and survived being a prisoner a war who story is in the museum.

We are number three in the things to do in Wisbech on trip advisor with great review and have just won a museum of the year award. The museum is a fantastic, educational and fun way to spend a few hours.

We open for the summer season on 28th March 2019 (coronavirus allowing) and will be open Saturdays and Sunday and Wednesday afternoons.

www.fenlandaviationmuseum.org.uk.

We also have a go fund me page - The link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/k8z2k3-save-our-museum>, and we are on facebook.



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Diane Westwood's fundraising walk

On March 29th 2020 I am walking from Holme to Snettisham along the coast to raise funds to purchase a seal training model for BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue). 'Pinnifred' is an accurate replica of a young grey seal which can be used to teach Marine Mammal Medics and veterinary staff some essential skills related to seal pup handling and treatment. He weighs 30 kg, has a 3cm layer of blubber and contains a 3D printed skeleton. He can be used to teach basic handling, as well as placing feeding tubes - the latter is a lifesaving skill as many of the pups we are called out to are dehydrated. With Pinnifred vets will be taught how to place ET breathing tubes and give injections and take blood samples.

The walk starts at Holme, where seals like Pentro were rescued and taken to East Winch wildlife Centre for care. I'll pass through Old Hunstanton where last year I picked up a seal pup per day for 3 days and first met the red eyed seal named Jon BonJovi. Then on to Heacham where we tried to save an injured harbour porpoise and on to Snettisham, where we picked up many common seal pups last year.

BDMLR Medics are a devoted and dedicated group of volunteers, I'm proud to be one of them. I hope you can support this fund raising venture.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them on or send



unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

JustGiving sends your donation straight to British Divers Marine Life Rescue so that they can put your generosity to good use!

You can help Diane Westwood raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fundraising page - https://www.justgiving.com/Diane-WestwoodBDMLR?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=Diane-WestwoodBDMLR&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=QgYRw5p5J.

Expedition to Kenya



My name is Theo Bazeley-Smith. In summer 2021 I am going to be volunteering on a four- week expedition to Kenya where I will be contributing to both humanitarian project work for some of the poorest communities as well as engaging in wildlife and environmental initiatives. This programme is organised by and to do this, I am working independently to fundraise £4,000.

Why Kenya?

In rural Kenya, around 42% of people are still living below the poverty line with nearly 50% of those without close access to the simplest of things such as clean drinking water. For many in these Kenyan communities, those images we see on television of people walking miles to collect water is still a daily reality!

King's Lynn Festival Chorus concert postponed

Regrettably, due to the current health issue with coronavirus sweeping the world, the mighty St.Matthew Passion of J.S.Bach scheduled for April 4th has had to be postponed to Lent 2021.

The prime and only concern for the Trustees of the Chorus is the health and well being of you, our audience and members of the Chorus, many of whom are in the 'vulnerable' age group, other underlying medical conditions notwithstanding. Also very much in our thoughts in making this decision was the welfare and well being of the visiting professionals of soloists, orchestra members, the band of volunteers of stewards, for example, people who facilitate the smooth running of an event.

For those of you who have already purchased your tickets, the Corn Exchange will be contacting you in due course to discuss options. Further information may be found on our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk, on Facebook and Twitter @kl_festchorus

Why assist me?

In my four-week volunteer expedition, my team and I will be living and working around camps in remote locations and we will be working with the communities there on projects to improve the lives and opportunities of local people. Projects in the past have included building school classrooms, gravity fed water systems and even school kitchens so children are guaranteed at least one hot meal each day.

What I aim to do

During the coming months I will be completing challenges and activities that I hope will help the community here in Hunstanton to enable me to then help the global community. I have started my fundraising journey by completing a cake sale and I am currently organising a sponsored walk along the 76km of the Peddars Way during the Easter holidays. In the future I aim to complete regular beach cleans and sell friendship bracelets in the Kenyan flag colours. Sponsorship forms for my Peddars Way walk are located in.....

Veg shop...

Norfolk Deli... or visit my [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/f/dee5k-kenya-camps-international) page.

In order to achieve my goal of going to Kenya, I am hoping you will support me in any way. I am looking for any amount towards my target. I am passionate about giving a future to this planet and the people on it that need us. I would greatly appreciate it if you could please help support me on this endeavour, and thank you in advance for your response.

My Go Fund Me page is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/dee5k-kenya-camps-international>

If you want to follow my progress I will be posting regular updates on my dedicated Instagram feed... and also through articles in the brilliant Town and Around.

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HUNSTANTON PROBUS CLUB

Peter Davidson

The Hunstanton Probud Club held its Annual General Meeting last month at its home venue of Le Strange Arms Hotel, the principle item on the agenda being the election of a new President for the Club following the termination of President David Scott's three-year term of office. Before the election, outgoing President David Scott, addressed the meeting and expressed his thanks to the committee for their support and assistance which had made the past three years most enjoyable not only for himself but for all members of the club.

The Treasurer presented the annual report which showed that the financial position of the Club continued to be satisfactory and it was therefore accepted that the current annual membership subscription would be held at its present level of £14.

The new President, Ron Annies was then elected with acclaim, and David Scott, David Dickinson and Mike Ruston to the posts of



Treasurer, Secretary and Committee member respectively.

Ken Lawson had recently moved to Lincolnshire having held the position of Club Secretary for an unprecedented 26 years, and it was agreed that he be offered life membership, together with Neville Mackinder and the Very Reverend Alan Warren for their long and exceptional service to Hunstanton Probud over very many years.

Regrettably, several long-standing members have recently had to resign their membership of the Club as they had moved away from Hunstanton, and the President therefore asked members to encourage their eligible friends to consider joining Hunstanton Probud. Any retired professional or business men who would like further information about the Club, or who might like to join, are asked to contact the secretary, David Dickinson tel: 07941 798343 or email: Secretary@Hunstanton.Probud@Outlook.com

Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Donation to Baby Basics, Dersingham



From time to time we come across visits that stick in our minds. Such was the case when Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel paid a visit to Baby Basics recently.

This organisation was set up in 2009 in Sheffield and branches have sprung up in various places.

Our donation was not in the form of money but a Moses basket filled with clothes, nappies, bedding, anything suitable for newborn babies up to 3 months. The baskets are then delivered to vulnerable mothers with the help of Midwives, Health Visitors and other professional bodies. The sorting is done by a small group of 'unsung heroes' who meet in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham from 10 - 12 on a Tuesday.

We were deeply moved by the kindness and generosity of these people and hearing about the starkness of life for some mothers with new babies. Baby Showers have become popular - but not available for everyone. Even inexpensive baby clothes from charity shops are out of reach for some mothers. We left feeling that our donation would really make a difference.

If you would like more information their website is www.baby-basics.org.uk



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Hunstanton Bridge Club

Henry Head

It's never too late for you to learn to play Bridge and join in the great social life that it brings. Here at Hunstanton Bridge Club we are a friendly group of people always looking to welcome new members, whether you are a complete beginner, have been playing for only a few months, or for several years.

We meet at the Hunstanton Conservative Club just off the High St on Monday evenings for Duplicate, and on Friday afternoons we offer Bridge lessons to people who want to start playing, to people wanting to progress a bit further and for those who prefer to play in the afternoon. If you don't have a Bridge partner we can help you to find one.

Banish the fear. Don't be apprehensive about going to a club thinking that everyone will know more than you. All levels can play together and have success and fun.

If you would like to know more please contact Robert Smith 01328 822120.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR CARDPLAY?

Still on the theme of drawing trumps the following hand has an entry problem. Declarer is in Six Hearts and the lead is a club. The hands are as follows:

S 7 6 2		
H 7 6 5		
D 6 5 3 2		
S J 8 5 4	C K Q J	S A Q 9
H 8 4		H 10 3 2
D 10 8		D J 9 7
C 9 8 7 6 2	S K 10 3	C 10 5 4 3
	H A K Q J 9	
	D A K Q 4	
	C A	

Providing the hearts and diamonds break reasonably they should provide 5 heart tricks and 4 diamond tricks and the Ace of clubs is 10. The problem is to get to dummy to make the other two clubs and dispose of the losing spades. The only hope is that diamonds split 3-2 and then the 6 of diamonds will be an entry. Declarer draws trumps in three rounds then plays the Ace of Clubs. Next the top diamonds draw the outstanding diamonds and leave the last diamond as an entry to dummy to cash the K and Q of Clubs discarding two spades and then giving up the last spade.

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Brancaster CE VAP School News

By The Year 6 girls

Our last topic in Samphire Class was wind turbines. We were all very excited and full of questions about wind turbines. Because of all the questions, we decided to each write letters to the Sheringham shoal wind farm staff. Some of the wind farm staff came and visited the children in Samphire Class and they answered most of our questions. On the last Friday of term we built our own mini wind turbines out of recycled waste.



This term, our new Reverent Rachael gave Brancaster School a little treat of making pancakes in church. Everyone had a great time, we ate pancakes in the church and tried different toppings.

On Ash Wednesday, Reverent Rachel came into school and offered to give everyone (who wanted one) a cross on their forehead or the back of their hand.

This term we had World Book Day which was very fun. Some of the children dressed up as a character from a book of their choice. We all brought chocolate in (when we came in costumes and non-school uniform) for the Easter bingo.

On Monday the 30th of March at 1 o'clock, Brancaster School will be having a fun Easter Bingo, everyone is welcome to come and play and maybe win a few yummy prizes.

After a long term we will be having a nice long two weeks off, starting on 1st April. Then we will return on 20th April for an exciting new term with lots of lively learning!



Hunstanton Primary School news

Classical Music Rocks

At the end of February we were incredibly lucky to have a visit from Kamila Bydlowska, a professional violinist. During two truly magical performances she bewitched pupils from Reception to Year 6. Thank you to Mrs Herculson for organising this with Mr Barker of Classical Music Rocks. Klio Blonz, a flautist, will also be performing on Friday 27th March. Our visits organised by Classical Music Rocks are a fantastic opportunity for the children to watch live performances of classical music and the children really look forward to and enjoy these sessions. In addition to this our Year 4 pupils will soon be learning how to play the steel drums funded by the Norfolk Music Hub.

Legally Blonde

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils visited Smithdon to watch a performance of Legally Blonde on 27th February. What a brilliant performance! Well done to all the students who took part. Our older pupils could see how exciting it is to perform in front of a big audience, helping to raise their ambitions for the future.

Year 6 Residential Visit

Our Year 6 class went to Aylmerton Field Study Centre for a weekend visit and had a



fantastic time. They took part in monster trails, bowling, seal watching, boat driving and many more activities. The staff at the Centre praised our pupils' manners and enthusiasm.

Public Speaking Competition

Some of our Year 4, 5 and 6 students will take part in the Cluster Public Speaking Competition being held at the Town Hall on Monday 16th March. Good luck to all who are taking part.

Year 2 to the Corn Exchange

Our Year 2 pupils will be dancing at The Corn Exchange in front of a huge audience on Tuesday 17th March. The theme this year is 'Colours of the Rainbow'. The event is organised by the School Sports Partnership and lots of schools take part in this exciting event.

Amazona

Our Year 4 Sea Lions class will be going on a trip to Amazona Zoo in Cromer on Friday 27th March to support their learning about South America and rainforests. This trip should be a lot of fun for the children as well as a fantastic learning experience.

Breakfast Club

Our new breakfast club offers parents the opportunity to start work earlier in the knowledge that their child is safe at school, having a nutritious breakfast followed by exciting activities.

The entire Glebe House School community he



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How we celebrated World Book Day at Docking Primary School

Docking School all wore beautiful homemade and/or purchased hats to school. We all had a "Booky Breakfast in the hall - the older children read books to the younger ones whilst eating breakfast. We all had a chat and had fun! There was a competition in each class to see who had the most creative hat!

We would like to thank Tesco Hunstanton for donating delicious croissants!



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Glebe House School steps out in the winter sunshine for Charity Beach Walk

The entire Glebe House School community were delighted to step out into the winter sunshine and take part in the annual 'Whole School Walk' on Friday 6th March.

Setting off from school in the morning, children from the ages of four to thirteen, accompanied by staff, parents, dogs and other family members enjoyed a brisk walk along the beautiful North Norfolk coast from Hunstanton to Holme and back in aid of The Bridget Crofts Memorial Fund.

The route was much loved and frequented by Bridget Crofts, late wife of retired headmaster John Crofts, who spent over 15 years at Glebe House School playing an active role in the running of the school and teaching music. She passed away suddenly in December 2019 and a memorial fund was set up in her name to help enhance music provision at the school.

The children enjoyed a half-way stop at Holme Village Hall where Eric's Fish and Chips donated a delicious lunch to the hungry walkers before the children embarked on their return journey along the coastal paths. Not only was a great deal of money raised for charity, but the sense of community and teamwork that make Glebe so special was furthered as the whole community came together to walk and talk together, simply enjoying the exercise, the sunshine and a chance to take in some of the natural beauty around them.

Headmaster, Louis Taylor, said, "To get the children outside, enjoying nature and being comfortable in each other's company was a special treat for us all. The staff, pupils and community members that took part all came back feeling refreshed, invigorated and feeling even closer knit as a group. I should also like to thank Eric's Fish and Chips for their generous donation of food for the children on the day."

Glebe House School
Cromer Road
Hunstanton
PE36 6HW
www.glebehouseschool.co.uk



Smithdon High School news

For anyone who has seen the Legally Blonde film, Smithdon High School's musical production followed the same storyline but with the thirty five strong cast of students performing multiple parts and singing solos, duets and group numbers.

Manning the technical desk Ethan Bayfield and Jack-Harry Roper undertook the challenging task of operating the brand new lighting and sound system that has been installed at the school recently and that includes moving lights and head mikes for each performer.

The stage for this production was tiered and scene changes were managed seamlessly and efficiently by the students who also took on the wardrobe and make up jobs.

Telling the story of fashion-savvy Elle Woods in her first semester at Harvard, the production includes some lovely singing from the Delta New Sorority 'Choir' and Mia Prior's performance as Paulette Bonafonte is outstanding. Elle carries the story through with acting that is compelling and she achieved an emotional rendition of 'Take back the books'.

Elle was well matched with both Emmett and Warner, and her clash with Vivienne was very well played by both actors.

In this production Professor Callaghan was a female but she retained the pompous and manipulative character of the film. And Kyle, the delivery man, not only gave a convincing performance, he was also the recipient of the famous 'bend and snap'.

T&A went to the first performance with Smithdon's feeder schools whose applause was enthusiastic – and very loud.



Smithdon school receives prestigious award

Staff and students at a West Norfolk school have been celebrating news that it has been awarded a prestigious Artsmark.

Smithdon High School, Hunstanton, has been assessed by the organisation which is accredited by the Arts Council for the development of education in the arts and culture across the UK.

Students have recently been staging their production of Legally Blonde, which played to packed houses at the end of February. The show was also performed to local primary school pupils at special matinee shows.

The school will be hosting an Art Exhibition on March 26 which will be shared by local primary schools and taking the theme of nature.

"This is great news for our school and we are all delighted that we have a silver artsmark which is an indication of our current commitment and our plans for future development of provision in this field," said John Hirst, Headteacher.

"The students put on a fantastic show with Legally Blonde and it's productions like this which illustrate how much emphasis we put on the arts and how well our students embrace the opportunities within that field," he added.

"It is good to see Smithdon's arts provision emerging, with an increased range of clubs, trips and visitors in place and planned; growing engagement from students, notably in instrumental music and greater exposure to the wider community through performances and a strengthening of pupil voice," says the letter announcing the school's

Silver award.

The school is already looking forward to its Summer Concert which will showcase a range of performers and Smithdon's opportunities for students to become involved.

Extra curricular activities at the secondary school include instrumental music lessons, ensemble music groups, drama and speak out and debate challenges. There is also a Literature Society, Choir and a Jam Session club available for students either during lunch time or after school.

Smithdon is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust and has 630 students and 85 staff based in the Grade II listed 'brutalist' steel and glass structure that has become a landmark in the area.

The school has grown and also boasts a range of purpose-built facilities and resources which has helped achieve the Artsmark award.

The scheme is open to all schools and the awards are made to schools committed to arts and cultural education. It can take two years from registering to achieve an award and includes staff training, self-assessment and an impact statement.

West Norfolk Academies Trust is a locally-based charity working with a total of 11 primary and secondary schools in the area. It works to support each school while allowing each to maintain its own identity and ethos.



Donations received during Lent, including from the Stations of the Cross lunches will go this year to Lenten alms charities, Aid to the church in need, who provide ongoing support to persecuted Christians, and SVP East Anglia, for assistance in the purchase of a second house for the homeless.

World Day of Prayer this year held at St Cecilia's Catholic Church, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham, on Friday 6th March was very well attended. We are asked to continue prayers for the people of Zimbabwe throughout the year ahead. For further information and resources go to the website wwdp.org.uk

We had a pancake supper on shrove Tuesday at St Cecilia's, with homemade pancakes donated by volunteers and enjoyed by all. Our Easter services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday 9th April, Mass of the last supper 7.30pm at St Cecilia's followed by Watching until 10.20pm and then Compline;

Good Friday Liturgy 10th April at St Cecilia's at 3pm; Stations of the Cross at Hunstanton, 6.30pm;

Easter Vigil at Hunstanton 11th April starting at 8.30pm;

Easter Sunday Masses at normal Sunday times.

There is a Fair Trade Stall at St Cecilia's after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Please support this very worthwhile cause by buying fairly traded goods to support families abroad trying to earn a living. For more information please contact Caroline Brooks on 01553 673069.

All social events will be well publicised in the weekly bulletins and on the website. Everyone, whether Catholic or not, is welcome to all of our services and social occasions. We have refreshments after the 11am Mass every Sunday and after 10.15am Mass every Wednesday. There are also refreshments after the 9am Mass on the first Sunday of the month at Dersingham. Everyone will be most welcome.

Daily Masses are 10am in St Theresa's Convent, 27 Sandringham Road, Hunstanton, during the winter months, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday mass is at 10.15am at St Cecilia's,

Dersingham.

Sunday Masses are 9am at St Cecilia's, Mountbatten Road, Dersingham and 11am at the Parish Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Edmunds, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton. The Parish telephone number is 01485 534675.

If you require a Priest urgently please telephone V. Rev Canon Peter Rollings on 01553 772220 or email: parishpriest763@gmail.com

Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org



Christian Science Society, Hunstanton

The Easter Miracle

The crucifixion, resurrection and ascension are often seen as the three stages of Christ Jesus' ultimate proof that "all things are possible to God." The crucifixion was the price that Christ Jesus paid for the hatred of men towards truth, but his resurrection and ascension were the demonstration of God's love for his children. The resurrection and ascension are considered by many to be miracles. One dictionary definition of the word miracle is "an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency." The Bible is full of instances that seemed inexplicable to humanity, but Christ Jesus showed us that the miracles he and the prophets performed, were not one-off occurrences, but something that they did on a regular basis and

although inexplicable to most, were expected. Jesus' resurrection and ascension give us hope and expectation of good, and as the Wayshower, he showed humanity that we can rise above our difficulties. Jesus gave us a sense of unlimited life, a life that is good, happy and blesses others. Jesus as the Son of God was unique and taught the world the true sense of love, how to have hope and gain dominion.

Easter is a wonderful time to celebrate these ideas in our lives. We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Our church services are every Sunday at 11am at Christian Science Society, 10 Queens Drive, Hunstanton PE36 6EZ. We also hold a service on the first Wednesday of each month at noon and everyone is most welcome. Free magazines are available from the box outside the church and for more information on Christian Science please visit www.christianscience.com or follow us on Facebook.

Hunstanton and the Saxon Shore

Dear Friends,

As I sit here writing the blossom on the trees has livened up my garden, the daffodils are starting to open and yesterday morning I saw a lovely hare running across the lawn. Oh how this makes my heart rejoice at the joy of spring. Through the winter the dark days seem so long but eventually we see hope in the first signs of new life.

Life can be a little like this at times, there are times of winter, which seem endless, and then there is a glimmer of hope. The church year echoes this pattern as well. At the moment we are working through Lent, a time when many people give something up or take on a challenge. I have a number of friends who are doing a 40k for Lent challenge...not me, although I do admire those who are pushing themselves in this way. The time of Lent is one where we impose some restrictions or a bit more discipline on ourselves. In talking to others I have found that the time away from particular food, drink or social media changes them not just for that period but for the rest of the year. I suspect this happens because it gives perspective and a realisation that we are not, in fact, that dependent on Twitter or whatever we have given up! Gaining perspective in life is healthy and can help us to reevaluate what we have and what we really need.

With a couple of weeks of Lent still to work through we do, like the

seasons, have something glorious to look forward to at this time. For Christians this time of Lent helps us draw closer to Jesus and to deny ourselves in order to walk with Him on a path that led to his gruesome and agonising death on a cross. The Bible tells us that Jesus did this out of love for us and as a result of our sinful actions. His life was given as the ultimate sacrifice so that we can be drawn closer to God, knowing that the things that we have done wrong and asked forgiveness for have been wiped out. At the end of Lent we remember, on Good Friday, Jesus' death but then we have the most wonderful celebration on Easter Day when the resurrected Jesus is with us! Through the difficulties of Lent and life we have the assurance of New Life in Jesus and the start of something wonderful.

This Easter we have many services in our Benefice, through Holy Week and on to Easter Day itself. If you have given something up, or challenged yourself, this Lent don't just stop on Easter Day and stuff yourself with chocolate... come and join with us to celebrate the risen Jesus and the New Life that we can enjoy with Him. Whether you come to church regularly, haven't been for a while, haven't been for ages, or just feel uncertain you would be welcome, please know that you are so welcome. We would love to see you on this most special of days and to rejoice with each other that "Christ is risen".

May you know the joy of the risen Jesus this Easter!

Rachael. Team Rector

Salvation Army, Snettisham

A young boy and his father were out for a drive in the country on a lovely spring afternoon when a bee flew in the open car window. The boy was petrified of bees as he was allergic to their stings which could prove fatal and he became hysterical. His father reached out and grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand and then let it go. As soon as he let it go his son became frantic again as the bee buzzed around the car. His father reached out his hand and showed his son the sting of the bee stuck in his palm. He said, "Do you see this? You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you."

This is the message of Easter. We do not need to be afraid of death anymore. Christ faced death for us. He took the sting and by his death on the cross at Calvary we can have

eternal life through faith in him.

Join us at The Salvation Army on Good Friday, 10th April at 11am, to contemplate the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for you and then celebrate his victory over death on Easter Sunday, 12th April at 11am. You will be most welcome.

We also have a quiz night on Monday 20th April at 7pm. Come along as a team or individually and pit your wits against our quiz master John Asbridge who is notorious for setting the most fiendishly difficult questions. Tickets are £5 and available from The Salvation Army and the price includes a buffet.

Whether you join us for Easter or for the quiz night or both or for any of our regular activities you will find a warm welcome at

The Salvation Army. See our website for details www.salvationarmy.org.uk/snettisham or call 01485 579079 or email alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk



S'BORIN'!

By Dennis Acott, a member of The Way C F Leadership team

Rev. Eric Delve was Vicar of St Luke's, Maidstone, for much of the time my wife and I were members of that church from 1997 to 2015, and before we moved to Norfolk. He had previously been an evangelist travelling around the UK and abroad. One of his favourite anecdotes was about the young people he often encountered over the years and from whom the answer to his question, "What do you think of church?" was invariably, "S'borin'!"

This is an opinion shared, not only by many young people, but also by a much wider age group. But I have noticed that most people who express this opinion have never been to a church service (apart from for weddings or funerals). They have simply absorbed the commonly held view of society in general.

Over the years, the church has been depicted as a caricature, quite unlike what most of us encounter on a Sunday morning. Of course, there is no smoke without fire, and the wimpy minister and the self-righteous, holier-than-thou type usually depicted by the media can be found in some congregations. Others denigrate the Christians commonly known as "happy clappies", whether they have actually encountered such apparent weirdos or not!

But it is my assertion that these stereotypes of what a typical Christian is like are well wide of the mark, at least in the church congregations I have been a part of for nearly 50 years now. Contemporary worship in many churches combines music and musicianship of a "professional" standard, using a variety of instruments, with words (lyrics) which are true to the meaning of

scripture and what is intended to be the normal Christian lifestyle. Their preachers contend that the Christianity is meant to be lived 24/7, not confined to an hour or so on a Sunday morning as a "religious" observance.

Indeed, it is my contention (and that of many others) that Christianity and "religion" are simply not compatible. At least not if your view of "religion" is something practised by people with very long faces and an even longer list of "rules" they have to keep – or else!

John 3:16, a Bible verse that almost every Christian can quote verbatim, says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." What can be overlooked is the verse which follows it. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." It is a positive message.

It is not about a God with a big stick and an even bigger desire to punish everyone at every opportunity! It describes a God who actually loves us, both individually and unconditionally, and really does want only the best for us, His children. This view becomes more meaningful as we lay aside "religion" and come into the personal relationship with Him that He desires.

"How do I do that?" you may ask. You can find out by walking into a lively church on a Sunday morning and discovering for yourself that "S'not borin'" after all. And I don't just mean The Way CF, although you are more than welcome to join with our church family in Downs Close one Sunday morning at 11am.

HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH

EASTER? What does Easter mean to you?

Aster eggs (absolutely!) beginning of spring (probably) holidays (hopefully)

But it also means Jesus rose from the dead! Of course, He did, that's what happens when someone is murdered on a cross – isn't it?

Let's see what happened.

We know that when the women ran to tell the disciples Jesus' tomb was empty Peter had to be the first to put his head in to see if it was true and then ran away; that's what happens when doubt takes over. After that we know that Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden. (shame Peter didn't see that)

Of course, that leads us to a dilemma, because you (like Peter) who doubt need physical proof, and unfortunately, we cannot offer it you. But we can tell you what it really means to know that Jesus rose from the dead, to know that death has no more hold over you and that eternal life in the love of the Lord awaits you.

Now what does a difference in faith make?

You see, the resurrection is not about the mental capacity to think but the capacity of the heart to believe and to love. Believe it or not faith in Christ is heightened when we start to doubt; faith in Christ is strengthened by the words He spoke to another doubting disciple Thomas; "Happy are those who did not see and believed".

You see with a little faith (and sometimes a little doubt) we do not need to see Him, or feel the wounds on His hands and feet; we can believe in Him because of the new life, the forgiveness and the joy of life after death He offers us all (even those like me who got things so wrong for so long).

Still not sure? Still doubtful? Then come and have a chat with those who felt the same until they came to see WHAT A DIFFERENCE A FAITH MAKES! (it didn't stop then enjoying Easter eggs, spring or holidays though)

Steve

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House coal and wet wood to be banned, government confirms

Sales of house coal and wet wood in England will be phased out from next year to cut pollution, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Plans to phase out the sale of coal and wet wood for domestic burning and encourage the use of cleaner fuels in the home have been confirmed by the government today (21 February).

Wood burning stoves and coal fires are the single largest source of the pollutant 'PM2.5', emitting twice the contribution of industrial combustion and three times the contribution of road transport. This form of pollution consists of tiny particles which penetrate deeply into our body, including lungs and blood, and has been identified by the World Health Organisation as the most serious air pollutant for human health.

To help improve the air we breathe and ensure householders choose cleaner fuels, sales of coal and wet wood – the two most polluting fuels – will be phased out between 2021 and 2023, giving the public and suppliers time to move to cleaner alternatives such as dry wood and manufactured solid fuels.

This means that wood must have a moisture content of 20% or less to be considered dry.

Today's announcement builds on measures in the Environment Bill which will make it



easier for local authorities to tackle air pollution in their areas, as well as the government's £3.5 billion plan to reduce harmful emissions from transport, and efforts to reduce emissions from industry.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

"Cosy open fires and wood-burning stoves are at the heart of many homes up and down the country, but the use of certain fuels means that they are also the biggest source of the most harmful pollutant that is affecting people in the UK. By moving towards the use of cleaner fuels such as dry wood we can all play a part in improving the health of millions of people.

"This is the latest step in delivering on the

challenge we set ourselves in our world-leading Clean Air Strategy. We will continue to be ambitious and innovative in tackling air pollution from all sources as we work towards our goal to halve the harm to human health from air pollution by 2030."

Sales of all bagged traditional house coal will be phased out by February 2021, and the sale of loose coal direct to customers via approved coal merchants by February 2023. This will give industry, suppliers and households the time to adapt to the new rules.

Multiple studies have shown that long term exposure to PM2.5 can cause lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, strokes and asthma.

These regulations will apply in England only.

Schools celebrate British Science Week

Sophie Hooker

It was time for Smithdon High School students to shine during British Science Week (6 - 15 March) as they engaged with younger primary students and passed on their knowledge on all things science.

The 10-day programme centres on the STEM subjects of science, engineering, technology and maths. Year 9 and Year 10 students toured a number of primary schools in the area including Hunstanton, Dersingham, Heacham, Brancaster, Snettisham and Docking to teach Year 3 students all about their work.

Smithdon science teacher Veronica Soper said:

"We're celebrating British Science Week with our Youth Stem Award (YMA) students (the YMA is similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award system but for STEM subjects). The theme for this week is 'Our Diverse Planet'.

"Visiting schools is part of their 'engaging with the future generation' strand where they have planned the activities to show the younger children and these hours will contribute to their award. For a bronze award they have to do at least 10 hours in four different strands. We're out every afternoon this week visiting seven local schools."

Activities included chromatography which is identifying the components of different dyes in skittles, using a ripple tank to generate waves mimicking plastic pollution in the ocean, an animal vision activity where they have modelled different types of vision in animals, using a fan to measure how far seeds can disperse and creating square bubbles.

Town and Around joined the students at Ingolishorpe C of JE VA School on 11th March to photograph them experiencing science in action.



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A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

Vegetable soup

I decided to share this recipe as I have now made it in my new soup maker:

Firstly on the hob:

Approx. 230g / 8oz. Cabbage
a medium size carrot
a medium size parsnip
a medium size potato
1 Vegetable stock cube
Salt and pepper
Knob of butter
Medium size shallot

Dissolve stock cube in 500ml / 1 pint hot water. Remove and discard outside leaves of cabbage, trim off and discard discoloured area of base of stalk cut away stalk and place in a bowl of cold salted water, slice leaves thinly and leave in bowl with stalk. Peel and trim carrot and parsnip and cut into small pieces. Peel potato and cut into small pieces.

Rinse cabbage stalk and cut into small pieces. Peel and slice shallot. Put butter into a saucepan and over a low to medium heat soften butter then add shallot. Mix well. Cook for 1 minute stirring continuously. Add carrot, potato, cabbage stalk and parsnip to saucepan, pour in stock stir and mix well, bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and leave simmering gently.

Rinse cabbage leaves and add to saucepan, stir well, bring back to boil, reduce heat, cover and leave simmering for 25 - 30 minutes or until vegetables are fairly soft.

Season to taste.

Strain off liquid into a jug. Put vegetables into a suitable jug or bowl and whizz with blender until soft. Carefully return liquid to pureed vegetables in a saucepan, stirring gently to mix well. Reheat, serve and enjoy.

This recipe can be found in "Less Waste More Soup" "30 easy Budget friendly recipes for nutritious, delicious soup from a Prudent Pensioner Doreen Reed. Now available from Amazon (Amazon Books then search for Doreen Reed or direct from my website)

And in my Soup Maker:

My soup maker is a Morphy Richards, from asking around I feel this is very popular. Mine is the compact one with a min of 800ml and a max of 1000ml I found the above quantities reached above the minimum line so I used slightly less:

Approx. 200g / 7oz. Cabbage
Approx. 170g/6oz. Carrot
A medium size potato
1 Vegetable stock cube
Salt and pepper
Medium size shallot

I was using a sweetheart cabbage so didn't use a parsnip as I felt it would be sweet enough.

Remove and discard outside leaves of cabbage, trim off and discard discoloured area of base of stalk. Slice rest of cabbage thinly and place in a bowl of cold salted water.

Peel and trim carrot and cut into small pieces. Peel potato and cut into small pieces. Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.

Place carrot, potato and onion into soup maker.

Rinse cabbage in cold water and put sufficient into soup maker to reach min. line. Add stock cube and 400ml cold water, this should not pass max line. Set to smooth or chunky setting and leave it to do its stuff.

19 minutes later Serve and enjoy.



For details of my books and more of my recipes and 'How to' Video clips visit the Prudent Pensioner's page on my website:

www.doreenreedpoet.com

Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com

T&A's cats

You may remember the photo we published of our kittens soon after they had been rescued from a field by Clare from Clare's Cattery after they had been abandoned by their mother last April.

Here they are now - Angus and Gordon, two of the most affectionate and well behaved boys you could ever wish for.

Thanks to Clare and Coastal Vets for all their help.



10th anniversary celebrations for Nelson's Shantymen

On 10th March Nelson's Shantymen celebrated their 10th anniversary – and what better present than an ale brewed for them by The Brancaster Brewery!

At their celebration party on Saturday 14th March the Shantymen presented a cheque to the East Anglian Air Ambulance for £1,500 and then a further £59.00 was collected in the buckets making the total donated to the charity to £1559.00.

Nelson's Shantymen describe themselves as 'a diverse group of enthusiasts, driven in equal measure by a love of singing and a desire to keep the tradition of the authentic sea-shanty alive.'

Since their formation they have performed throughout the county raising money for many charities along the way. They rehearse at the Jolly Sailors in Brancaster Staithe and their repertoire includes songs celebrating England's greatest seaman, Lord Horatio Nelson, and numbers recording the hardships of the fisherman's way of life.

The Brancaster Brewery website says it "is a 5 barrel brewery producing small batches of high quality real ale using top quality local ingredients. It takes its name from our village Brancaster Staithe, which is steeped in brewing history. Located in the heart of a prime barley growing area, records show brewing here dates back to Roman times. So great was the demand for barley from this area that reputedly the country's largest Malthouse was built in Brancaster Staithe in 1797, just across the road from The Jolly Sailors pub. Ironically the Malthouse was built using bricks salvaged from the nearby Roman fort!"



From left Jolly Sailors general manager Simon Parkin, Chris Jacklin and Steve Ireson



The Nelson's Shantymen with from left holding the cheque Alistair Milner, Tim Richardson and Steve Ireson.

Photos: Ian Burt



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It's never too early to make wishes come true, so be a genie-us and book your tickets for this magical carpet ride adventure today with our EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!!!

Tickets are on sale now and are already flying

out of the box office faster than a magic carpet! Our Early Bird offer means that all seats are £15 until 31st May 2020 so BOOK NOW!!!!

School Performances Available - Schools £9.00 per child includes tub of vanilla ice - cream or fruit shoot at the interval. Teachers 1 in 10 goes free (any extras charged at child price) includes complimentary tea/coffee and mince pie.

Childrens' Group Price for 10 or more (Brownies, Scouts, Guides etc) - £10.00 per ticket (children and adults) Not available on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day Performances.

Schools and Groups please email Gemma directly at gemma@princesshunstanton.co.uk for more details on how to book.

All prices include booking fee.



Website & Online Bookings: www.princesshunstanton.co.uk



Dear Valued Customer

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, 16th March, and in order to protect our customers and our shows, we have, regrettably, taken the decision to cancel all shows and cinema, as a precautionary measure until the 31st May 2020.

The shows that were due to perform during this time are in the process of being moved to a later date when we hope you will return and enjoy a night out with us. More information regarding the rescheduling will be provided as it becomes available.

As you are aware, the Princess Theatre is a small venue that relies upon its volunteers to keep it operational. We, of course, do not want to put it in jeopardy. Please can we ask you for your continued support to take up the offer of the new dates when they become available, rather than request a refund.

At this moment, we are working through the date sheet chronologically from Thursday, 19th March when The Manfreds were due to perform. They have now been moved to Monday, 31st August 2020. Once we have the new dates confirmed for the other shows, we will contact you with the details. We will then move on to April's shows and do the same.

We respectfully ask for your patience whilst we are rescheduling shows.

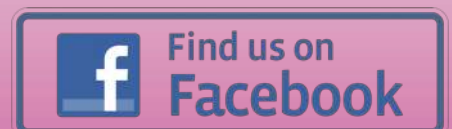
If you are a ticket holder, please be assured that we will contact you as soon as we have information concerning your new date.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your custom over the past 8 years and look forward to seeing you when things return to normality.

Please note, as usual, our online booking system is available 24 hours a day.

Yours sincerely

Brian



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