

TOWN and AROUND

A woman with grey hair and blue eyes is looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a red and yellow life jacket over a black turtleneck. The life jacket has a white label on the right side that reads "RNLI ILB 380N LIFEJACKET SKN 48713". The background is a sandy beach with some dunes and a cloudy sky.

NEWS FROM
NW NORFOLK
FREE

ISSUE 186 APRIL 2021
PRICELESS!

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

What a lot there was to squeeze into this edition! I think there's something for everyone this month and I hope you'll enjoy your read.

For those who think that 'On the turf' is only about horse racing and other sports, think again and turn to page 30 for a very interesting article by Charles Joyce.

It was lovely to see our local Lifeboat Station highlighted on TV on International Women's Day, and now you can read about the female crew on page 4. It's a Station of many firsts and I'm pleased to feature Leesa, the first female hovercraft pilot in the RNLI on the cover this month - back in June 2019 our front cover picture was of Charlie Parfitt, the RNLI's first female Hovercraft Commander.

Thank you everyone who has written letters to the magazine recently, it seems some of the articles we are including are stimulating lively debate.

The number of pages we print each month depends entirely on our advertising revenue and I thank each and every one of the advertisers in these pages. Please try to buy their goods and services if you can.

Thanks also to everyone who has written articles and supplied images for this edition. I can't always print everything that is sent in and this month one such item is an appeal for St Mary's Heacham where urgent building repairs are required. I have posted this appeal and other items to our website. Please take a look, the link is below. Until next month, happy Easter and very best wishes,

Elaine

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Keith, founder of K Brown Auto Repairs

Getting it right: first time, every time

There's no such thing as an easy option or a quick fix solution at K Brown Auto Repairs – just a professional service you can trust

You'd be surprised how many people take their car to different garages every time they need some work done or wonder why a strange light has suddenly appeared on their dashboard – but it's usually based on poor previous experiences or problems not being solved correctly in the first place.

There's a reason why people have been bringing their cars to K Brown Auto Repairs in King's Lynn and Hunstanton for over 25 years, and it's not just the friendly reception staff or the highly-trained technicians.

"We have so many customers who

come to us with persistent issues that won't go away despite them having tried two or three different garages," says Tamsin Brown. "Cars are very intelligent and highly complex these days, and the easy option usually only fixes the symptoms of the problem – not the cause. And in many cases the easy option is also the most expensive."

Her husband Keith (who founded K Brown Auto Repairs in the spring of 1995) takes a very different approach to car servicing and repairs – insisting that all diagnostics have to be proved before any work is carried out. It's simple to replace an expensive part that appears to be faulty and it may even appear to solve the problem for a week or so.

But K Brown Auto Repairs doesn't work on assumptions, guesswork or possibilities – and never carries out

any work until the true cause of the problem is identified and proved and the customer has been fully informed.

"I think that's why we've built such a strong reputation for being totally trustworthy," says Tamsin. "We'll always trace issues back to their root cause, which may be as straightforward as replacing a single small wire."

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'An all-female lifeboat crew? I don't see why not...'

Female volunteers from Hunstanton Lifeboat Station share their stories for International Women's Day

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station is leading the way in the representation of women in lifesaving with 10 female volunteers in various operational roles, both afloat and ashore, from a total of 39.



Joanne Jutsum

Joanne Jutsum is one of the newest to join. As a Deputy Launch Authority (DLA), Joanne has one of the biggest responsibilities on the station. She takes the initial call from the Coastguard, decides whether to launch, and if so which of the station's assets to deploy. Away from the RNLI, she's a company director in the retail sector.

'I'm a diver and sailor, so wanted to give something back and use my knowledge to help' says Joanne. 'It took a little time to feel like part of the team, but everyone has been really supportive and kind. My proudest moment to date was handling my shout without supervision. We rescued 16 people that day.'



Hannah Torrice

The theme of International Women's Day this year is #ChooseToChallenge. 'I don't see that as being about challenging the men on station' says **Hannah Torrice**, a radiographer by profession, the fourth generation of her family to join the Hunstanton crew and the first woman. 'For me it's about choosing to challenge myself by pushing me out of my comfort zone and increased my people skills. And perhaps challenging the old-fashioned perception of a lifeboatman'.

Hunstanton is used to playing a pioneering role within the RNLI. It's one of only four stations across the UK and Ireland to count a hovercraft among its lifesaving assets, perfect for tackling the vast mud flats and sand banks exposed at low tide where most of the station's rescues occur. Among the Hunstanton Flyer's crew are two pioneers in their own right. **Leesa Espley** (pictured on



Charlie Parfitt

the front cover), the first female hovercraft pilot in the RNLI, who juggles volunteering with being a supply teacher, retained fire fighter and a mum, and **Charlie Parfitt**, the RNLI's first female Hovercraft Commander:

'I joined the station when I moved to Hunstanton. As a powerboat instructor and lifeguard I wanted to use my experience to help others. One of the things I love most about being part of the crew is that every time we're called out, we're faced with new challenges and work together to solve them.'

Leesa adds: 'I'd always been interested in life saving. In 2003 I had laser surgery on my eyes to enable me to reach the standard required to join the RNLI as a crew member. Since having my daughter in 2008 I've had to juggle home life with training and call outs, but it's been worth it. I felt so proud to be the first woman to hold a hovercraft pilot licence, and to be chosen to crew one of the safety boats at the London Olympics sailing event.'

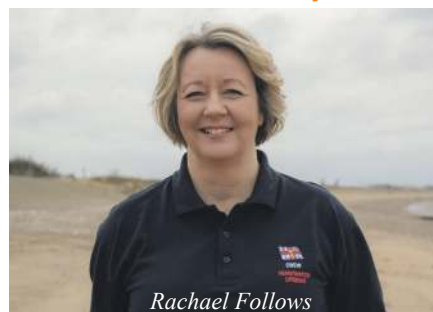


Kate Craven

Women are performing every available role at Hunstanton, bringing a range of professional experience to the charity. **Kate Craven**, a Sales Manager, runs the station's education programme; **Sam Pratt** works for a local Funeral Service and is a Community Safety Officer and part of the Shore Crew; **Rachael Follows** is a Clinical Advisor and Trainee DLA; **Terri Lucas** works at a Joinery



Sam Pratt



Rachael Follows

and pilots the Hovercraft; **Clare Kyle** is a delivery driver and one of the station's mechanics; while **Megan Watson** is a student and joined the Shore Crew after completing her Duke of Edinburgh award on station.



Clare Kyle



Terri Lucas



Megan Watson

So, could we ever see an all-female lifeboat crew?

'I don't see why not' says Joanne Jutsum. 'Don't get me wrong, we have some great guys here at Hunstanton and I love working with them, but there's no reason why it couldn't happen one day. We certainly have the skills, the courage and the support of our organisation to succeed.'

See page 47 for Geoff Needham's report



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Latest update on the A149

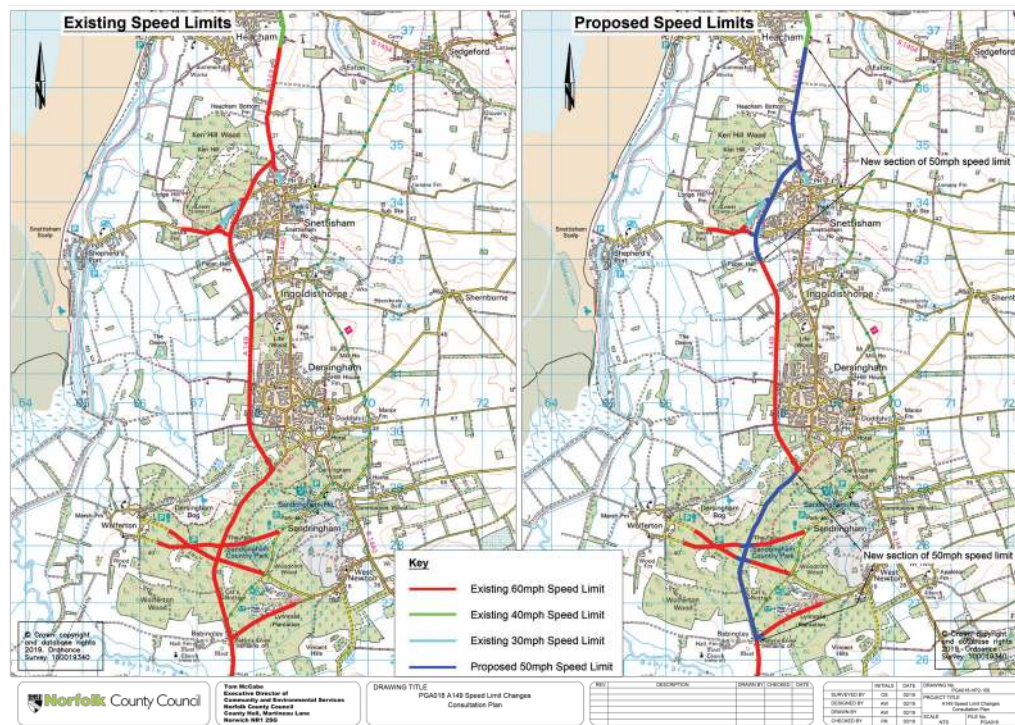
T&A magazine has been pursuing the progression of the developments to the A149 for some time and we have just received a report from Norfolk County Council concerning the current position.

The main concerns in the initial proposals for many of the Parish Councils along the route were that the closure of some of the junctions along A149 would reduce reasonable access for local residents. Officers have listened to the Parish Councils' feedback and are no longer proposing any closures.

The junctions will be reviewed for safety and a series of improvements at these locations such as better road markings, signage, new layouts to separate traffic, measures to enhance day/night visibility and pedestrian safety in consultation with the parishes and others will be brought forward in due course.

Issues about volumes of traffic brought on by the resurgence of staycations and the increase in new homes being built along and adjacent to the A149 have been largely put 'on a back burner' with promises of constant review.

The very quick installation of



the average speed radar cameras which are currently operational at 60mph, the national speed limit, will be set to a new localised limit of 50mph shortly (we do not have a date yet).

The three main Parish Councils

along the route together with the Police and Fire Service plus other interested parties are all supporting the reduction to 50mph on the particular sections (see maps above with key) to increase safety.

We at T&A will attempt to keep

all interested parties advised of any and all updates in the situation.

The junction in Heacham, Lamsey Lane, is of especial interest and we expect some announcements about this shortly.

How to prepare your car for coming out of lockdown

Abigail Brown

Has your car been parked up for long periods of time during the lockdown? Since most of us are no longer doing the daily commute to work or travelling outside of our local area, our cars have been stationary for longer than they are built to be.

Tamsin Brown, co-director of K Brown Auto Repairs - alongside her husband Keith Brown - shares how to get your car ready for when lockdown restrictions ease.

Q: How can I prepare my car for regular use once the lockdown is lifted?

A: When you get back on the road, the last thing you need is your car breaking down, or having to fork out for a costly repair. Catching minor problems early could prevent them becoming bigger, and more expensive issues. I would recommend doing your own checks if you can or getting your car serviced by a local garage before using it if it has been stationary for a while. During a service, a garage should check your car's engine, brakes, suspension, exhaust, drive system, tyres and battery.

Q: What could be wrong with my car after a long period of inactivity?

A: Cars are designed to be used regularly. If you haven't been able to drive yours much, your brakes may need adjusting, and your wiper blades may have deteriorated. The lights on your car and levels (oil, coolant, washer fluid, brake fluid) will need checking, and it might be wise to look over your previous MOT or service advisory for any additional work that should be done.

Q: Is there anything else that needs to be checked?

A: Now that we're approaching summer, it would be beneficial to make sure your air conditioning is working. Your garage should check this during a service. You might also want to run a deodoriser through your air conditioning system to ensure it doesn't emit a stale smell.

A lot of us are out of routine at the moment, so you can be forgiven for forgetting when your car's MOT is due, but it's vital that you ensure it's up-to-date before driving. It's also important to check your road tax. If you've temporarily paused it, make sure it is resumed before taking your car out again.

And last, but not least, don't wait until the last minute to get your car booked into a garage. It's likely that as restrictions ease, garages will experience an influx of bookings. If you need to get your car checked, get it booked in sooner rather than later to beat the rush.

For more advice, you can contact K Brown Auto Repairs on 01485 533786.

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Dealing with estate debts

By Anna French, Chartered Legal Executive, Hayes + Storr

If you are an executor of an estate, your duties involve not only dealing with the assets of the deceased, but also any debts that have been left behind. Any estate may have debts, even if the deceased was wealthy – it is reported that Michael Jackson died with around \$500 million worth of debt. It is the duty of the executors to make sure debts are repaid.

Impact of debts on beneficiaries

Naturally, if an estate includes debts, this will reduce the amount that is available for distribution to the beneficiaries.

If the estate is solvent, there will be sufficient funds to pay all debts, but the amount the beneficiaries receive will be reduced. If the estate is insolvent and the debts outweigh the assets, then the beneficiaries will not receive anything.

As an executor you should keep the beneficiaries informed and manage their expectations about what they will inherit.

For a solvent estate

Once estate debts have been paid, you will need to think about the beneficiaries. A legal procedure called abatement applies wherever assets are insufficient to pay all the legacies in full. If this is the case, the residuary beneficiaries will not receive anything, as the payment of legacies takes priority over the residue of the estate.

A residuary beneficiary is a beneficiary who has been left a percentage of what's left over in the estate after all legacies (specific gifts and sums of money to named individuals) have been distributed and all debts and expenses have been settled.

For example, you might leave £10,000 to your niece and an antique vase to your best friend (legacies) and leave your residuary estate, which could include your property, to your partner.

An insolvent estate

If an estate is insolvent, the available assets are insufficient to pay all the debts of the deceased. As executor, you must obtain full details of all those debts. You should also consider placing statutory notices to creditors in a local newspaper and the London Gazette. This would provide protection if any further unknown creditors come forward in the future.

When dealing with an insolvent estate, you need to follow a strict order for paying debts. This order is set out in law and it is important that you understand the difference between the types of debt as well as the order itself.

Personal debt cannot normally be inherited, providing the debt was incurred in the sole name of the deceased. But there are exceptions, such as if the debt was guaranteed by a third party or if the deceased had gifted money close to their death which could be seen as an attempt to avoid payment to

creditors from the estate.

If you are worried about any aspect of an estate for which you have been asked to act as executor or administrator, we can offer you expert assistance, whether you are yet to begin the process or are already well on your way. Call 01328 863231 and ask to speak to someone in our private client department.

This article is for general information only and does not constitute legal or professional advice. Please note that the law may have changed since this article was published.



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Down: 1. Decent, 2. Singleton, 3. Bromine, 4. Attained, 5. Embody, 7. Named, 8. Bankroll, 9. Stance, 16. Enchanter, 17. Ad-libber, 18. Syllabub, 20. Elysee, 22. Thymine, 23. Gateau, 24. Asleep, 26. Pulse



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Hunstanton and District Foodbank

Our local Foodbank in Hunstanton continues to be busy in these difficult times, and we would like to thank everyone for their kind support, with a special thanks to Sainsburys, Nationwide and Barclays Bank in town, as well as the Burnham Deepdale shop for hosting collection points.

We manage our food store in St Edmund's church hall rather like a small shop keeping the stock on the shelves in order of "best by" dates, so that the older items are used first and never wasted (yes, I know that some might disagree with this, but it is something we have to adhere to). However, your generosity means that we now have more than enough baked beans, pasta, porridge oats, tinned tomatoes, chick peas and other pulses, soup and tea to use before the dates on the packs. At present we do not need any more of these: we do not want to waste anything.

Our shelving system makes it easy to put together parcels to provide as balanced a diet as is possible, albeit using food with a long enough shelf-life. What we really need in order to do this at present are more of the following:

UHT milk, tinned meat of all descriptions, tinned fruit, long life fruit juice and custard.

In these difficult times, we have to keep clients and volunteers as far apart as possible in a limited space. This means that at present we have a big enough group of people to call upon to help, and are not able to accommodate any more. It is not easy to say no to all the good people who have asked if they can help out, but please accept our thanks for your kind thoughts.

Rev. James Monro

Chair of Trustees, Hunstanton and District Foodbank

Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin

Club Correspondent

Writing about lack of structure is a challenging situation to be in, but not as challenging as the life we lead at the moment. It brings into sharp focus the wonders of nature and how, despite life being on hold, we can begin to embrace signs of spring.

I launched a spring photo competition for members of Hunstanton and District Inner Wheel and after a slow start, photos are trickling in for judging at the end of March so by the next issue of Town and Around, the winner will be announced and her handiwork shown.

We continue to have regular Zoom meetings and phone conversations and hopefully face to face could be on the horizon.

We had a very enjoyable joint President's evening with Rotary, Zoom of course. Maggie Anderson from Baby Basics came to talk to us about the organisation and we had an opportunity to wear our regalia, an example of which is below. Apologies to our president Hilary Farrell that I failed to take a photo of her chain but it will appear when there is a handover later this year.



Sedgeford archaeological dig wants to Power the Past!

An Archaeological dig, which has been excavating in Sedgeford for 25 years launches a Crowdfunder campaign to install a mains electrical supply to the site, which has previously been reliant on a generator for everything - despite training over 4000 people in the last 25 years!

Sedgeford Historical & Archaeological Research Project (SHARP) is one of the country's largest archaeological sites run entirely by volunteers, and has now been running excavation, research and training courses for 25 years. The site is looking into how people used and settled the land, from the earliest times to the present day, although most of its current work is focusing on the Anglo-Saxon period.

During that time, over 4000 people from all over the world have come to join this unusual community; many of whom have gone onto to work as professional Archaeologists. Hundreds of local people and visitors to north west Norfolk come to the site every year to see what's been uncovered - with many coming back every year!

After a fallow 2020 season because of Covid, they are looking to come back bigger and better in 2021! But to do this, they need mains power on our site, rather than the trusty diesel generator they hire every year.

A Crowdfunder campaign called 'Powering the Past' to raise the £15,000 this will cost to install has been launched, and has already raised almost £4,000.



Amber Robinson (photo taken during the 2019 season)

Once the power supply is installed the project will be able to:

- Have more people on site, including people who live in the area and local schools
- Offer a better camping experience, with permanent showers - heaven!
- Offer better classroom facilities for their courses
- Give better access to their collection and archive to local people, students, volunteers, academics and researchers
- Expand the programme SHARP offers into out-of-season activities

Here's the link to the campaign page: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/sharp-powering-the-past>





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Health update with Dr David Ince

GP, The Burnhams Surgery, Burnham Market. Deputy Clinical Director, Coastal Primary Care Network

'Is it Zoom or Teams?'
'You're on mute.'
'Can you resend the invite?'
'I can't get on.'
'We can't see you.'

Yes, that's right readers, the new language of the 'internet meeting'. The other evening I found myself on yet another NHS Zoom meeting - or was it Teams - either way during these meetings, I arrive virtually on time but fail to connect promptly due to some unknown (but no doubt) self-caused IT problem and when my video does finally appear for all to see rather than the sophisticated good looking physician (think young Roger Moore crossed with Lionel Blair) that I imagine in my mind's eye, before me appears a rather harassed looking middle aged GP who could quite easily have not arrived if he had acted upon his first instinct and thrown the laptop in the bin.

We are now all conducting so much of our communication online. In many ways this is excellent as evening meetings can take place at home without having to return home late (and, boy, does the NHS like a planning meeting during a pandemic - I was recently at a meeting planning how to plan for another meeting!). We are all, however, suffering from a lack of direct face to face social contact. People's mental health is suffering as a result and probably 50% of my current workload is

related to mood disorders. I suspect what we are seeing in Primary Care is just the tip of the iceberg. Normal psychological coping mechanisms that we all use every day - playing football, going round for a coffee with a friend, going to the cinema, a weekend away with family - all these simple but vital pleasures that allow us to keep our psychological reserves topped up and maintain our mental health are currently out of bounds. We all have different natural reserves of coping and even the most resilient are running low without these simple self-administered top ups. I would encourage everyone to try and maintain your reserves by taking regular exercise and getting some fresh outdoor air every day.

I am also increasing the number of video consultations I am doing - although still a rare beast, it is steadily growing in popularity and it has its own unique challenges, amusements and benefits. The current NHS-approved system we use sends a link to an encrypted webpage where the clinician and the patient can see and talk to each other. The quality is excellent and feedback good although both the clinician's (mainly) and the patient's IT skills often means that in the time it takes to connect and navigate the encryption, I could probably have driven and done a home visit (Cue - Letters to the Editor re 'I can never get a home visit from my GP' - I can

answer these next month!). I just hope that the CQC inspector wasn't peering around my door as the elderly lady undressed and swung her ample chest across the screen to position herself to show me the rash that was causing concern.

Anyhow, the meeting I want to report on was with NHS England who thanked all of us (including carers and patients) for the progress of the vaccination program (there we go, I have mentioned the V word now). The sports metaphors are still coming strong - the medical director of NHS England described the program as two sprints then a marathon. The first sprint we have completed - Cohort 1-4: Care Homes and all over 70. The second sprint we are currently running - Cohort 5-9: Patients 16-64 with Underlying Health Conditions and all aged 50-70. Then comes the marathon describing the first vaccination of all not previously vaccinated under 50 but also the second vaccination of everyone. Second vaccines will start at Snettisham at the beginning of April and your practice will be in contact closer to the date to offer an appointment. If you received your first vaccination at Snettisham or in your practice then you will automatically receive an invitation for your second one there also. We have been guaranteed the same amount of vaccine for second doses so there is no need for concern but,

due to previously described delivery lead times, you may be called at short notice. First vaccinations are happening as a mixture of Snettisham and at your own practices according to supply and clinic availability. We have no concerns about our capacity and continue to make excellent progress according to the instructions we are given by NHS England.

Unfortunately I doubt there will be any rest at the end of the marathon because as we head down the home straight, we will probably see a sign where the finish line should be simply stating 'Flu Vaccination Campaign and Covid Booster Program 21/22 → This way'!

Right back to Zoom - I am sure someone (and I would be surprised if they haven't already) will make a fortune from T-Shirts printed with 'You're on mute'.

I wish you good health.

Editor's note: Dr Ince is right - T shirts are available!



Evie completes her fundraising kick-a-thon in aid of The Norfolk Hospice

Young fundraiser Evie Taylor, 8, has raised £445 in a kick-a-thon challenge in memory of her grandmother Pamela Carter, who was cared for at The Norfolk Hospice late last year.

Evie, from King's Lynn, challenged herself to complete 100 kicks twice a day on her string ball for 20 days. She completed her challenge at The Norfolk Hospice in Hillington on Thursday 4th March, cheered on by members of staff.

Evie said: "Last year my Grandma was very poorly, she had a horrible bug in her brain called cancer and she died in November last year. I love and miss my Grandma so much.

"I decided a few weeks ago that I wanted

to raise money for the lovely place that looked after her. My Mummy visited Grandma lots of times and she told me that it was a fantastic place full of wonderful nurses and doctors and that Grandma was very well looked after."

Lyndsay Carter, Chief Executive at The Norfolk Hospice, said: "It was wonderful to meet Evie and cheer her on as she completed her kick-a-thon challenge in memory of her Grandma. We are very grateful to have such kind and committed fundraisers in our community who help us raise the vital funds needed to provide outstanding and compassionate end of life care."

You can donate to Evie's page here: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rebecca-taylor141



Hunstanton EyeCare blog

Our lovely Optometrist, Francis, had the bright idea for this month's chat, "How not to go squared eyed when gazing at our screen"! Whether it is a laptop, tablet, mobile phone or conventional desktop computer, the last few months have certainly put a strain on our eyes if used for longer periods of work and schooling. Some symptoms of eye strain can be, blurry vision, itchy eyes and headaches, all causing discomfort and fatigue that are not good for our attention span.

The 20.20.20 rule. The idea is that every 20 minutes, look at least 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. We wouldn't consider jogging for miles without a break for water now and again, come to think of it, I don't think about jogging anywhere! but you know what I mean, our eyes need a bit of a breather and a little recovery time and this rule helps our strained eye muscles recover.

Of course it helps if you have the correct spectacles, even if this



means a pair designed for your screen work. Single vision lenses are not always the best answer as our jobs may require vision at various distances, so there are many lenses that cope with this scenario, the development has been driven by our multi-tasking lifestyle. The key thing in choosing the correct lens is to analyse what distances you wish to cover, then we will design your spectacles. We have our multi-pair offer available too, so bespoke work specs could be a good investment.

Remember to blink, sounds daft, but staring at a screen often means we omit the blinks. Tears and eyelids act like your car windscreen washer and wipers, new tears with a blink washes away debris and bacteria leaving a nice cleansed smooth surface to the cornea. Many folks are suffering from "Dry Eye" these days, and screen use just makes it worse, a little bottle of dry eye comfort drops next to the computer is a good idea, one drop and a blink will refresh those tired eyes.

So don't suffer in silence, come and see us if you are concerned and hopefully we can relieve some visual stress. We look forward to seeing you.

Annette



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A Page from the Sage

Well, here we go again with some fact, fiction and squit for the month of April for the Town and Around.

This month I am writing another bit about local fishermen and shooting in and around the Wash; this bit was written by an old fisherman and wildfowler some sixty or more years ago.

Lynn river and down below

The shrimper's have left the fishing fleet for the Common and Sunk Hole, the cocklers for their daily shipwreck on the Thief Sand, Gribber Goodson lived with his young family in a tent on the bank of the Fisher Fleet - not so comfortable as His Majesty's hotels, he gave Able Garnet a black eye in the Fishermans Return he was one of our crew and he was shanghaied aboard to sober up, Ted Pratt stood for no nonsense from his crew once they were aboard.

Past the stone banks on the west side, on the muds behind them, Allen had his flight nets on poles, covered by the tides they caught flat fish and at low water birds of all descriptions, geese, ducks, waders particularly in a fog. As I write I look at Southgate's print showing him in his gun punt on Stone Corner, alongside a stranded barge, his cabin built on it, the twin towers of St Margaret's in the far distance; away to the westward the windmill showed above Walkers Marsh, a flash there always attracted widgeon, flickering shadows in the moonlit sky preceded by the wheeoh of the drakes (the ducks made a purring noise). Suddenly they would appear

hovering in the snow storm, wings extended, two quick shots then a third cartridge held in the fingers would be fired as they climbed away, Corsets (a black lab) only let out at night, would have them almost before they hit the ground, one of her pups found a dead airman on Wootton Marshes.

Jack Reeve had a houseboat on Lighthouse Marsh, on a wooden stump for a leg he moved at speed over the marsh, his living fish and fowl, over the Nene Kenzie Thorpe worried the geese, he could call a solitary goose out of the sky down to his feet, and call hares by blowing through a blade of grass in his fingers, Peter Scott could time the geese of the sands with the accuracy of a naval operation, exactly to the minute "set your watches with mine", was the order we got on arrival at the northern corner of Terrington Marsh.

To the eastwards were Sandringham Woods, Snettisham church spire and on a clear day Hunstanton pier. On Wootton Marsh widgeon fed in the splashes in Gay's Hollow, it filled at small tides; they grazed on the grass fields right up to North Lynn.

by
Dick Melton
01485 535658



The geese came to this side of the Wash after Christmas, pink feet, white fronts, bean, barnacle and brent, pintail flighted up the Babingly river as far as Hillington, teal from the King's Decoy Wolferton Fen whistled overhead like an express train. Once we walked from North Lynn Lower Hole right through it, not until we stood on Snettisham beach at dawn did we realise where we had been, I thought I heard a lot of quacking, Heacham Haven had been closed in not long before, the house boats there Lynn smacks and whelker floated again in the 1953 floods.

Shore gunning was controlled by the tide when the smacks started to return on the flood up the channel it was time for fowlers marsh heads and watch the ducks on the edge of the tide - out of shot; gunners in pairs would walk the marsh, on small tides the hares lay out there disturbed by ploughing engines, one man with a dog would drive them to his mate on the bank, sometimes they found a cock pheasant roosting there, their dogs sat happily in a carrier on the front of their bicycles, the Red Cat a warm port of call on their return. One slippery night Tom Bunn collapsed on a Lynn pavement, his gun on his knees, his dog growling at the people as they passed by.

An aircraft, a lightning fell into the Wash unseen and unheard, the reward ran into hundreds, the black box flight recorder must be recovered at all costs. All the smacks from Lynn to Brancaster were after her, the Airmoor RAF Salvage arrived, WT messages filled the air once a case of whiskey was mentioned, pieces of metal floated on the ebb off Hunstanton, eventually the skipper of a smack who had gone down below to make a cup of tea, told his mate to take the helm, he promptly got off course got the plane in the trawl, she laid by the side of The Surprise off the Fermer Sand.

The history of Hunstanton

People say to me when we read in the press or a magazine about places or buildings that used to be in Hunstanton years ago that were

demolished or burnt down we are not often told where they were or what is built in their place, well with some pages called the history of Hunstanton written by a good friend of mine the late Ken Arnott compiled by him in 1997 and revised in 2002 and 2004; I will try to explain.

In 1853 there was a very bad fire at Hunstanton Hall, the nearest fire brigade was at Heacham so a man on a horse had to ride there to get there fire brigade. In the meantime the people of Hunstanton rescued a lot of the furniture and used buckets of water to put on the fire and this helped to save a lot of the Hall.

In 1924 the Mikado Cinema, Fish and Chip shop and Oriental Bazaar was burnt down. It was on the site where the Waterside is now; it was at one time the railway Refreshment Rooms.

In 1933 Lenton's Chemist Shop was very badly damaged by fire, it was in the High Street.

1937 saw St Edmund's Cafe on the North Promenade burnt down, it was built in 1900 and nothing was ever built in its place.

In 1939 the Pier Pavilion was burnt down it was built in 1900, it was on the end of the pier two women trapped by the fire had to jump into the sea.

In 1947 the Bandstand on the North Promenade was demolished and in 1994 a new one was built on the green by the Searle family in memory of their father Geoffrey Searle.

1951 another fire in Hunstanton Hall; it then belonged to a Lancashire stockbroker, it has since been made into flats, you can still walk by the hall but only on a Thursday.

1967 the Sandringham Hotel was demolished; it had been built in 1875 by the Great Eastern Railway Company. After it was demolished it was a car park till Harlequin House was built on the site in 1984.

Also in 1967 the Blue Lagoon swimming pool was demolished and that too was made into a car park until 1984 when the Oasis Leisure Centre was built on the site.

In 1969 the railway station was demolished and all the track was taken up, the last train left the station in May 1969. It too was made into a car park and still is.

1972 the Glebe Hotel was demolished, replaced by Buckingham Court flats.

1974 the Hunstanton water tower was demolished, the Heacham water tower at the top of Redgate Hill has been turned into flats.

In 1978 on January the 11th Hunstanton pier was destroyed and washed away in a storm, only the end where the skating rink used to be was left standing, it was later taken down.

Also in 1978 the Country Club, formerly Lydgate House Prep School was demolished; now the site of the Westcliff Court flats. Christopher Cockerill inventor of the hovercraft was a pupil at Lydgate House School.

In 1980 the Boating Lake was demolished; it was built in 1932, on this site is now the Sea Life Centre and the Pirates Crazy Golf Course.

In 1998 the old building that used to be the Kit-Kat public house was destroyed by fire, the Kit Kat closed down in 1986 and was then The Sands nightclub which closed down in 1996 and at the time of the fire it was empty. The ruins were demolished in 2000, the site is still empty and although plans to build on the site have been put in, it has never been built on, what is needed on the site is a family public house like the Kit Kat was.

In 2004 the Pier Entertainment Centre was burnt down, but by the year 2006 it was up and running again.

Well there we are. If by any chance I have made a mistake on the dates or got anything else wrong please put a letter in the Town and Around.

Wildlife

Joy and I live right at the top of the Butterfield Estate, right next to the spinney so we see a lot of wildlife including squirrels - at least five every day, we also get many birds like jackdaws, pigeons, robins, blackbirds, starlings, magpies, sparrows and we often get red kite hovering above looking for prey, but this morning we had a red kite sitting in a fir tree in the spinney, about 20 yards from our kitchen window, eating it's prey which I believe to be a pigeon. You can't get much nearer to wildlife as that can you? I shut the living room window just in case he came in after my toast.

Good advice

I have no doubt that some of you have heard of the Boy John (Sidney Grapes) who used to write in the Eastern Daily Press. He had an Aunt Agatha who was always giving out advice, this is just one bit of advice she gave out. Aunt Agatha she says, "if you want to keep friends with the people in your village, well keep off the Parish Council."

I had a very interesting letter from a Mr Allen Gallagher who worked for the Hunstanton Council and F W Shanks that a lot of the older people will find it very interesting I will be putting this in the May issue of Town and Around.

Well that's your lot for now, keep safe all on you, and keep a troshin', that just remind me I got a nice platter of shellfish for my lunch.

The Boy Dick (The Sage)
Sunny Hunny



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FURNISHED HOLIDAY LETTINGS – A POTENTIAL COVID PITFALL?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

Many owners of furnished holiday lettings (FHLs) will have suffered quite badly as a result of the pandemic lockdowns. Some will have benefitted from various government grants, and some may have enjoyed full bookings from “staycationers” (e.g. in the 148 days in 2020/21 tax year that those in this area of Norfolk were legally allowed to be “open for business”); but few will have been unaffected. In addition to all the other problems, 2020/21 may also see a tax problem on the horizon for those running FHLs.

Qualifying FHLs have a privileged tax position, and despite legally being a “property” business, they are treated as a “trading” business if certain conditions are met. This not only means that the income is pensionable, but also that capital allowances can be claimed, and there is no higher rate restriction on a claim for any mortgage interest suffered. Moreover, capital gains on the disposal of a FHL asset can usually be reduced or deferred by rollover relief, holdover relief or Business Asset Disposal Relief.

In order to qualify as an FHL, a property needs to meet various conditions relating to location, occupancy and availability. In essence, a property (in the UK or European Economic Area) must be available for let for 210 days, and actually let for 105 days (during which no individual letting can exceed 31 days). Provided these tests are satisfied the letting income will be treated advantageously for tax purposes as set out above. Clearly these tests might be challenging during a pandemic, but fortunately there are reliefs which apply to the 31 day test and 105 day test (“exceptional circumstances” and “period of grace”) which should enable most commercial operations to escape breaching the conditions, although it should be noted that the “period of grace” has its own conditions and needs to be supported by a formal election.

The 210 day test is, however, more difficult. There has been little guidance from HMRC to date, and their “FHL and Covid” blog simply says ***“There is no COVID relaxation in relation to the availability condition for furnished holiday lets. So, if the property is not available for the 210 days, then the FHL status is immediately lost”***. Whether or not a property can still be “available” when businesses are legally barred from opening and customers are legally barred from staying is an interesting question.

If it transpires, therefore, that no relaxation of the availability test is announced and, as a result (or due to a breach of the letting test/period of grace exemption) a property does not satisfy the FHL tests, the income will fall to be taxed as normal rental income. There has been some concern that this could actually create a cessation of the FHL trade, which has further complications, but recent updates to the HMRC business manual imply that this should not happen where there is a temporary cessation and the trade then recommences. From a CGT perspective, however, a year during which the property is NOT an FHL is not an issue which can be happily regarded as immaterial or irrelevant.

So the moral of all this is that 2020/21 is NOT a year in which one can simply “tick the same boxes” on the tax return. Thought needs to be given as to what evidence can be produced to show 210 day availability, and appropriate disclosure needs to be made on a return to avoid a later “discovery” coming back to haunt you. If, having read through the information provided above, you require advice regarding the tax implications of letting your FHL, 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

N.B. Article written in March 2021



Caution: The information listed above 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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Countdown to bursting bubbles.....

With the Government outlining their strategy for a 'road map' out of Covid 19 restrictions everyone in the holiday and hospitality industry is preparing for that magical 12 April when our self-catering holiday homes and retail shops can re-open to the public. The hospitality sector will also change on this 'journey'. How different our lives will be once more. From deserted streets and shops (well almost) to a huge influx of strangers who have booked holidays to escape the lock down confines of their homes. Just like last year. This occurrence would normally not be noticed outside of Covid times because being a seaside town with a lot of our shops relying on seasonal income, we are used to the many different visitors throughout the year. As long as they all keep social distancing, hand sanitise, etc, Hunstanton and around, should remain safe. We shall see.

For us locals, will we dare to venture into shops at such a pace though? Holiday makers are very keen to get away, but are we keen to start shopping as we used to? There should still be the same safe rules being applied everywhere. So, will this opening up of travel be safe? Time will tell from the statistics over the next pathway of Boris's five-week plans. Our office will open on 12 April as will other retail outlets and it will be strange to have the public in again. But beware you must stay behind the barrier, squirt your hands and wear a mask.

B & B's and Hotels cannot open until 17 May as they have shared access to front doors, corridors, bathrooms, etc in their premises. The same with holiday homes located in blocks or large houses. All bookings have been refunded or transferred.

Bubbles. Another spanner in the works. The Government make it sound so simple but when broken down and on paper, the explanations of how 'bubbles' work holds about ten different rules. These can of course, be interchanged with each other. Booking a holiday has to be a well thought out affair if you had intended to meet with or stay with



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family or friends. For those of you who would like more details on this take a long while to peruse the Governments Covid 19 website. If you fall into several categories of the 'bubble' situation then 'confused.com' will spring to mind. But wait..... come 21 June Boris's bubbles will supposedly all pop! Fingers crossed.....

So besides having to refund or transfer holidays due to the 'tiering' systems and lock downs, we have spent our time contacting the future guests intending to holiday between 12 April and 21 June to check their 'bubbles'. Very confusing and frustrating for some and others heart breaking as they now cannot come on holiday, again, after having been transferred from 2020 and some even transferred twice due to the second lockdown. But, our customers persevere and have come become very resilient to all the rules. I have said this before and I say it again, it has been the guests and potential guests, plus the housekeepers who have coped very well with all the health and safety regulations and guidelines. They have been a pleasure to work with and our team is very thankful and grateful. Owners should not have travelled to their holiday homes unless in a dire life- threatening emergency. Most understand the law - some of the owners on the other hand just do not get it.

No-one has wanted to lose money or business or loved ones in this unprecedented situation. It is what it is. However, as I write this we have five weeks left to enjoy peace and quiet in Hunstanton..... ..then our bubble has burst!

Sandra Hohol, Norfolk Holiday Homes

tel: 01485 534267

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Hearing aids are simply that. They are aids. They don't replace your natural hearing, and even with them, you still have a hearing loss, so there are sounds your brain just doesn't hear.

And there's a world of difference between Hearing : sound travelling through the ear mechanisms to the brain, and Listening : where the brain makes sense of the sounds it receives.

Hearing is a passive art: your ear will transport the sound waves through to your brain even when you're asleep. Listening, however, takes effort.

We gradually forget how to listen as our hearing mechanism deteriorates, usually over time, but sometimes quicker due to noise damage, illnesses such as diabetes, and medications for life saving treatments like cancer.

This means it takes more effort to listen and make sense of sounds, even with hearing aids

If you think about noise like being in a fog.. then even with glasses, you won't see everything, and so it is with noise and hearing aids.

Because listening takes effort, we can find that we stop trying to listen, to join in, we "zone out", we get out of the habit of listening.

As Audiologists, we can measure this listening effort as part of a rehabilitation programme to help you use your hearing aid technologies, and keep your brain active.. Have you had a listening effort test?

Sadly I see lots of people who have been using hearing aids, but who are disappointed or frustrated that they're not doing what the person had hoped or expected that they would do

Ideally your hearing aids concentrate on collecting sound about

1.5m in front of you (even with the most sophisticated technology). Puts a 2m social distance into perspective, doesn't it?

Yet despite these limitations people expect their hearing aids to help them hear voices from another room, over the noise from the tv in front of them, or when spoken to from behind.

People forget about listening skills and listening effort. The longer you've had a hearing loss, the longer it can take to get your brain to remember speech sounds, if the hearing hasn't deteriorated too much for those signals to get to the brain.

In Hearing Therapy we talk about Auditory Training, which is what it says on the tin! Training your listening skills. It takes time, and ... yes that word again,,, effort, but can make a remarkable difference to your communication skills, confidence, concentration and tiredness.

A simple listening effort test would be a speech in noise test. This is where a series of balanced sentences are played through a speaker or headphones at a measured volume, and there is an increasing level of completing noise with every sentence, making it harder to make out what's being said.

It's also important that your lifestyle and listening habits are taken into account when setting up any hearing technologies, as you may need additional programmes in an aid, or assistive devices for certain situations where the hearing aid alone is unlikely to be sufficient.

So, using a hearing aid to help you listen isn't as straightforward or as simple as you might have thought. And that's probably one of the reasons that only 20% of people use them all the time.

Hearing aids can't fix your hearing loss, but they can help you listen better.

If you're not using your hearing aids, or they're not helping as much as you need, speak to your Audiologist or Hearing Therapist

Anna Pugh

Hearing Therapist Audiologist

Manager West Norfolk Deaf Association

manager@wnda.org.uk

Round the bend with Dean Baker

Stern Lecture Plumbing or 'don't flush that'!

I am a big fan of the American animated sitcom 'The Simpsons' and having found myself with time on my hands I have done some research and I'm pleased to report that there is - In the episode titled 'Homer the Great' a plumber. 'Stern Lecture Plumbing' is a business located in Springfield. It is owned and operated by the local plumber, whose business slogan, painted on the side of his van is - "I told you not to flush that"

I dread to think what Stern Lectures Plumbing logo refers to! Back here in Hunny - what can you flush?

Firstly - wipes. Even if they say 'flushable,' on the packet, they're not. If you must use wipes then put them in a plastic bag and throw them in the bin. Cotton buds are another 'No no'. Cotton wool and anything containing it. Anything with a plastic or cardboard part. Too much toilet paper- are you listening nameless



person in my house!!

Hair, even the really yucky hair you pull out of the shower trap goes in the bin. Dental floss is another offender.

It should go without saying - no pills or syringes should go down the toilet. Take them to the chemist, where they will be disposed of correctly. Bandages and dressings must be double bagged in sealed plastic bags and binned.

DEAN BAKER

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Pet waste should go in designated bins which are all over the town. Cat litter will clog the cistern and all pet waste carries bacteria that the water cleaning system cannot cope with. It is vital our water stays clean safe.

I wonder if Stern Lecture Plumbing would have anything to add to this article.

Perhaps 'when in doubt, don't flush' or 'as little as possible'!! Hmmm, it needs work ...

Until next month, take care
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You in Mind

Hope you are coping well in this time of uncertainty. I know some of you may struggle with anxiety on a day to day basis. This time may indeed cause you to think more deeply about the negatives that are all around us now. But there is some solace in knowing that like most viruses they do and will eventually pass.

For some, this time may lead you away from worrying over your concerns of the past and future, of playing over in your mind the fears for you and your loved ones, and now, you find your mind's focusing on this pandemic.

It is indeed going to be worse for those of you who struggle with anxiety, as you tell yourselves that you have now a real solid reason to be concerned and to over-think.

I do understand that anxiety is a very real uncomfortable emotion that strips away any good feeling and can leave you in a state of complete panic and where you feel consumed by fear of life. Yes life can be fearful but it can be helpful to find comfort in the NOW! And when we only think of Now! and do not become distracted on concerns of the past and what may or my not happen in our future.

I wanted to let you know, because it would seem this could go on for a while yet, that I am still open to seeing clients. I am abiding by the government's safety guidance, keeping a safe distance of over 2 metres away from my clients at all times through the sessions.

Let me explain how I work: You will walk through my doors without having to touch anything, then will be seated on a clean throw (every one has a clean throw just for them) and then I will close doors and sit over 2 metres away from you. At the end of the session the same safe sequence will be repeated when you walk out of the premises.

So if you would like me to help you with what ever you may be struggling with, please get in contact with me. This has to be your decision not mine.

Your therapist, Sandie Payne

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Proposed solar farm at Sedgeford Hall, Sedgeford.

Regener8 Power Limited has launched plans to build a 21MWp solar farm and battery storage facility on 44.5 hectares of land at Sedgeford Hall.

Once operational, the project would be capable of generating renewable electricity to meet the energy needs of approximately 6,275 homes*, with a CO2 saving of more than 10,400 tonnes per annum.

Information about the project is available at <http://www.sedgefordhallsolar.co.uk> and a leaflet has been delivered to homes neighbouring the site.

Sedgeford Hall solar farm would generate approximately 22,600 MWh of clean renewable electricity per year by using photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight directly into electricity. The proposals also



include provision for a 10MWh battery storage system on-site that will supply renewable electricity to the local grid at times of peak energy demand, providing security to the UK's energy supply.

Adriano Satta, Director of Regener8 Power Limited, said: "We believe that the Sedgeford Hall solar farm will help the Borough Council

of King's Lynn and West Norfolk to further reduce its carbon dioxide emissions in line with the UK's 2050 net-zero target. The renewable energy will result in thousands of tonnes less of carbon dioxide being produced every year and contribute to the government's plans to build back greener after the pandemic."

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

This year, more than ever, I am feeling very ready for spring. More daylight hours, more sunshine and lots more time to enjoy outside. Let this be your inspiration to get outside and tackle just one little patch of your garden or plant up just one pot. It would boost your enthusiasm and is bound to lead to lots more planting and pottering!

* 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

You can decide to leave a patch of lawn to grow long this summer, with it's own mix of grasses and flowers. Alternatively, pick a little patch of earth or lawn and sow a mix of annuals with wild flower perennial seeds. Keep digging out any nettles, thistles or dominant weeds, as these will prevent the more delicate flowers from growing strongly. A wild area is not zero maintenance, but if managed can look amazing, with very little effort.

* Flowers and shrubs:

It is still not too late to move evergreen shrubs and trees, 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 dahlia and ranunculus for something a little different in to beds, borders and containers. There

are varieties and colours for every taste and pallet.

Put plant supports in place now so the plants can grow up through them. I love natural hazel shanks, they are strong, but very soft on the eye.

Gently tie in climbers and roses to their supports. Sow half hardy annual climbers for maximum impact. Sweet peas and morning glory come in so many colours, they look amazing when they are grown together.

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 your 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. You can also over seed bare and patchy lawns for a more lush lawn come the summer.

This month, whether it be in your garden, walking by the sea, in the woods or simply around your local area. Take the time to watch and listen. We are amazingly privileged to live in an area prized with it's natural beauty. Soak it up, however your day has been, nature will always raise your spirits.

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Thaxters plant of the month – Clematis

Wendy Warner

There are varieties of Clematis that will flower in every month of the year, and some of the spring-flowering varieties are amongst the most delicate and pretty. At this time of the year your garden will have the colour of bulbs and some low-growing alpinas and perennials but won't have the height of the summer flowering cottage garden style plants. You can create this height using these early flowering clematis. Although they don't have the large flowers of the summer types, their abundance of smaller flowers can create a wonderful display.

Although two separate species, Clematis alpina and Clematis macropetala are very similar in look, habit and requirements. Growing naturally in mountainous areas, they are very tough and hardy and can withstand the lowest of temperatures, growing in areas and countries that other clematis just cannot. In the wild they will never get pruned so need no pruning, and if they do ever break off they will send up fresh shoots from the base. They flower from March to mid-May with hundreds of small, nodding flowers. Macropetalas are fully double, whereas alpinas mainly have four outer sepals or petals making them appear single. They then have fantastic seed heads for the rest of the season, that creates interest after the flowers have gone.

Both come in shades of purple, pink, blue

and white with popular alpina varieties including "Frankie" which is pale blue, "Constance" dark pink and "White Columbine". Macropetalas include the pale pink "Markham's Pink", violet-purple "Octopus" and blue "Lagoon".



Most will grow in any aspect, which includes a shady spot, and they reach approximately 6-8ft (2-2.5metres) and be grown on trellis or wires against a fence or

wall, or in pots or planters up an obelisk or other support.

Clematis montana are another Spring flowering species but much more vigorous growers, and are great for growing up through trees, along hedges, over garages, up houses (basically anywhere that they have room to grow freely) they flower in abundance through April into June, available in pinks and whites and doubles and singles. Some great ones to try are "Broughton Star" a semi-double pale pink with darker vein, "Tetiarose" with deep pink flowers and bronze foliage and "Grandiflora" which is pure white. Dependent on variety, they will grow from 15-30ft (4.5-9metres) in height / length, so always bear this in mind when planting a new plant. No pruning is required as they only flower on old growth (last year's wood).

Many of these clematis will be a great early nectar source for bees and other pollinators.

Two important things to remember when planting Clematis; plant the top of the rootball about 3-5" below ground level, this way, if the stems get broken or they get hit by clematis wilt, they will shoot from below the ground; and they need a cool root run so cover the surface around the plant with stone, slate or bark to stop the roots from getting hot through the summer and to help retain moisture.

So, if you are looking for a colourful spring-flowering, low maintenance climber for any aspect, invest in one of these clematis this Spring.



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New Date!

THORNHAM OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 26th JUNE 2021

With our original date of 20th June just ahead of the lifting of restrictions on 21st June, we have decided to move Open Gardens to Saturday 26th June.

Fingers crossed that all proceeds as planned with Boris' roadmap!

Thornham Open Gardens is a village event, involving as many people as possible and benefitting both the church and the village hall. We will need lots of volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, and this is a great way to re-connect with friends and neighbours. We're so excited to be planning an event after such a long time.

Please note the new date in your diary. If you'd like to open your garden or help in any way, please get in touch.

Lizzie Boal lizzyboal@gmail.com

Sue Herbert sueherbert50@gmail.com

21st April is World Curlew Day



A quarter of the world's population is in the UK. Numbers in the UK have halved in the last 20 years due to loss of habitat. They like wetlands and wet fields.

Our end of West Norfolk has curlews over winter. They have a wonderful cry and a distinctive curved bill. I see a flock of them most mornings on or over fields in Heacham.

Google the Curlew Recovery Partnership to find out more.

And, please don't forget Hedghogs. Leave gaps under fences and watch out for them on roads.

Terry Parish

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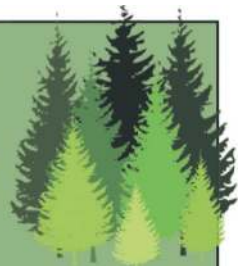
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Nature Notes with Roger

Migrating thoughts from years gone by

I am departing a bit from my usual format this month to introduce a few natural history authors and their writings. Apart from my love of nature, I also have a great interest in wildlife and countryside writings, especially those from times past. I really enjoy the literary style of some former writers, who make such excellent observations of wildlife, with a very keen eye for the natural world around them. They also give a wonderful insight into what the countryside was like at the time, and a forceful reminder of how things have changed since. It is all the more remarkable that nearly all these detailed observations were carried out without the aid of the advanced and powerful optics we have nowadays.

In the second half of the 18th century Gilbert White, a vicar from Selborne in Hampshire, spent much of his life studying the local wildlife in his garden and the surrounding areas, writing detailed journals of these observations. Over the course of some 20 years he wrote numerous letters to two eminent naturalists of the time based on these journals, and in 1789 these letters were eventually published as a book, "The Natural History of Selborne". His observations were detailed and, in many cases, ground-breaking, and he may be said to be the first real field naturalist, observing what he actually saw going on around him, and writing notes on his findings.



Swallows

At this time of year we look forward to the return of swallows and other birds that spend the summer with us, and thanks to advances in science we know so much about migration and the journeys these birds make. In Gilbert White's day it was thought largely inconceivable that birds could undertake such vast journeys between continents or even countries, and all sorts of theories abounded as to what happened to them during the winter. Writing in 1767 White commented that as swallows were so often seen near water in September it could "give some countenance to the northern opinion (strange as it is) of their retiring under water". Some naturalists even believed they might spend all winter in the mud at the bottom of ponds. Again White observed swallows quite late in the year and supposed that "some stragglers stay behind for a long while, and do never, there is the greatest reason to believe, leave this island."

Gilbert White noticed all the smaller insectivorous birds that came to this country in spring; he called them soft-billed birds, and had this to say in 1767 regarding the theories as to where they went come September: "As to the short-winged soft-billed birds, which come trooping in such numbers in the spring, I am at a loss even what to suspect about them. I watched them narrowly this year, and saw them abound till about Michaelmas, when they appeared no longer. Subsist they cannot openly among us, and yet elude the eyes of the inquisitive: and, as to their hiding, no man pretends to have found any of them in a torpid state in the winter. But with regard to their migration, what difficulties attend that supposition! That such feeble bad fliers should be able to traverse vast seas and continents, in order to enjoy milder

seasons amidst the regions of Africa!"

Just over a hundred years later another natural history writer was making his observations of migration. Richard Jefferies was born in 1848 and his childhood and early adult years were spent on a small Wiltshire farm from which he drew inspiration for much of his writings on rural life and natural history. In his book "Wildlife in a Southern County" published in 1879, a compilation of numerous essays he wrote, Jefferies shows that he is a keen observer of wildlife and their habits, and he writes regarding the arrival of birds in spring, and the changes he sees taking place at this time of year: "Lady day forms with Michaelmas the two eras, as it were, of the year. The first marks the departure of the winter birds and the coming of the spring visitors; the second, in reverse order, marks the departure of the summer birds and the appearance of the vanguard of the winter ones. In the ten days or fortnight succeeding Lady-day – say from the 6th of April to the 20th – great changes take place in the fauna and flora; the nightingales arrive and sing, and with them the white butterfly appears. The swallow comes, and the wind-anemone blooms in the copse. Finally, the cuckoo cries, and at the same time the pale lilac cuckoo-flower shows in the moist places of the mead."

My final contribution comes from a rural poet who has risen to some considerable fame long after his death. John Clare was born in 1793 in Helpston, a small village north of Peterborough, the son of a farm labourer, and endured a life of both poverty and mental anguish. He did however write some of the most powerful and insightful poetry about the countryside, rural childhood and the changes he saw taking place, that has ever been written. In this poem from "The Shepherd's Calendar – March" written in about 1810 he shows his extremely keen and powerful sense of observation, and can encourage us to look with wonder at the smallest detail of nature all around us:

"The insect world, now sunbeams higher climb,
Oft dream of spring and wake before their time,
Blue flies from straw stacks crawling scarce alive
And bees peep out on slabs before the hive,
Stroking their little legs across their wings
And venturing short flights where the snowdrop hinges
Its silver bell – and winter aconite
With buttercup-like flowers that shut at night
And green leaf frilling round their cups of gold
Like tender maiden muffled from the cold:
They sip and find their honey dreams are vain
And feebly hasten to their hives again
And butterflies, by eager hopes undone,
Glad as a child come out to greet the sun
Lost neath the shadow of a sudden shower
Nor left to see tomorrow's April flower."



Swallows

The Australian sugar industry pulls no punches...

By Robin Limb, agricultural consultant

In 1997 I hosted a group of sugar cane growers from the Australian Cane Farmers Association at our British Sugar head office in Peterborough to give an insight into our home industry. At the time the favour was offered in reciprocation, but I didn't think too much about it at the time.

Two years later I reconnected with then managing director of the ACFA, John Allison, who encouraged me to visit in 1999 - so I did.

I landed at Brisbane airport at stupid-o'clock in the morning and collapsed into my 24th floor hotel bedroom and, after calling my mother (with an amazing mobile phone signal) to let her know I had arrived safely, I then proceeded to demolish the contents of the mini-bar.

I had a day to get some R&R before being given a break-neck tour of the Australian sugar industry. Sitting in at an outside bar in the evening, overlooking the Brisbane River was just awesome.

At the time my hosts pulled out all the stops, and the hospitality never ceased. The Australians really do know how to mix business with pleasure - and not necessarily in that order.

My one mistake was sitting outside at an evening barbecue with my shirt sleeves rolled up and being bitten to death by mosquitoes. A trip to the chemists in the morning gave me some respite. The salt-water crocodiles ("Salties") thankfully stayed in the creek a few yards away, and there really is a small mammal called a bandicoot - which I thought was just a fictitious animal in a computer game my kids used to play.

I was treated to a whistle-stop tour of the Queensland sugar industry in about seven days, from Racecourse mill in Mackay, up to Townsville and Bundaberg, and all the way to Cairns, finally finishing up at Mossman Mill in Far North Queensland. They even had a beer fridge in the boardroom. We also managed to fit in a visit to the iron foundry at Maryborough where much of the output is for the sugar mills.

Ninety percent of Australian sugar cane is grown in Queensland on a narrow strip of land to the east the Great Dividing Mountain Range. Environmentalists are constantly

blaming the industry for polluting the Great Barrier Reef and destroying the seabed coral. Consequently growers are under huge pressure to limit their use of fertiliser and pesticides.

At the time, 25M AUD was being spent annually on agricultural and processing research, spread over a number of organisations that have now all been amalgamated into Sugar Research Australia.

Harvested sugar cane is chopped into short sticks called 'billets' and is highly perishable, hence it needs to get to the crushing mill fast, in high temperatures, using a network of narrow gauge railways in what are known as 'Canetainer' wagons. The two main harvesters in use are manufactured by John Deere and Case IH.

The Aussies really do love to shorten their words. During my tour of Racecourse Mill (so-called because it sits alongside the racecourse in Mackay), I saw the word 'Fugal' written on the side of what we Brits would call a 'centrifugal' sugar spinning drum.

“Sweet dreams are made of this”

After being totally absorbed watching corporate videos, the guys started to get a bit edgy. "Hey Rob, I don't know about you mate, but it's 4.00 pm on a Friday and we are all going down the bar." Well, I didn't need too much persuading to turn off the VHS player.

My friend Ron Verri hosted me at the time and took me up in his helicopter to look out over the cane 'paddocks' - or what we would call fields. I brought back a tonne of literature with me.

After discovering there was an annual ASSCT (Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists) conference each year, I offered to present a paper on the UK beet sugar industry, which was accepted for the 2000 conference in Bundaberg. My then agricultural director at British Sugar agreed to fund my £750 return flight - but not my bar tab.



We may wax lyrical about sugar co-products in the UK, but in Bundaberg they ferment cane molasses into rum. Bundaberg rum is highly prized, and not available outside Australia. 'Bundy and Coke' is a favourite tippie. I did manage to sneak a bottle back home in my suitcase past UK customs though.

Australia produces about 5MT of sugar a year from 30MT of cane production - 80% of which is destined for the world market at whatever the going price is. Bulk sugar terminals allow access for massive cargo vessels to deep water ports such as Cairns. Giant dockside warehouses hold up to 200KT of raw sugar, but the real breakthrough came when shipments of refined white sugar were made available to importers.

Most Australian exports end up in the closer countries such as the Philippines and their Indonesian neighbours. Sugar moves around the world with ease due to its unperishable nature. The commodity is widely traded between deficit countries like Russia, and behemoth exporters such as Brazil, which swamps all other producers at 300MT annual output, and would supply the whole of the EU's sugar requirement of 30MT if it ever got the opportunity.

"Sweet dreams are made of this" as Annie Lennox sang...

Editor's note: As promised last month, here is the late Robin Limb's final contribution. He wrote for T&A for many years and his articles always encouraged lively debate.

My 700,000 steps walking challenge in memory of the late Captain Sir Tom Moore raising funds for the QEH

On Friday March 5th, with the kind permission of the Licensing Department of the Borough of Hounslow, I held a street collection in Hounslow to raise money for the Covid-19 Support Fund, QEH, King's Lynn. Luckily, the weather was dry, bright and even warm during the afternoon!

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and

every person who donated for each and every penny of every pound raised.

The grand total of monies collected was £148.31p.

If anyone would like to donate to this more than worthwhile cause, please do not hesitate to call me on 01485 533896 or use the GoFundMe page

As of last Friday, I crossed the half-way post of my walking

challenge by having walked 350,310 steps in memory of the late Captain Sir Tom since February 7th 2021.

Only another 349,690 steps to go by April 18th!

On behalf of the Covid-19 patients and Staff of the QEH, King's Lynn thank you, thank you, thank you.

Yvonne Bridger



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PAW-LENTINE'S DAY PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

We asked you to send in your photos of you and your human(s) sharing the love on Valentine's Day! Wow, did we have a lot of entries and they were all just amazing. It was so hard to choose a winner but the results are:-



Winner: Buddha and Joanne

Runner up: Elaine and Luca

The winner has received a voucher for some yummy dog treats.

THE BARKING BUGLE

DOG THEFT – HOW TO KEEP SAFE

We've all seen the articles and posts on Facebook about the rise in dog theft. DogLost, a UK charity that helps victims of dog theft, recorded a 170% increase in the crime in 2020. Understandably this is causing a lot of worry, so we asked our Barking Bugle followers what precautions they are taking to help keep themselves safe. Please follow this advice but remember it is equally important to have fun together at home and get out and enjoy your walks.

SECURE YOUR HOME AND GARDEN

Over 50% of dogs are stolen from gardens so always keep an eye on your dog when outside and make sure that fences and gates are in good repair and secure. Gates should be locked and bolted at all times. You should never leave your dog out in the garden if you are not at home and all dogs should be inside the house at night (preferably tucked up with a duvet for extra snuggles).

If your garden is very large consider fencing off a smaller area for them (mesh and poles are a cheap option to do this) which will enable you to see them much more easily. If your garden is at the front or has access from the street (side garden/back alley) you are at particular risk so please don't ever leave them unattended.



Don't make it easy for thieves to identify you have a dog. Remove 'beware of the dog' signs and visible doggy garden ornaments.

Install good security lighting. You may want to consider CCTV, if so make sure you comply with the data protection act.

Make sure that ground floor doors and windows are locked even when you're at home. If the doorbell rings make sure your dog is safe and secure before answering. Check that your dog's items such as leads, bowls etc. are not visible from the front door; you don't want to be advertising you have a dog. The safest option of all is to install a 'smart' doorbell, that way you can hear, see and speak to whoever is at the door without opening it.

ENJOYING YOUR WALKIES

When out walking, if you let your dog off the lead, don't allow it to leave your sight. If your dog's recall is not perfect keep them on a lead. Be vigilant at all times, stay off your phone and do not wear earplugs/headphones so you can hear what is going on around you.

Try and walk with a family member or one other person; if that's not possible stick to busier areas. Mix up your walking route and go out at different times of the day. Beware of any cars pulling up next to you – don't worry about appearing rude if they ask you for directions, just walk on.

Double clip your dog's lead on by using a lockable carabiner clip. Hook the carabiner clip through the lead clip and then onto the collar or harness, this will make unclipping your dog's lead a slower process. Carry an alarm or whistle. Some people recommend wearing a body cam. If you do so you must ensure you're not breaking any data protection laws.

GENERAL

Avoid posting specific details about your dog and where you walk on social media. Make sure photos do not give away details of your address or include easily identifiable landmarks. Make sure your security settings are correct and be careful of using hashtags.

Never leave your dog tied up unattended, for example outside a shop. Do not leave your dog alone in a car – if you need petrol pay for it from the pump with a credit card.

Make sure your dog is microchipped and the details are registered and up to date. This will help reunite you with your dog if the worst should happen.

When in a public place all dogs must wear an ID tag on their collar or harness with the name and address (including postcode) of the owner engraved on it. Telephone numbers are optional but we would recommend including both mobile and home numbers. We do not recommend putting your dog's name on it. Marking your tag with 'spayed' or 'neutered' makes them less attractive to thieves who are looking to breed dogs.

During lockdown so many people have wanted a dog, and this has driven up the prices and resulted in an unprecedented increase in the number of dog thefts due to demand. If you are thinking of getting a dog please consider contacting your local rescue centre first. There are hundreds of wonderful dogs just waiting for their forever homes.

Stay Safe Pals, Woofs Pupstar – Canine Editor x
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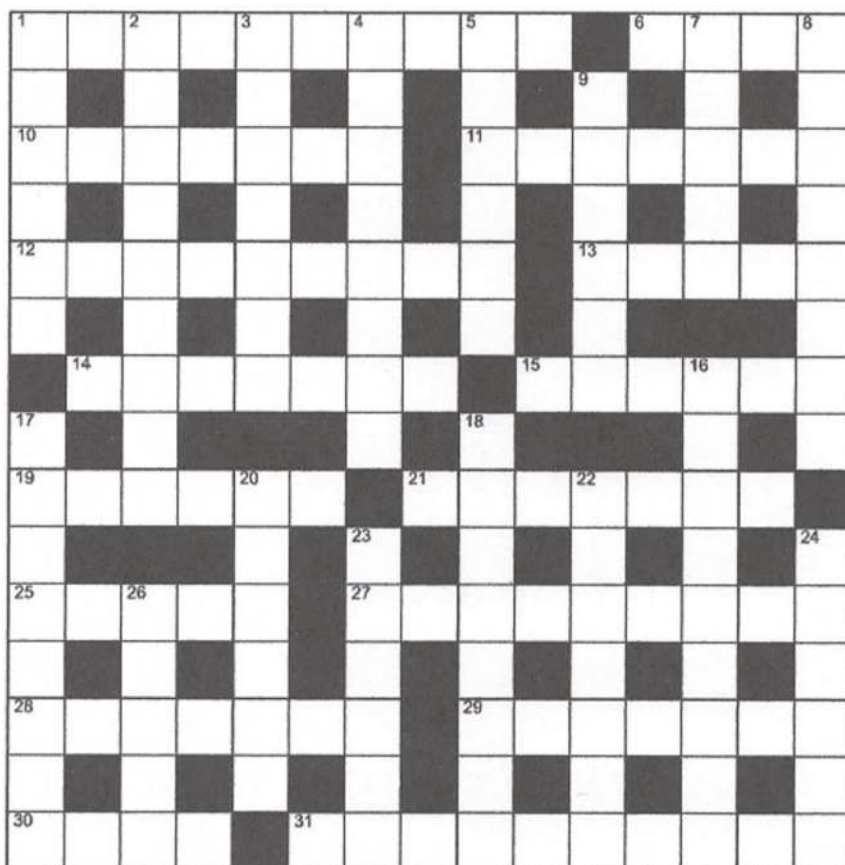
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David Elsey's Cryptic Crossword

Crossword Clues Across



Crossword solution on page 8

1. They stop cars and bikes crashing at end of road (4,6)
6. Catch falling glasses (4)
10. Sell a pup with character as a companion (7)
11. One tries to stay in, but has to go out (7)
12. Fine and dull (overcast) around one suits invalid (9)
13. Given a directive to emerge from the depths (5)
14. Broadcast a good person was sorry to hear (7)
15. Happened to live on side of hill (6)
19. Asked to finish, response is vocal from skipper (6)
21. Unknown dons title and jerks become prophets (7)
25. Indicate and just head off (5)
27. Passages of marble will lead to slips (9)
28. Assume disguise on special day (7)
29. Scot, for one, let body get stiff (7)
30. Way to overcome innermost need for grass (4)
31. It protects social group against wind (6,4)

Crossword Clues Down

1. Church in hollow is becoming (6)
2. The only one in a suit is particular when it comes to weight (9)
3. Belgium capital fences in toxic element (7)
4. Realized a race down main road is heading for nasty end (8)
5. Include letter with form (6)
7. Called Benedict shortly before lunch taken (5)
8. Provide money for aircraft operations (8)
9. Sent again collapsible cases to get opinion (6)
16. One charms nurse with musical pipe (9)
17. One who opens mouth without thinking? (2-6)
18. Sweet course bishop finishes off (8)
20. See more than one presidential palace (6)
22. Say your old and my old DNA bit (7)
23. Good as gold, brings in tea and cake (6)
24. Snake in the grass pronounced dead to the world ... (6)
26. ... shows sign of life, plus renewed energy (5)

Ray Butchers Su Doku

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On the turf with Charles Joyce

It has to be disappointing for the annual punter who likes a few bob each way on the Grand National that betting shops are not due to open until the Monday after the biggest national hunt race across the globe. It's even more disappointing that Tiger Roll has been robbed of the chance to do what even Red Rum could not do and that is win the Grand National in 3 successive tries.

As for Tiger's trainer Gordon Elliott I can but wonder what planet he was on when that photograph was taken. We are all prone to make mistakes and do foolish things. As expected the keyboard warriors and woke brigade launched their assault on Gordon Elliott. There have been stories circulating that the picture was posted on social media as revenge from someone involved in the criminal fraternity. But Gordon Elliott is a man who makes a very lucrative living from horses. There can be no possible reason for him doing what he did. His actions go beyond stupidity, they are indefensible. Now he has been banned effectively for six months with a further six months suspended, and the stable will be under the control of Denise Foster.

I hope there are no Labour Party supporters who read this because I have to confess I was reading an article in the Mail on Sunday by Sarah Vine who is the better half of Government Cabinet Minister, Michael Gove. I am not sure I would trust a confessional priest with such information, but I'm hoping HT&A readers can keep a confidence. In the article Sarah Vine asked the simplest of questions. "Why do we spray Covid millions at everyone - except nurses?" She pointed out that in Scotland nurses have been paid an extra £500 which in England would cost in the region of £150 million. Maybe pressure will force Rishi Sunak and Matt Hancock to have a rethink. The 1% offered is not only derisory. It is not only disgusting. It is beyond words the disdain the cut in real terms is felt by massive numbers of people who owe their very existence to a nurse. Matt Hancock seems happy to award his neighbour a £30 million contract. He's satisfied at giving consultants £6,500 a day. And makes no comment when GPs are being paid £700,000 a year. (you remember GPs, they are the doctors who 10 years ago you could have a face to face consultation with, but are now as easy to get to see as a unicorn). But when it comes to giving those who stood and held the ground against the coronavirus the Government wants to cut their wages.

One idiotic councillor suggested the Conservatives should be congratulated for the vaccination roll out. He quickly deleted the social media post. The people who are delivering the vaccination roll out are nurses and volunteers. It is said that there maybe a reaction after 5 or 6 hours following the vaccination. The reaction I had to the Astra Zeneca vaccine was it made me tired and I slept the sleep of the just. One of my sisters had the Pfizer jab. She had a similar reaction, and because she had such a good night's sleep for a few days she was jokingly considering whether the jab could be prescribed for that. After all Viagra was discovered by Pfizer when the company were carrying out research for heart related chest pain. Viagra is the brand name of Sildenafil which was first synthesised in Kent by chemists studying its effects on hypertension and angina. Clinical trials were conducted in Swansea. Its effect on angina was not great, but its better known use was patented in 1996 and approved in 1998, with annual sales of \$2 billion by 2008. As it happens both my sister and I went to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to receive the vaccine. I was in the QEH in June 1980 the year it was opened I went in one day and was sent to Stow Hall the following day for convalescence. Long since demolished Stow Hall would put most 5 star hotels to shame such was the food and care people received.

Originally expected to last 30 years the QEH has been going for more than 40 years, but while Government Ministers write seemingly encouraging the QEH to make its case for a replacement it appears there is no will from central government to pay for a replacement. This is a similar situation I faced when the former Ethel Tipple School was in a dire situation. Like the QEH, Ethel Tipple School was in a poor state. At the time it had small mobile classrooms held together with 4 inch steel bands which had twice been condemned by Ofsted inspectors. I raised this with the then Director of Education who came

to Lynn to see for himself. Rather than support the only special educational needs school in the district he said there were 50 schools in front. They were of course in Norwich and Yarmouth. Where there's a will there's often a way. I spoke to Rosalie Monbiot who at the time was the councillor with the education portfolio at Norfolk County Council. She went to take a look for herself. The time and day she went was the same as the then Shadow Minister came to Fairstead Estate for a photo opportunity with Henry Bellingham. For those who don't know, Ethel Tipple School was on the Fairstead Estate within yards of where Henry Bellingham and the Shadow Minister for Education were getting their picture taken. Rosalie's priority was to visit the school and from her visit the proposal for Churchill Park School was born. Initially second hand mobiles from a secondary school replaced the small dilapidated mobiles. The teachers I spoke to were happy at the improvement. This was not good enough for Rosalie. She pressed on for a new school. There were several hurdles to get over, but Rosalie's perseverance produced the result of a new school. No one should be under any illusion, but for Rosalie there would be no Churchill Park School which is the only special educational needs school in West Norfolk. We all owe Rosalie a debt.

The baton for the QEH has been passed to James Wild and he did well to get a new hospital on the agenda, but where are the other Members of Parliament who represent people who use the QEH? Duncan Baker is a new boy and maybe still finding his feet. Not so John Hayes. Steve Barclay made a lot of noise about Brexit. He is now Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Liz Truss is another in the Cabinet. We could wait until the roof collapses on a member of the Royal Family as it did on the most vulnerable patients in the critical care unit. Without support James Wild faces an uphill struggle. In this fight we are all on the same side, and need to show it.

Back to the horses. Many of us like a flutter. Looking at trends for the horses which between 8 and 11 years old that have had at least 3 weeks off the track after running in a Class 1 or 2 race last time, and which in one of their last 5 races finished first or second.. Additionally a horse that has won at least 5 national hunt races but no more than 3 handicaps chases. I could narrow the trend down even more, but then it gets complicated. These factors would have found 9 of the last 11 winners with prices from 4/1 to 100/1.

The other big sporting event in April is the Masters at Augusta National. Finding the winner here can be as difficult as the Grand National, but a few trends suggest that the winner will have made the Cut last year, will be in the world's top 35, made Par or better on his first time at Augusta, has not missed more than 2 cuts when playing Augusta National, has made the Top 5 previously, and is in form coming into the Masters. Brooks Koepka looks to fit the trends.

Let's all get behind a replacement for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital while remembering 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

Andrew Jamieson, Norfolk County Councillor, North Coast & Cabinet Member for Finance

The Reality of the Roadmap

The Government's announcement on the road map last month gave us reason to feel a bit more hopeful about the future; and the lovely sunshine I am seeing as I write this, between the showers, gives me hope for the future.

Encouraging children's return to school

Schools and academies across Norfolk welcomed back thousands of children and young people from last Monday.

Norfolk's 422 schools are well practised in their range of extra hygiene and safety measures to support pupils' safe return to the classroom, including one-way systems, staggered start times, regular testing for school staff, and extra cleaning to help protect children and teachers.

And these measures have been boosted by new testing regimes for students in secondary schools and further education colleges and the ongoing national vaccination programme, which is immunising thousands of people each week.

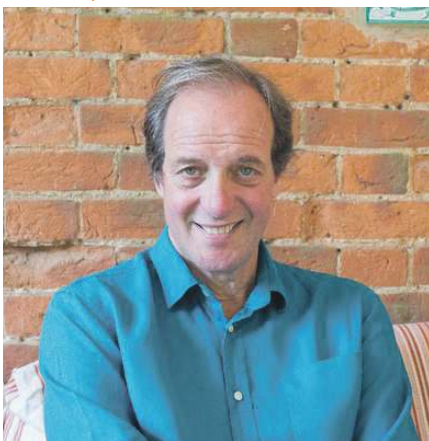
The thought that, subject to the continued drop in cases and hospitalisations, we will be able to see loved ones again at the end of March, will hopefully have brought a much-needed lift too.

New Ways of Working

I know that many of you will be thinking about what this will mean for our working lives. We should be careful in our approach and do things at the right time.

Within Norfolk County Council, there have of course been a range of discussions in the Council since the PM's announcement and I'd say that we will broadly plan for indoor customer-facing services to reopen in line with non-essential retail; we will plan for the 3 main NCC administrative offices at County Hall, Priory House, Kings' Lynn and Havenbridge House in Great Yarmouth to be available from 21 June - subject to any further guidance from government. Staff who need to be in the office can come in but we will continue to make best use of our new technology so that a whole range of meetings can remain wholly virtual in perpetuity, thus saving considerable money in travel and efficiencies.

The guidance remains that if you can work from home you must continue to do so. The government has committed to conducting four reviews - one each in March, April and May with a final review in June. This last review will look a range of issues including working from home guidance. What we have learnt



over the past 11 months is that plans need to be flexible and we will continue to evolve these based on circumstances.

A Budget for Recovery

As well as County Councillor for Hunstanton and North Coast, I am also Cabinet Member for Finance: the composition of Norfolk's budget has therefore been of particular concern to me. I have been determined to get the balance right between ensuring funding was in place to fight COVID and a potential third wave versus providing firepower for a recovery.

I believe this was achieved. A £439 million budget included ring-fencing Special Reserves for the main spending departments (Community and Environmental Services, Children's Services and Adult Social care) to counter increased costs arising from the pandemic that we can already foresee. Additionally, I retained £18.9m in a centrally held COVID reserve so we can react swiftly to any unforeseen circumstances that might arise and for which the Government does not fund us.

As well as this, we are paving the road to recovery from the pandemic by investing another £102m in the capital programme. Plans are progressing at speed for two new special schools currently being built in Fakenham and Great Yarmouth. Both schools have announced their new name and confirmed the appointment of new headteachers: delivering on the first part of our commitment to spend £120 million for new SEND schools and Specialist Resource Bases across the County.

There was another £3 million, on top of the existing £8 million, made available for museums. New items include £11.5m for sup-

ported housing for young adults, £4m for children's residential homes and investment in the Long Stratton bypass and new libraries.

We'll invest £2m in new funding to respond to flooding, including an additional £350,000 in revenue budget provision, £235,000 in highways spending to reduce road flooding risks and £1.5 million for the creation of a new flood reserve to fund urgent works, repairs and to enable recommendations from flood investigation reports. We provided £3 million for improvements to greenways, footpaths and the and Norfolk Trails network across the county.

Each councillor has a Local Member Fund to spend on specific projects in their local Town or Parishes. Previously this was linked to Highways; however, we increased the fund from £6000 to £10,000, with the additional £4000 available to be spent on funding environmental projects.

This is all being done without raising Council tax by the maximum permitted under Government rules. We had to increase council tax by 4%; while this is hard, I believe that it had to be done to deal with the current emergency. Some two thirds of Local Authorities had to increase council tax by the full 5% maximum.

Have your say about the future of rural Norfolk

Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Collison and Associates Limited are working in partnership on a review of the Norfolk Rural Strategy. The partnership is inviting people who live and work in Norfolk to have their say and help shape the future of Norfolk.

Previous versions of the Norfolk Rural Strategy have been used to secure funding, such as the £9m of LEADER funding awarded to hundreds of community and small business projects across Norfolk since 2016. The previous strategy also initiated campaigns to improve rural digital connectivity and the work to develop the Norfolk Natural Capital Assets Evidence Compendium, which provides a detailed evidence base on our natural environment.

The aim of this survey is to ensure that rural Norfolk continues to thrive, setting out a blueprint to deliver a positive change for its rural communities. NCC believes that to create this positive change, partnership with the community is important and feedback from residents vital to its success.

If you would like to have your say on the future of rural Norfolk you can complete the online survey.

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Borough Council News - Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Leader of Independent Group (now 16) Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Fring begins my story this month. The village has encapsulated the often asked question, 'Who will sort this (problem) out? Bircham Road has been closed, due to flooding, since the end of December. Above average rainfall and the water table is blamed. Inadequate and blocked culverts and drains accentuate the problem. NCC Highways has done what it can - thanks. Anglian Water recently told me, 'Its ground water.' NCC Lead Flood Authority has not responded to an email.

I mention Anglian Water for two reasons, the first inadequate or blocked culvert is under the entrance to a pumping station on Bircham Rd, and they do extract, via boreholes, huge volumes of water at Fring. In summer they extract so much that the Heacham River sometimes dries up from Fring to Sedgeford.

There are many, continuing, flooding problems across Norfolk and the consistent answer to the question why, is, 'Too much rain and high-water tables'. It has been realised that much buck passing goes on prior to anything actually being done about the problems flooding causes. Lord Dannatt, former Head of the British Army, is chairing a new task force to co-ordinate responses to flooding. It is hoped that he will have sufficient teeth to chivvy the multitude of agencies who conspire to get other people's feet wet.

Heacham has enjoyed repetitive flooding on Station Road, by the Fox and Hounds, for years. Before you read this, the road will be closed and dug up to see if a solution can be found. Close by, an overflowing pond off Lodge Rd, opposite Bray's Pit, went across the footpath and lapped at house gates. The pond is the responsibility of the Borough Council but, you might guess - too much rain and the water table.

You might think that a propensity to flooding might be a good reason to advise against a planning application but, in another part of the Borough, it took the planning committee to see sense and turn such a one down.

In Sedgeford, it is a wall which has raised the question about responsibility. A significant piece of the churchyard wall has fallen into a neighbouring garden. You might assume that it belongs to the Church. However, it is a closed churchyard and responsibility may have gone elsewhere. A very rapid reply from the Borough denied it was anything to do with them. At the time of writing, the Bishop's representative is insisting it is the Borough. Perhaps an answer will be found by next month. Meanwhile the house holder has a pile of stone and rubble in his garden with the potential of more to follow.

Jumping back to Heacham, there is another wall between houses and the old bowling green off High St. A piece of that fell into a garden a while ago. That wall does belong to the Borough but, perhaps, it is something to do with the water table because, at the time of writing, no one has shifted it.

The Heacham Neighbourhood Plan is about to come out for consultation. More likely in May than in April, hopefully not much longer. When it does, do the fashionable thing, clap your hands and support it. Give an extra clap for Tracy Raby who has burnt the lockdown oil to get it this far. Developers are circling and, whilst a Neighbourhood Plan is not a panacea, it can give them a poke in the eye and severe indigestion. And it will give your community control over planning excesses.

Did you know that the Borough Council is the biggest developer in West Norfolk? Amongst other sites, it is behind

the one at Hunstanton Bus Station (passed) and Southend Rd car park (refused but coming back to planning committee with amendments).

In the contract between the Borough and its chosen builder there is a clause which takes the application to appeal if an application is refused twice. I and many others thought that councillors would make a decision about appealing an application made by the Borough itself. Listening to international news I wonder if we are in China.

The Borough is also behind the proposed large development at Parkway, Kings Lynn. This will be decided on 31st March after a site visit on the 29th. The visit was insisted upon by the Independent Group who felt that councillors should actually see and walk around what they were voting on. This application has caused much controversy with the number of objections now in the hundreds. It will be a major story in the papers as you read this.

The Borough's building partner has been allowed / encouraged to spend well over £1 million pounds prior to Parkway going to committee. No pressure then?

A finance agreement has been reached about new toilets at South Beach, Heacham. A prefabricated block should hopefully be installed just before the summer season. The deteriorating 'gypsy' caravan to the rear of North Beach (never occupied by any minority group) should vanish shortly. Action is being taken against the camp site at South Beach which



has been operating without consent for two seasons.

Smoke. Commercial waste is too often burned on sites owned by the perpetrators. This results in annoying, sometimes toxic, smoke. I report all cases that come to my attention. It is important to note the date, time and place. To report the matter directly to the Borough, email csnn@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Littering. Measures are afoot to improve litter prevention, collection and disposal, particularly when high visitor numbers are anticipated. One item of litter, brown rubber bands seen on footpaths and in the roads, are a danger to all manner of wildlife.

Report significant or regular sightings to Royal Mail, www.royalmail.com/help

County Elections happen on the 6th May. I won't be standing but Chris Morley, an independent Borough Councillor I know very well, is. He is an excellent chap and has my full support.

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Wild in Westminster & West Norfolk

Optimism is in the air

The Prime Minister has set out a plan to re-open the economy and lift the restrictions on our lives. The vaccination programme is proceeding better than anyone could have hoped. The Culture Secretary is talking about a “summer of fun.”

Like many, I can't wait for the day when we do not have these rules controlling our lives.

Step one was taken with the re-opening of schools for all children. That involved a lot of hard work by teaching and support staff to put in place Covid secure measures and testing. Many parents have commented on how happy their children are to be back in school with their friends – and how relieved they are that home-schooling is hopefully behind them.

Proceeding along the roadmap depends on the continued success of the vaccination roll-out. Hospitalisations and deaths are falling markedly among the most vulnerable groups. We are on track to vaccinate the first nine priority groups by mid-April. Subject to this progress and new variants not knocking us off course we will continue along the road to recovery.

12 April is due to be the day that our pubs, restaurants, café, and other hospitality businesses can start to serve customers outdoors once again. All shops can re-open along with personal care services and gyms. Oasis and other indoor swimming pools can re-open. Fairgrounds, funfairs, and other outdoor attractions will re-open, so see you at Rainbow Park!

A fifth of jobs in North West Norfolk are in the visitor economy and there was welcome support for tourism and hospitality businesses in the Budget which I campaigned for with the extension of the business rate holiday and 5% VAT cut – as well as restart grants of up to £18,000.

The Chancellor also announced a new Levelling Up Fund – to support transport, cultural and regeneration projects; a Community Renewal Fund to support skills and businesses this year; as well as a Community Ownership Fund to support bringing assets into community ownership. There's the potential for these schemes to benefit Hunstanton and other coastal areas.

Even before Covid there was a need for a more resilient, year-round visitor economy. In recognition of its economic importance, the government is bringing forward a new Tourism Recovery Strategy in the coming weeks. This will set out plans for the sector to bounce back from the pandemic.

In the House of Commons, I called for that to kick start the application process for new Tourism Zones. Visit East of England and New Anglia LEP are developing a bid for Norfolk and Suffolk – and potentially wider – to be one of five new Tourism Zones focused around heritage, culture, sustainability, skills, and accessibility. Digital is also an important element in terms of skills for SMEs and access to full fibre.

I'd also like to see the tourism zone bid to include measures to remove some of the red



James Wild MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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@jamesowild

tape the sector faces – such as the 28-day rule for events and the al fresco eating and drink rules. If any businesses have ideas on regulations they would like to see go please email me at james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

Self-catered accommodation can re-open from April with other holiday accommodation able to open in May if all goes to plan. Once again, I am looking forward to a staycation in North Norfolk this summer and encourage everyone to do the same.

Here's to brighter days this spring and summer.

Old Hunstanton Parish Council

We are still awaiting a response from the Highways Department regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's), that we are proposing to submit this spring. This is to ascertain if we have any chance of succeeding with some or all of them before we commit the large financial outlay required. I will report all developments on this subject through this medium and through all the other outlets normally used by the Parish Council.

We will open the Children's Playground as soon as we can, hopefully after April 12th. We will have some maintenance work to do prior to opening but that should not take too long.

We will be having the Annual Village Meeting on April 19th via Zoom. This is not a Parish Council meeting but will be hosted by the Parish Council and chaired by us. The Parish Council meeting proper will follow on from the Village Meeting on the same day.

As a reminder, our meetings are still being held online via Zoom. Please contact the PC through the Clerk, email below, if you wish to attend and/or speak at the meeting, to give us your views on the above, or anything else you think we should know or do something about. Thank you all for helping the village through this pandemic and, hopefully in the same vein, continue until the virus is under control. Email address, clerk.oh@gmail.com

Regards

David McLeod
Chairman OHPC

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – PARISH CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Old Hunstanton Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic and self motivated person for the role of Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

The position is approximately five hours per week and the salary will be in accordance with national agreements.

The ideal candidate will be able to administer formal meetings, take minutes, be computer literate, have access to the internet, have basic knowledge of accountancy, have good standards of literacy and be diplomatic and approachable. CILCA qualification would be preferable but a willingness to attend training would be considered. The applicant should reside within a reasonable distance of Old Hunstanton and have use of own car with full clean driving licence.

Main Areas of Responsibility:-

- Attend up to 12 meetings per year, dealing with the agendas and minutes.
- Attend additional Committee meetings where required.
- Ensure that proper procedures are followed and advise on matters of legislation.
- Manage the Parish Council's finances as Responsible Finance Officer.
- Liaise with contractors undertaking work for the Parish Council.

Further details are available from the current Clerk, Glynis Allen, clerk.oh@gmail.com and applications by letter with CV submitted to the above e-mail address or by post to:

Hayman Lodge, Ploughmans Piece, Thornham, Norfolk PE36 6NE

Pride in our Neighbourhood - 55

Cllr Andrew Murray

In my last article, I drew attention to the large number of documents that were published on 30 January 2021 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for a consultation period ending on 27 March.

Essentially all new developments must meet local standards of beauty, quality and design. Local communities will be at the heart of plans to make sure that new developments in their area are beautiful and well-designed.

What is quite new, exciting and challenging is the National Model Design Code of some 51 pages and associated Guidance notes of 97 pages. It is intended that each Local Planning Authority will prepare its own Design Code relating to its area but that is going to be a huge task. Ultimately, the idea is that all areas will have design codes and if a prospective development is in alignment with the code it will automatically gain planning permission.

The crucial thing is that the production of these codes depends on an analysis and visioning exercise that must involve the local community to assess its character and that includes all of the elements that go to make a place, how it looks and feels, its geography and landscape, its noises and smells, activity, people and businesses.

A design code is a set of simple, concise, illustrated design requirements that are visual and numerical wherever possible to provide specific, detailed parameters for the physical development of a site or area.

Design codes are important because they provide a framework for creating healthy, greener, environmentally responsive, sustainable and distinctive places, with a consistent and high-quality standard of design.

The purpose of the National Model Design Code is to provide detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies at local levels to promote successful design. It expands on the ten characteristics of good design set out in the National Design Guide, first published in October 2019, which reflects the government's priorities and provides a common overarching framework for design.

The changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are designed to implement the policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission "Living with Beauty" report; to incorporate the National Model Design Code and local Design Codes; to clarify the use of Article 4 directives; promote biodiversity, planting of trees and a new classification of flood risk vulnerability.

The changes emphasise the importance that should be attached to good quality design, the role of planning in protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment, the 17 Global Goals for



Sustainable Development which have economic, social and environmental objectives.

NPPF paragraph 11 (a) now states that "all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of the area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects."

Paragraph 124 provides linkage with the design codes. It states that "Area-based character assessments, codes and masterplans can be helpful tools in helping to ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-and-national-model-design-code-consultation-proposals>.

At the more immediate and local level, there is the opportunity to influence the way in which development of the areas occur. Regulation 16 public consultation periods for Heacham and Hunstanton Neighbourhood Development Plans will commence on 6 April and 30 March respectively and last for 8 weeks. The Holme neighbourhood plan is due to go to referendum and the Revised Brancaster Plan has come into force.

The Hunstanton Neighbourhood Development Plan (HNDP) was modified following a health check and version 8.7.2 has now been submitted to the Borough. Statements that the plan meets the basic conditions; assessments of the impact on the environment and habitats; as well as a log of changes that have been made accompanied the plan. These can be viewed on the web-sites of the Town Council or Civic Society. Hard copies are available from the Town Clerk, Jan Roomes on 532402.

Publication of Proposed Hunstanton Neighbourhood Development Plan for Comment – Closing Date Tuesday 25th May 2021 (Regulation 16, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)

Hunstanton Town Council have submitted their proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is soon being published for comment during the period Tuesday 30th March to Tuesday 25th May. Any interested person may send comment to the Borough Council during this period.

The comments received will be used to help an independent examiner and the Borough Council to decide whether the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the statutory tests and can therefore proceed towards a local referendum on whether it should come into force.

The proposed neighbourhood development plan covers the whole of Hunstanton Parish until the period 2036. If it is judged to meet the statutory tests and successfully passes a local referendum it will become part of the development plan for the area (alongside the Borough Council's Local Plan), and be used to guide development in the area and determine applications for planning permission.

The proposed neighbourhood plan (and accompanying documents including the Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement), may be viewed on the Borough Council's website at the proper time at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Due to the current climate, this consultation has been extended to an eight-week period and comments and other representations about

the proposed neighbourhood plan must be made in electronic form via the Council's on-line consultation portal at Kings Lynn & West Norfolk - Consultation Home (objective.co.uk) or by email to planning.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk if possible.

All comments must be received by Tuesday 25th May at 17:00pm. If comments and other representations are needing to be made in writing, please post this to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk at King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE301EX.

Representations may include a request to be notified of the Borough Council's eventual decision whether the proposed neighbourhood plan is brought into force (Regulation 19 stage), and if so when.

Should you have any queries about the above please email planning.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully
Mr Alan Gomm
Planning Policy Manager



Publication of Proposed Heacham Neighbourhood Development Plan for Comment – Closing Date Tuesday 1st June 2021 (Regulation 16, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)

Heacham Parish Council have submitted their proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is soon being published for comment during the period Tuesday 6th April 00:01am to Tuesday 1st June 17:00pm. Any interested person may send comment to the Borough Council during this period.

The comments received will be used to help an independent examiner and the Borough Council to decide whether the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the statutory tests and can therefore proceed towards a local referendum on whether it should come into force.

The proposed neighbourhood development plan covers the whole of Heacham Parish until the period 2036. If it is judged to meet the statutory tests and successfully passes a local referendum it will become part of the development plan for the area (alongside the Borough Council's Local Plan), and be used to guide development in the area and determine applications for planning permission.

The proposed neighbourhood plan (and accompanying documents including the Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement), may be viewed on the Borough Council's website at the proper time at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Due to the current climate, this consultation has been extended to an eight-week period and comments and other representations about the proposed neighbourhood plan must be made in electronic form via the Council's on-line consultation portal at [Kings Lynn & West Norfolk - Consultation Home \(objective.co.uk\)](http://KingsLynn&WestNorfolk-ConsultationHome(objective.co.uk)) or by email to planning.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk if possible.

All comments must be received by Tuesday 1st June at 17:00pm. If comments and other representations are needing to be made in writing, please post this to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk at King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE301EX.

Representations may include a request to be notified of the Borough Council's eventual decision whether the proposed neighbourhood plan is brought into force (Regulation 19 stage), and if so when.

Should you have any queries about the above please email planning.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr Alan Gomm
Planning Policy Manager

Norfolk Lib Dem candidate warns against return to 'damaging' Whitehall police targets

John Crofts, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Norfolk PCC, is calling on Priti Patel not to impose centralised crime targets on local police forces, warning it "would be a grave mistake" that "risks seriously undermining" police officers.

In a letter to the Home Secretary, John Crofts, alongside the party's Home Affairs Spokesperson Alistair Carmichael and 26 other candidates for Mayor or Police and Crime Commissioner, writes that "the police need to be responsive and accountable to their local communities, not micromanaged by Ministers in Whitehall."

The Guardian recently reported that the Home Office has discussed with police chiefs plans to set targets for reductions in certain types of crime, "in return for government providing the money for 20,000 new officers".

The Liberal Democrats argue that the Government should instead be focusing on "ensuring that police forces can restore proper community policing, where officers are more visible, trusted and known personally to local people."

John Crofts, Liberal Democrat candidate for Norfolk PCC, said: "Making local police officers chase arbitrary targets handed down from Whitehall won't make our communities in Norfolk any safer. All it does is waste police time and undermine public trust and confidence.

"The Government must abandon these plans. What people in Norfolk really need are more police officers with the resources and time to focus on preventing and solving crimes."

Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesperson Alistair Carmichael added: "It seems Priti Patel is the latest Home Secretary who thinks she can do the police's job better than local police chiefs and officers on the ground.

"This is yet another example of Conservative Ministers trying hard to seem tough on crime, but failing to do what works to actually prevent it.

"That's why the Liberal Democrats are opposing these plans for damaging centralised targets and urging the Government instead to work with local forces to restore proper community policing."

Police and Crime Commissioner role to be strengthened

As a result of a government review, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be more accountable to the communities they serve by requiring them to explain their record on crime to the public and strengthening their relationship with the Chief Constable and force.

The review is to ensure the public have transparent, democratically-elected, local leaders who are equipped to drive down crime and deliver safer communities. It could also see them lead a wider range of services, in time, such as fire and rescue.

The 2-part review was announced in July 2020 and second part of the review will take place after the May 2021 elections.

In a press release dated 16th March the government states the initial recommendations will enhance the role of the PCC by:

- changing the PCC voting system to first-past-the-post, so the public can vote out those who are failing to deliver - this will create stronger and clearer local accountability, and reflect that transferable voting systems were rejected by the British people in the 2011 nationwide referendum
- making sure PCCs provide the public with clear information on their force's performance
- mandating the appointment of deputy PCCs to ensure continuity in

unforeseen circumstances

- making changes to ensure more effective and consistent relationships between PCCs and chief constables

The review also found strong support to increase the accountability of fire and rescue services by having a directly elected official take on governance of the services in order to simplify and strengthen them across England.

As a result, there will be a public consultation on whether to mandate the transfer of fire and rescue authority functions to PCCs in England. This will form part of a Fire Reform White Paper, to launch later this year.

The findings also confirmed the desire to see more combined authority mayors with PCC and fire and rescue authority functions, and it has ruled out considering the 43-force structure, or scrapping the role of PCCs within the review.

Copy date for the May issue is 12th April
send to: editor@townandaround.net



Promoted by Chris Morley, Moor Farm Stables,
Docking Road, Great Bircham, Norfolk PE31 6QP
Mobile: 07885 258477

VOTE INDEPENDENT VOTE for CHRIS MORLEY on 6th MAY

Hello, I am standing as an Independent Candidate for the Docking Area at the forthcoming County Council Election. This area extends from Heacham across to South Creak and to the Rudhams and Harpley.

I live in Great Bircham where I am a Parish Councillor and I am the District Councillor for Bircham with Rudhams.

I have a background in commerce and use my experience in management and finance to make sense of operational and financial reports published by County and Borough Councils and through scrutiny press them to deliver the value for money services we all need.

Being a County Councillor will give me a better opportunity to do this effectively for the benefit of this area.

I will seek, encourage and support the best way forward for us irrespective of party politics.

I would welcome your vote.

Thank you.




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PEOPLE WHO HAVE SHAPED HUNSTANTON

THE ROLE OF THE IMAGINATION IN THE LIFE OF BRIAN HOLMES

by Margi Blunden

Albert Einstein wrote: 'Knowledge is limited to all that we know. Imagination embraces the whole world.'

Brian Holmes shared this quote with me when we spoke on the phone recently. For him, and indeed for many others, this saying has been pivotal in shaping his life.

In Hunstanton we are very fortunate that Brian chose to retire here. The story behind that statement lies in what Brian has created for the town in terms of reflecting back to residents and visitors alike what started it, what led to its growth and what we have lost, besides what we still have today to cherish and respect.

Brian is a man whom Albert Einstein would have recognised simply because he is a man of great imagination and creativity.

Born in Norwich in 1932, his family line is from Norfolk. But when Brian was four, the family moved to Wolverhampton. His father worked for Boulton and Paul, a well-known and general manufacturing firm founded in Norwich. The company sold its aircraft manufacturing component in 1934, relocated in 1936 under the name of Boulton Paul Aircraft, and Brian's father went with them to Wolverhampton.

Aeroplanes and locomotives are in Brian's blood. His father had been an observer in the Royal Flying Corps in World War One planes, and later he had helped build the locomotive 'Flying Scotsman'.

Although Brian failed the 11 plus (which was an exam all children took in those days aged 11) his father believed in him and paid for him to go to grammar school. But it wasn't academic learning that interested Brian – it was creating and making things. With the perception of a truly thoughtful parent, his father took him out of grammar school and got him enrolled as an engineering apprentice with Boulton Paul, which led Brian to technical college.

Having first qualified with two certificates in Production Engineering over five years while an apprentice, he later taught Engineering Drawing, Maths and Mechanics two nights a week for ten years. Here he taught the rudiments of design and how to build and make. He encouraged the students to follow their innate creativity, to be inventive, to work hard just as he himself was doing.

But first came national service with the RAF, which gave Brian a very different experience. Here he learned the value of comradeship in a military organisation. The sense that the men were all in it together gave them a particular bond. It also gave Brian some new skills as an armourer. He learned to load guns, rockets and bombs into aircraft. Whilst on duty in Malta (his first foray abroad) he became command armourer. His

natural interest in planes and people made him someone for leadership wherever he was.



Brian kneeling on top of one of his designs

These qualities meant that in all his subsequent jobs in engineering, he ended up managing and organising. He is a great believer in wealth creating industries and this is what he put his heart and soul into.

Once out of the RAF he worked as Technical Manager designing chemical plant; eventually becoming a self-employed consultant, and throughout his career Brian kept some of his design drawings. They represent homage to a man who was part of an industrial Britain, which he has seen disappear. For Brian, witnessing national decline in the manufacturing industries has been a saddening process. He is one of the generation who kept Britain's name on the stamp:

'MADE IN BRITAIN'

Brian's imagination never stops simply in a job. He has always created and built models – usually to his own design for his three sons, and then for his grandchildren he built a small caravan they could play in.



In addition he made a full-size sleigh on wheels.

Dressed as Father Christmas he took it around the town of Retford, where he lived at the time, distributing small presents to children. As far as he knows the sleigh is still in Retford.

His crowning achievement was building his own plane. This full-size replica plane was modelled on a Boulton and Paul 1919 biplane. It was put in a (former) museum of which he was a founder member in Wolverhampton.

After the museum was forced to close, his



Above: Brian's sleigh

Below: The full size replica aeroplane



plane was transferred to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation museum in Flixton, near Bungay, Suffolk. But back in 2003 it was transported from Wolverhampton to appear in the Paris Airshow. A proud and well-deserved moment for Brian.

If his father influenced his interest in planes so he encouraged Brian's interest in locomotives. The knowledge Brian amassed, and the care he has taken to record and store his research into, not only planes and locomotives, but of the environment, surroundings and buildings of the places he has lived in, has been to Hunstanton's great benefit. Watching the final death throes of Hunstanton Pier when fire took hold of it, his enquiring mind started to ask questions. The inner journey he began that day led to the many benefits he has bequeathed to this town.

Brian is a man who does things thoroughly. He knows his stuff. He has followed his imagination into the many corners of Hunstanton history to build a picture of the vision of one man – its founder, Henry Le Strange.

Realising just how many facilities have been lost to the town over the years, he has focussed the attention of visitors and residents on the heritage the town has. Gradually he has built up a large collection of photos and items.

One of his main focuses here has always been the railway. He has curated five exhibitions in the Coal-shed Gallery (adjacent to the railway signal he put up in the South end car park) to celebrate the history of the

Lynn - Hunstanton line. When the 150th anniversary of the birth of the line arrived, he organised a larger exhibition in the Town Hall which did much to encourage rail enthusiasts, residents and visitors towards joining the growing number of voices calling for a renewal of the line. The current state of affairs on the A149 in the summer underlines the need for this, and there is now a local group which is working towards this goal.



Railway exhibition October 2012

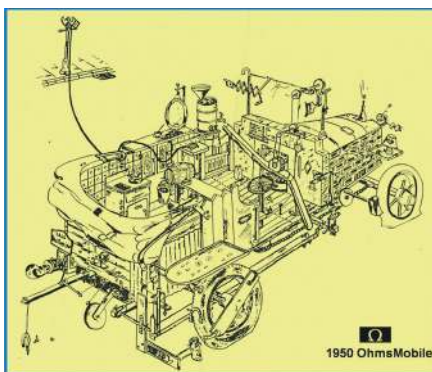
But he did not stop there. Once a Heritage Centre became a possibility in the shop premises opposite the Green, he spent days setting up all the material he had collected and donated to it. Watching it unfold was like watching his initiative blossom into hard copy.

Alongside the heritage material, he has been responsible for getting a copy of the Henry Le Strange portrait hung in both the Town Hall and the Golden Lion. Furthermore he initiated the idea of getting a statue of the founder of this town made, and, with William Searle, who took on the task of turning that into reality, Brian was there to give historical advice. Over the years of the Hunstanton and District Civic Society's monthly talks - many of which he organised - at the Town Hall, Brian provided pictures on the screen of

Hunstanton past and present.

Also he compiled presentations of the history of Hunstanton and the history of Boulton and Paul which, with John Maiden and David Jones, he showed all over Norfolk.

The imaginative work of the renowned cartoonist and kinetic sculptor Rowland Emmett has always had great appeal to Brian, but it was the work of Heath Robinson that inspired him to create his own humorous drawings of aircraft and cars. Together with more obscure subjects he often chose to enliven his digital presentations with some wacky humour.



His themes always included showing the audience the glories of Hunstanton past, showing photos of the Blue Lagoon, the Boating Lake, the Pier, the railway, the older buildings highlighting an era when Hunstanton truly lived up to Henry Le Strange's original vision of an attractive bathing resort. This vision of Henry's encompassing a green which faces the sea, inspired the building of lovely houses from Victorian lodges to Arts and Crafts 'cottages' (often designed by our local architect Herbert Ibberston).

We have a town we can be proud of.

If there is one sombre note in all this, forgive me. I think Brian himself would acknowledge that whilst the efforts of himself and others have done much to preserve the

heritage we have, there has been much which we have been unable to save way before his arrival in the town. The reasons for this merit another article but it is certainly true that many of us mourn the destruction and decay of parts of Hunstanton which gave it some of its wide appeal and charm.

The lesson to learn here is surely in the determination of a man like Brian. His courage in never deserting his imagination and creativity is fundamental to the flowering of the preservation of Hunstanton's heritage today. He honours the initiative of designers, engineers, and architects, all of whose imaginations have been instrumental in what has been preserved in and about our town and in the Heritage Centre today.

Now situated in the former Bank premises on Greevegate it has been attracting thousands of visitors a year. If you haven't already seen some of Brian's work, once it is open again you can call in and be ready to enjoy the fruits of his research and knowledge.

Brian is part of a creative process which he tapped into in his early life, showing that faith in following the imagination is what leads us forward to embracing our own intelligence and thereby grasping the opportunity to influence and shape our world.

This piece is dedicated to Dianne, Brian's wife, without whose understanding, patience and huge support none of his achievements would have been possible.

Brian and Dianne's three sons, Jonathan, Julien and Jeremy have followed in their father's footsteps carrying out voluntary work in their communities.

Margi Blunden is a member of the Civic Society as well as a volunteer in the Heritage Centre. She interviewed Brian Holmes in January 2021. The first in Margi's series was of Hunstanton and Heacham's connection to Poland published in T&A's January 2021 edition.

Hunstanton & District Civic Society news

HERITAGE CENTRE

CORONAVIRUS Now that the Pandemic seems to be under more control than previously, we are able to plan ahead a little more now. Our aim is to open when 'Museums' are allowed to open which, if everything goes according to plan, could be 17th May 2021. We sincerely hope so and hence we have the following plans in place.

We hope to open therefore on Wednesday, 19th May at 2pm with our opening days during the summer season as being Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm to 4pm. This would involve just one pair of volunteers on duty for two hours on each of those days.

No doubt there will still need to be a certain level of caution in the way we operate hence the system we had in place when we were last open will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future.

We really look forward to getting back to some normality and we are sure you will agree with this.

Terry's callout for volunteers seems to have brought in a number of new volunteers and we are all very grateful for these people making contact. If anyone out there would like to add their names, it may be that we can extend our opening hours and/or spread the load a bit. If

so, please contact Terry Ashworth on 01485 535292 or email ashworth@hunstantoncivicsociety.org.uk - Thank you.

CALENDARS FOR SALE

(fundraising effort for the Heritage Centre)

We have received a number of lovely photos from budding photographers which will give us a stock that we can use for the calendar that we would like to publish at the end of this year. Keep them coming! There are twelve months in the year which will need to be populated. We do need appropriate photos featuring a scene, an object or other image relevant to our area for each month. We are appealing for members or friends of the Society to provide photos that you have taken during the course of the year up until October from which we would select the best. Each used would be attributed to the photographer. Photographs in Landscape format and ideally in excess of 1MB in size should be submitted to Secretary, Sheila Kent secretary@hunstantoncivicsociety.org.uk or mail to 2 Clarence Road, Hunstanton PE36 6EG. Thank you.

Twinning means a lot to our American Friends

By John Maiden

On February 24th I was virtually present at a meeting of Hunstanton Town Council when a 'revised' application for apartments on the Southend Road car park was under consideration. Paul Kidd, chairman of the planning committee, made a well-argued case for continuing to oppose the scheme. Andrew Murray pointed out that the proposed development undermined the borough council's own regeneration 'masterplan' for our town.

Michael Ruston suggested that the main reason for opposing this application was lack of provision for residents' parking. He argued that this would leave councillors looking like 'a bunch of idiots', because a majority of them had voted in favour of replacing the bus station with apartments offering a similar ratio of residents' parking spaces.

When it came to voting, only 4 councillors were in favour of the revised scheme and 8 were against it. Perhaps some of them had realised that it had been idiotic to vote in favour of doing away with the town's bus station - an 'asset of community value' if ever there was one - and did not want to look like idiots for a second time...

Prior to the meeting I had asked the Town Clerk, in an email, to make councillors aware that they could be virtually present at a 'Change of Command' ceremony for the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron on February 26th. Deputy Mayor Adrian Winnington was there and I hope other councillors were too.

The Civic Society was very well represented with at least nine members zooming in. By listening to the speeches we were given some idea of the important role played on the world stage by the USAF 67th SOS. It brought into sharp focus just how fortunate our town was to have the 'Night Owls' and members of other USAF squadrons close by on the night of January 31st 1953.

It must be unique to have close ties between a community and a squadron continuing for seventy years. In his speech, outgoing Commander Lt Col William J Kelly thanked the Squadron's 'teammates' from Hunstanton with these words: "Thank you for dialling in. This year was tough for all of us and I want you personally to know that all of you are still in our hearts, even though we have not been able to see much of each other. It is such an honour to keep our friendship and twinning with your great city."

Well, if Ely can be a city, why not Hunstanton?

He went on to thank the many airmen, together with wives and families, that made the Night Owls so efficient and successful. These sentiments were echoed by his successor, Lt Col Jared M Williams.

After praising Lt Col Kelly for leading the Night Owls through multiple contingency operations and a global pandemic, with



Lt Col William J Kelly, his wife, Lt Col Brooke Kelly and their daughters Clara Mae and Willa Josephine.

dignity and class, he said:

"A special thanks to our very special friends from the town of Hunstanton for attending virtually! This Squadron will forever be twinned with you and we call you our friends"

After paying tribute to his parents and other close relatives, Jared thanked his wife Chelsey for patiently coping with 8 moves across 3 countries in 8 years. He praised their daughters Addelyn and Finley, and their baby brother Bauer, "for understanding Daddy's late night deployments, missed birthdays and



everything else they had to endure as resilient military kids."

He then gave some idea of the dangerous tasks undertaken by the 67th:

"Lastly, and most importantly, to the men and women of the 67th Special Operations Squadron. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the best squadron in the United States Air Force. This truly is my 'Dream Job'. In the last 18 months, despite an ongoing global pandemic, you executed the longest hostage rescue in 'Special Operations Forces' history. With no warning, you traversed nearly 2,000 miles, on and off-loading a combined 322,000 lbs of fuel, all to rescue one American citizen. Night Owls, you made it known to our enemies that if you take an American hostage, the 67th Special Operations Squadron will find you."

Perhaps now is the time for Hunstanton's movers and shakers to start planning something special for the 70th anniversary of the 67th in November 2022. Who knows, it might even provide a boost for the town's languishing tourism business!

Well, this certainly puts my own move into perspective! It is nearly 40 years since this branch of the Maiden family moved from Hunstanton to Heacham. Now, the plan is to retrace our steps, back up Redgate Hill, to the same road we left in the autumn of 1981...



Lt Col Jared M Williams, his wife Chelsey, their daughters Addelyn and Finley and son Bauer



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Family safety online

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Online safety is important for us all, but protecting children is perhaps one of the biggest challenges of all. Children by their very nature tend to be very inquisitive, and will be keen to get stuck into the world of online learning and discovery. But on an open, unregulated internet connection it is easy for them to stumble upon inappropriate material, or even fall victim to the same scams that us adults fear ourselves. This month we are talking about a few different ways to help keep your family safe when they are using their internet connected devices, hopefully giving you more peace of mind whilst letting them discover the wonders of the internet as a valuable tool.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok are just a few of the popular social media services which you are likely to find on your child's devices.

In each of these, there is a privacy or security section in the settings, which allows you to change various settings, things like whether to display personal details, photos, posts etc...

If left as default settings, these parameters are often quite open, and can encourage security and safety issues.

Focusing on Facebook as an example, there is an easy way to go through your privacy settings.

Go to your Profile page, select 'Settings And Privacy' then select 'Privacy check-up'

You should then see 4 main sections as follows

- Who can see what you share
- How to keep your account secure
- How people can find you on Facebook
- Your data settings on Facebook
- Your Ad preferences on Facebook

Now go through each section, making sure that they are set as required. By doing this you will be able to limit what can be seen, and by whom.

Once you have ensured that your families social media accounts are secure and adequately private, you will then want to consider your internet connection privacy. More often than not, our internet connections are unrestricted, meaning that any webpages can be accessed, regardless of their content/nature. This is particularly concerning when youngsters are involved, as an incorrectly typed search can easily retrieve undesired content.

One of the best ways to protect your children online is to run a content filter on your home broadband connection, most Internet Service Providers offer this, and it can usually be enabled by either calling them on the phone, or logging into your online account.

With a content filter applied, certain types of sites will not be reachable, and you can adjust which types of sites are included in the filter.

Local device settings

Another option is to enable content or parental controls on the actual device. Most tablets, phones and laptops have this facility, you can also limit the amount of screen time that your child can use the device. These facilities will vary depending on the device you are using, but a good look in the settings will usually uncover a 'security' or 'privacy' section.

Extra software

If you require a more specific type of protection, there are several tailored software packages which give you an almost unlimited level of flexibility and control.

We hope this short article might draw attention to the need to look into these areas, and that we can all be that little more safe and secure in the online world.

If you would like more information on how you can protect your family online, please contact Dan & Carrie at DNS Computer Services on 07554 018307 or email dan@dnscomputerservices.co.uk



Daniel Sharman

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Sunshine and showers

April showers or spring sunshine, how much time do you spend enjoying your conservatory? asks West Norfolk Glass' managing director Geoff Parker



In, out, in, out... the weather is variable at this time of year and as I write it's bright and sunny, but there's a nippy chill in the air to remind us that it's only just spring. It's great to be able to get back outdoors after a long winter lockdown but when the heavens open I love being able to enjoy the vantage of the garden from the conservatory with a cuppa in hand.

Historically, many conservatories have been added onto properties as a way to extend a home's living space and blend the indoor and outdoor areas. Unfortunately for many, the reality is that they become largely unusable with poor temperature control – freezing in winter with heat lost through the roof, or unbearably hot during the summer months when the glass acts like a greenhouse. If this all sounds horribly familiar, there is a solution.

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Spend more time enjoying your second home

Depending on when you read this month's Town and Around will depend on if hospitality is open and moving once again. At the time of writing business are gearing up ready for a 12th April relaunch.

West Norfolk continues to have a well structured vaccine programme and we hope this will give residents and visitors the confidence that West and North Norfolk is the place to visit this spring and summer.

Here at Pass the Keys we continue to work with property owners readying their properties for what looks to be a fantastic year for British tourism. Our hassle free service is proving to be extremely popular for property owners in the area, whether that be a 1 bed garden annex or a 6 bed detached home. Our model of using technology together with a professional partnership with Air BnB provides our clients with a truly hands off fully managed service and what's better, our property owners are keeping more of their booking income than ever before.

What we've learnt as a local business, and part of a national partnership, is that many second home owners and investors previously feel too involved with the ongoing management of their property. They feel that unless they decide to lose large percentages of their booking income they often find



themselves heavily involved in tasks such as cleaning, linen and changeover. At Pass the Keys our model is dealing with these issues ensuring that property owners earn a great yield, don't have the headache and worry and ultimately spend their time enjoying their second home as often as they like.

We look forward to welcoming our guests and tourists to Norfolk this year and for us all to enter a period of normality and renewal. Having lived here my whole life I know there is no better place to spend your staycation holiday this year. Norfolk's status of being an

area of outstanding natural beauty certainly doesn't fail to deliver!

So if you own or are thinking of buying a second home or investment property in the area get in contact with myself here at Pass the Keys and enable me the opportunity to talk to you about how we are revolutionising the holiday let management sector, because when you pass us your keys we truly do the rest.

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That's all folks!

So after 34 years of trading in Greevegate, Hunstanton, Wolfy's will close its door for the last time on Sunday 18th April.

It all began in 1987 when Ivan Wolfe opened Wolfy's Video Centre hiring feature films on VHS tapes, moving from the market to much warmer surroundings. It was an exciting time but not without its ups and downs, and several smashed windows.

In 1992 we branched out into the photo processing and the photography business, this kept us busy while bringing up our two young children.

The professional photography business became very busy and relatively successful, here in Hunstanton and also in the King's Lynn store.

We started out as very 'green' wedding photographers - it was nerve racking, but after about 15 years we relaxed a little and were actually fairly good at it.

The film processing service served amateur and professional photographers alike and we had fabulous support from many local photographers, professionals shooting both weddings/portraits and landscapes, and amateurs with the holiday and family pictures.

We took great pride in giving them all a top quality service - often with a smile ;-)

Over time, the introduction of digital photography started to make its mark with less film being processed, fortunately we had invested in the most innovative equipment and were therefore able to accommodate the changes. But over the last few years the whole concept and value of photography and photographs has changed and it is no longer such a satisfying business.

Saying that, it is not the reason we are closing. Our lease terminates in April and Ivan has passed retirement age(!), so it had been our intention to bow out gracefully after a slow close down between Christmas and April 2021.....but now we have Covid19 to deal with and that has messed everything up.

If we are allowed to re-open on 12th April as per Boris' roadmap we will have 7 days in which to try to clear our stock, before having to empty the building.

So come and grab a bargain in our half price sale, we need to move as much stock as possible - tell all your friends and family (will include frames, albums, memory cards, usb sticks, binoculars, tripods etc etc etc....early Christmas shopping!!)

Then after that, our plan is to spend more time cycling, paddleboarding, running, swimming drinking wine and beer and generally enjoying ourselves, roll on June 21st (or whenever).

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As a closing note, we would like to say a huge thank you to Rebecca (Becky) who has been working for us since August 2011, and has been an extremely reliable, trustworthy and loyal employee, thanks Becky.

And to everyone who has supported our business over the years, thank you all, from Ivan and Maureen x

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

I had planned to share a recipe for a pudding this month but having made this soup and not only enjoyed it myself but also received good feedback for it I thought I will save pudding recipe until next month. This is lower on calories too.

Carrot, Courgette & Red Kidney Bean Soup.

Makes approx. 700ml

1 med. Shallot or small onion

Carrots approx. 170g/6oz

1 large or 2 medium sticks of Celery

Cooked Red Kidney Beans approx. 60g/2oz

Courgette approx. 200g/7oz

Chicken or vegetable stock cube

Salt and Pepper to taste.

A little Butter

Peel carrots and cut them into small pieces.

Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly.

Trim off and discard ends from celery, clean and slice fairly thinly.

Trim off and discard ends from courgette and slice fairly thickly.

Put butter into a pan, add onion slices and cook for approximately 1 minute

Dissolve stock cube in 500ml hot water and carefully add with all vegetables to pan. Stir and mix well. Increase heat and bring to boiling point. Reduce heat and leave covered, simmering gently, stirring often for a further 15-20 minutes when vegetables should be fairly soft.

Strain off most of the liquid into a jug, put aside while you either put vegetables into a

liquidiser or use a hand blender and whizz until pureed.

Carefully return liquid to pureed vegetables in a saucepan, stirring gently to mix well.

Season to taste. Reheat stirring gently. Turn off heat, serve and enjoy.

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is now available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems and tales) It is also available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham

See more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

Email: pruned.pensioner@btinternet.com

Major names support Hunstanton's railway bid

Howard Johnston

Some of the area's biggest job-creators have thrown their weight behind the campaign to secure Government money for the revival of the railway line from Hunstanton to King's Lynn via Heacham and Dersingham.

And, over 7,500 people from all over the UK have put their signature to the petition, many writing to say how the hopelessly inadequate A149 road deters them from bringing their valuable trade to the whole of West Norfolk.

There was a major step forward on March 5th when Norfolk County Council formally submitted its bid to secure £50,000 kick-start funding from Transport Minister Chris Heaton-Harris's 'Restoring Your Railway' fund. Our campaign has made it to the third and final round of the competition, and the outcome should be known during the summer.

The application was accompanied by a forceful letter of support from North West Norfolk MP James Wild, together with messages from the Port of King's Lynn, elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire James Palmer, and regional investment and conservation bodies.

Even if the bid is not a success, there seems to be enough momentum now for the county council to fund the initial feasibility study itself. Our local councillor Andrew Jamieson is a keen backer. At this stage however, neither West Norfolk & King's Lynn Borough Council nor its two local elected Hunstanton councillors have made their position known. Town & Around readers may wish to challenge them to come forward.

Rosanne Winjberg, Chief Operating Officer of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership says: "The railway will create jobs by connecting Hunstanton with the major employment centres of Cambridge and London and greatly benefit and stimulate the visitor economy."

"Clean growth is the golden thread of our local industrial strategy and the railway will assist the development of a multimodal, low

carbon transport network for the area."

King's Lynn Port Manager Kim Kennedy has added support: "We would welcome a feasibility study into the reopening of the railway. It would improve connectivity, benefit our operations at the Port, and allow us to continue to keep Britain trading."

Estelle Hook, Manager of the Norfolk Coast Partnership says: "This is to confirm that we, the guardian of the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with a membership of over 30 organisations, supports the King's Lynn-Hunstanton Railway Campaign Group."

"The Norfolk Coast is an area of remarkable beauty, diversity and scientific importance, facing huge external pressures, including climate change, sea level rise, erosion and flooding."

"We address issues including effective public transport and other non-car means of travel to minimise negative impacts on the area and its communities, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality."

"High levels of car traffic in peak periods, particularly on main routes to west Norfolk visitor attractions, causes congestion and parking problems and affects local character."

The last word goes to Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough James Palmer: "I am more than happy to show my support for the railway. I believe that the local economy and society would be far more prosperous if we improved the connectivity of the wider region. That includes routes with that feed into and out of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, like the King's Lynn and Hunstanton railway. I wish you the best with your bid."

To add your support to the bid – please send letters to KLRHC at hunstantonrail@outlook.com or <mailto:hunstantonrail@outlook.com>. If you are not one of the 7500 people who have already signed the on-line petition of support, please find it on our website at <http://www.hunstantonrail.org.uk>

Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Geoff Needham, LPO

Due to the present crisis, along with everyone, the RNLI is still closed all Station's and shops. We are still operating as the Charity that saves lives at sea, our crews will still respond to calls for help. We ask that people stay at home, and help save our NHS. The RNLI is urging everyone to follow Government instructions, which are clear: stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. While you are allowed out for daily exercise, we do not recommend that this exercise is on or in the sea. Our charity's lifeboat service is still available but every time a lifeboat crew is called to an incident, it puts additional pressure on RNLI volunteers and other front-line emergency services as well as potentially exposing them to COVID-19.

This year the RNLI is 197 years old, unfortunately covid prevented a birthday party, lets hope by the 200th anniversary the world will be back to normal. In the early days most launches were to vessels in distress, today most callouts are to the leisure pursuits. With no callouts to report, we have not had the volume of visitors to the coast. But expect that to alter as restrictions become more flexible.

Advice 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 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.

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.



Jennifer Shah factors in times tables

A local Mum has come up with a visual way to teach times tables (TT) which she believes could help children who struggle with numbers up to GCSE level.

It came about through trying to help her primary aged children learn (not memorise) their TT.

Jennifer said: "I worked out how many TT needed to be committed to memory before using simple maths theory to work out the rest. My eldest cannot learn by rote. I understand his struggle as I cannot either."

Weekly timed testing by his school had left him feeling like a failure with TT; stuck on the same 'level' for years, watching his classmates progress, his last outburst came just before Christmas having spent just one term back at school.

"The pandemic and thus homeschooling gave me the chance to reassess his approach to numbers. Last year we worked a lot on the basics, he was being praised by his new teacher on his fraction work in September, following his return to school, so his breakdown over the TT tests was very distressing, it was a real shock and I resolved to do better when lockdown came again," she added.

The rule is: 'whatever happens on one side of an equation HAS to happen to the other.'



For example, if stuck on knowing the product of 7×6 , think, what is 7×3 ?

$7 \times 3 = 21$ is one of only a handful of TT that needs committing to memory.

You can then reason that the '3' in 7×3 has doubled to a '6' in 7×6 . Therefore the product of 7×6 must be double 21 i.e. 42.

If stuck on a division problem e.g. 48, ask

whether you recognise the TT behind half of that number.

This approach led to a series of triangles that were overlaid to show how the products of the TT interact.

Jennifer explained: "In effect I taught all the factors first, which isn't covered until year 5 of the National Curriculum." (A factor is how a number is made up (e.g. 1, 2, 4, 8 are the factors of 16 (1×16 , 2×8 , 4×4)).

Is this relevant as we all now have calculators in our pockets? As adults in the 'real world' we can get away with it, but our children need to get through the National Curriculum testing system. Pre-pandemic, the pressure on schools, their teachers and last of all our children was evident, now we have the added 'pressure' of so-called 'catch-up'.

The mental wellbeing of our youngest generation needs to be of utmost importance. This method is all about making your child feel clever as they go through the stages, e.g. prioritising the concept behind square and prime numbers over 'memorising' the TT.

She says: "As I am starting to ask more people I know about the knowledge of their children I am hearing 'I am bad at numbers', 'numbers are complicated' too often. My wish is to foster a love, not a fear of numbers."

To see the whole method in order google 'Jennifer Shah YouTube Playfit' and look under the playlist 'Times Tables'.

Generous gift for returning school children

Pupils at Snettisham Primary School were in for a pleasant surprise when they returned to school following lockdown after the school received a grant of £9,000 to buy new laptops.

The generous donation came from local education charity the Hall's Exhibition Foundation, which was established after the closure of the Hall's Grammar School, and supports the educational needs of people aged between 11 and 25 who live in the village.

"We approached the Hall's Trust after realising that many families simply didn't have the number of devices required to easily manage home learning. Our aim was to prevent families being digitally excluded," said Louise Jackson, executive head teacher of Snettisham Primary.

"We knew that even though we had loaned equipment and devices, many families still shared one laptop or mobile phone. As the charity supports people 11 and above, we were hoping for a small donation towards the older pupils in the school, so to get this much from them is amazing, and will make a real difference to the lives of so many children."

Snettisham Primary is part of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, which runs 11 schools in the borough, and Ms Jackson said the donation would not just help the school's current cohort, but those in years to come as well.

"Usually families have to apply individually for funding, so this grant to the school is very generous," she said. "It means all our pupils in Year 6 can be loaned a personal device for home/school use, and the devices will remain in the school for the Year 6 group when they leave. We couldn't be happier."

Returning to school after so long away could take some getting used

to, but Ms Jackson said the new additions to the classroom would help everyone get back into the swing of things.

"The children and their families have worked so hard at home, it will be wonderful to have them back," she said. "We've really missed having them, so these will be a fantastic welcome back present."



Assistant head Clare Enters and governors (from left) Paul Norris, Marcus Wright, Ian Devereux and Eric Langford. Credit Ian Burt.

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Brancaster CE VAP School news

by Seth, Freddie and Oliver R



We are all really happy to be back in school altogether. While some children have been coming in every day, most of us have been learning at home, which some of us found “rubbish and boring”.

Some people got particularly stressed about maths. It didn't help that there wasn't a teacher there to help and support us like we normally do. Some people had a video tutorial from Mrs Willis or Mr Johnson, which helped, but it wasn't the same.

Our online Science learning was to do with states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how they can change when you add more energy. For older ones it was about how particles mixed together and the different ways we could separate them. We found out all about sieving and evaporation.

For RE we looked at Humanism, which is when people don't necessarily have a God or Higher Being but base their beliefs on what humans determine is right and wrong.



For History, we learnt about the Mayan civilisation who lived in Central America a couple of thousand years ago. We learnt about their gods, their way of life and even did some maths using Mayan numbers. Just before we returned, we started looking at the Ancient Greeks and we will learn more about them now we are back at school.

It was world Book Day at the end of lockdown and in school we made bookmarks in our art lesson.

On the first morning back, we started learning about opera. We are watching clips of the opera “Al Haytham's Light” performed by English Touring opera and doing some work about it. Today we learnt how to pronounce his name as part of a song and all about where he



came from, which was Basra in Iraq.

We are all hoping that Coronavirus goes away and school stays open.

Thrift Class are also happy to be back. “It was so good to see my friends and have playtime”. “I wouldn't do my writing at home but I could do it easily today”. “We're doing about the Easter Story and we acted out Palm Sunday today. It was so fun and we waved palm leaves and put our coats down and Marley was the donkey”

We have been learning about plants in our class and also had fun on Book Day.



We all (both classes) want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us get computers so we could work at home. So we could keep up with the others in school and now we can work whenever we need to, like homework or another lockdown if we have to. Thank you for helping us. And our families say thank you too.

We finish for Easter on 26th March and start again on 12th April.

Cakes for the teachers!

Staff at Hunstanton Primary School enjoyed cakes kindly donated by Mr Bunn the Baker in recognition and gratitude for what they have done for the school and key worker and vulnerable children from our local community, who have attended during the recent period when the school was closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



From left reception teacher Helen Winnington and TA Steph Torrice
Below: TA Mr Simpkins and the Mr Bun team with bags of cakes



u3a

HUNSTANTON
Learn, Laugh, Live

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Monday 19th April starting at 2.00 pm which will be Political Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan, speaker Bernard Lockett.

For anyone who would like to join us: Hunstanton u3a website gives more details and membership information.

For further details and request for Zoom link as a visitor contact memsec.u3ah@gmail.com

To place an advert or to supply an article for the May edition please get in touch with the editor at: editor@townandaround.net

The copy date is 12th April

Good news about Snettisham Pathway

The pathway from the village centre down Beach Road to the sea has taken another giant leap towards completion. Recently another £9176 has been supplied from the Norfolk County Council to help complete the pathway, called a trod, making a safer route for pedestrians. The approximately 2 miles of pathway is being completed in stages with just a difficult section near the middle of the route to be completed in the future. This area is particularly challenging due to the waterways either side of the road on this stretch.

Snettisham Parish Clerk, Simon Bower, said "The first two stages of the TROD, at the Beach end, were built before I started (so pre-2013). The section from the bypass to the Common was added, then the long section from the Common down Beach Road. The latest sections, extending a little further down Beach Road beyond Locke Farm, and around the Scout Hut and Diglea - cost to Parish Council £11,000 - has just been completed. This is already in regular use.

"It is planned to add the next section, around the 30mph signs working back towards the Village in the financial year 21/22 - Council has already submitted an application, which awaits confirmation, for Parish Partnership funding for this - Snettisham Parish Council contribution £5,000.

"The Parish Partnership scheme has been invaluable in helping with this, plus contributions from Stuart Dark's member's allowance (each NCC councillor has an individual budget/allowance to spend on their judgement within their district).

"The remaining section in the middle is long and complicated. As with the most recent section, it will require fencing and possibly some kerb-work, which adds greatly to the cost. It will need at least £30K, again hopefully half each between us and NCC. It is hoped to complete this though, as it is really important that the Village has safe access to the Beach on foot. It has been noticeable how much more it has been used during the pandemic".



Income from Car parks

We have been sent a draft copy of Incomes from Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Managed Car parks For the lockdown year Commencing April 2020.

Burnham Market £30,772.

Heacham £101,187.

Hunstanton £840,099.

Kings Lynn £1,161,118.

Total for the whole of West Norfolk area £2,133,177.

This includes the income from the Hunstanton car park that the Borough Council has applied for planning permission to build on.

Reading challenge fuels pupils' imaginations

The last year has seen many people seek escape in the pages of a book, but pupils at Heacham Infant and Nursery and Heacham Junior Schools have gone to some unlikely places as part of their extreme reading challenge.

Assistant head Catherine Bennet and English lead Claire Chadderton asked families to send in pictures of pupils reading in unusual locations, and got replies including hiding in a cupboard and even on a roof.

"The extreme reading challenge was a bit of fun, but also a way to encourage them to regard reading as a leisure activity, not just something to do with schoolwork, and it seems to have worked, so we hope we can encourage them to be lifelong readers," said Louise Jackson, executive headteacher of Heacham Infant and Junior schools, and Snettisham Primary.

"There are many opportunities in our curriculum for them to practice reading, and we've made sure parents have access to support if needed. Now that we're back at school we'll make sure all pupils have opportunities to read in class, in groups and individually, so we can help them to make up any lost ground."

Photos are of Fred Ward, Kobe Rowe and Noah Playford. One of them is pictured twice, but which one?



Sean's 9000 mile challenge

A thirty-nine year old Hunstanton man has set himself the epic challenge of walking the British coastline. A chef by profession, Sean Grand will be setting off from Gibraltar Point on 18th April.

Sean said: "I will be walking unaided and camping out most nights and trying to remain as self-sufficient as possible, and my little dog Ghost will hopefully be joining me on the east coast part of the walk.

"Ghost is a rescue dog and she is a cross breed between a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and a Jack Russell.

"The route will take me north from Gibraltar Point anti-clockwise round the Britain; I aim to be in Mablethorpe by the middle of the first week and up to the Humber Bridge by the start of the second week.

Its hard to name points where I will stop, I think I will just have to listen to my body and rest when I get tired."

Sean is raising money and awareness for Children With Cancer UK and he has a YouTube channel where people can follow the journey. He hopes to raise £15,000.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrV1b-zMEIT_F6U6jyIT4tg

No stranger to mental health problems himself, Sean also wants to raise awareness of men's mental health.

"I'm hoping my fiance Tracy will be able to join me on some parts of the walk, we have plans for her to join me on the Orkney islands to visit the ancient sites." He added.



Letters to the Editor

Railway opposition

After reading your article by Howard Johnston re the proposal to reopen the railway, I feel the need to express weighty opposition to his mad idea. Firstly, let's explain why the line was closed in the first place. The shuttle service between Kings Lynn and Hunstanton during the final year (1968-69) ran with a small profit, but was closed as a first stage of closure, of the entire railway north of Ely, an original part of the Beeching plan. Like many of the lines in the Beeching plan, closure was a way of avoiding massive infrastructure renewal costs.

Now to the present day scene. The line to Kings Lynn survived, but only in return for massive rationalisation of the line north of Ely. Today the need for reversing those cuts, known as the Ely North modernisation, has been costed at least £650 million.

To pick up on points raised by Mr Johnston.

1. Faster journey for those travelling south.
2. Faster access to the QE2 hospital.
3. Tourist using train rather than car.

All 3 items mentioned could be better served by a proper planned bus service. The existing 4 buses per hour operated by Lynx bus, are all slow and indirect, with none of the 4 per hour connecting with the existing hourly train from Kings Lynn. I propose that rather than waste taxpayers money on trying to reinstate the railway, a joint meeting with all parties, including Lynx Bus to get a better and faster more direct bus service, would achieve faster services for both those wishing to travel south and the QE2 hospital. When the buses were run by Stagecoach Buses there was at least one fast bus per hour. Sadly that didn't connect with the train, no doubt due to the unwillingness of bus, train and council interests to sit down and sort it out.

As for tourist benefitting from a new railway, that can only be achieved with a direct through service from the south, which cannot be implemented unless a direct line avoiding Kings Lynn station is proposed. Again a bus Park and Ride service using a large car park on agricultural land, around the Knights Hill area would offer a more flexible visitor option.

Has Mr Johnstone and KLHRC any idea of the cost of building a new railway these days. If the Ely reinstatement plan is going to cost £650 million, then a new line to Hunstanton is going to be costed at many billions, not millions, of pounds, as little infrastructure remains. A reorganised super bus service would offer better journey times (buses accelerate faster than trains), at a tiny fraction of the likely cost.

Please, common sense before money wasted!

Mike Reynolds,
Retired Rail Operating and Commercial Manager.

Railway support

Please support and promote the restoration of the Kings Lynn Hunstanton Rail Link.

The original growth and prosperity of Hunstanton was largely a result of the Kings Lynn Hunstanton railway line. Hunstanton's founding father foresaw this and was proved correct. Restoration would refresh the opportunities created by the line's original creation to the benefit of many local businesses and individuals creating employment and an enhanced local infrastructure. In my opinion, It was an error to ever have removed this part of our local infrastructure that supported so many local communities.

The blossoming of branch lines throughout the country linked local economies to larger centres and bolstered national and local economies. From agriculture to craft industries a huge growth occurred. Opportunities for employment prospered and connections to larger centres of learning, commerce and industry gave opportunities for rural people to prosper and develop. This is historical fact not surmise!

We should all support the restoration of this line in our post Covid world it would greatly help our local and regional recovery and have strong green / eco benefits. Modern electric locomotion would ease the congestion on the A149 and aid the move away from our reliance upon the internal combustion engine making the area more attractive

for residents and visitors alike.

Commuting opportunities would be created benefiting housing and employment opportunities for all.

Sign the petition at : <http://www.hunstantonrail.org.uk/>

I am pleased to see that our local MP James Wild is a supporter.

R Mark Harriman

Promenade Slipway

At a Hunstanton council meeting on the 24th of February a Town Councillor got up and asked if they thought the Borough Council had got enough money to rebuild a new slipway on the promenade where the last one was.

This slipway was damaged in the floods of 1953, it got more damaged year after year, then in 1974 it was demolished.

But we were told that it would be replaced, that's 46 years ago a lot of people would not even remember it, in 2009 we were told there would be a bus shelter in Princess Drive near the Oasis roundabout it's not there yet, so I do not think there is much chance of there being a new slipway, it was the most used slipway along the promenade but not only that it also made a good breakwater.

Dick Melton

The Sage, Sunny Hunny

Disgusted of Dersingham

I watched the BBC Panorama programme and saw the disgusting examples of fly tipping by both licensed waste collectors and others. They showed no respect for people nor the environment. They didn't care about the damage done or the cost of clearing it up that is when it is cleared up. But what disgusted me most was the young woman from the Environment Agency who made excuse after excuse for not doing anything about all the fly tipping. It's under investigation or the public need to have confidence in us was her do nothing mantra.

I always vote Conservative and intended to do so again in May. I am having second thoughts after I visited a friend and watched part of the Borough Council budget debate. Of all people a Labour councillor said he would end the charge for collecting 3 items of waste. I later checked it is £31.50p a cost many people cannot afford. Great I thought a bit of common sense at last. Even better when he said he would use modern technology including DNA testing to prosecute fly tippers and unmentionables who drop hypodermic needles on playing fields and where young children walk to school. At long last someone was willing to do something for those of us who are sick of the wanton criminal actions of fly tippers and drug addicts. I was incredulous when my own county councillor opposed the idea seemingly claiming criminals have a right to privacy. Well, in my opinion, criminals give up their right to privacy when they commit the crime. My friend then told me he used to be a senior police officer. This explained everything, I think police don't want to investigate burglaries and at best all victims get is a crime number. And the Borough Council penalise law abiding people with their extortionate waste collection charges.

Name and address supplied

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Heacham and Hunstanton at Night

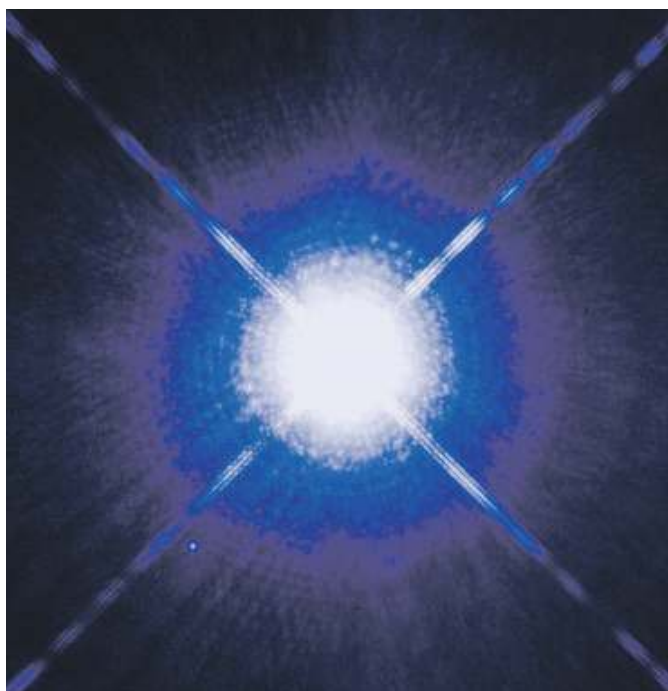
Terry Parish

The night skies will be clear and dark all month!

April is your last chance to look at Orion as it soon heads below the horizon in the SSW. Bright Rigel, the star in the bottom right corner, will be the first to go, Betelgeuse, top right star, will be with us a little longer.

The other bright star low in the SW is Sirius the Dog Star. I have seen it straight through my back gate these past months, often even when there has been cloud overhead. It twinkles because it is bright – the brightest star in the sky. It sets by 10pm.

The Ancient Egyptians found Sirius useful as it invariably appeared just before the annual Nile floods. The Greeks thought it was malevolent and people could become star struck. The season in which it appeared was the 'dog days'. It rises in winter in the southern hemispheres and the Polynesians used it to help navigation.



Sirius A is what you see. Sirius B, the white dwarf, is the dot bottom left. NASA ESA Bond and Barstow.

Sirius is close, just 8.61 light years away, and is 25 times as luminous as the Sun. It is a binary and has a white dwarf as companion.

It is a lean month for easily visible planets. Mars remains with us though dim now and fading further. Look high in the West at around 8pm and seek out a reddish dot. Look earlier and the sky will be too light. From 8pm, Mars will sink towards the SW and fall behind the horizon about midnight.

If you miss Mars then go onto the NASA website and enjoy the pictures coming back from several feeds including the latest from Perseverance. As lockdown slowly ends, cheer yourself up with video clips of Perseverance wiggling a wheel, flexing its robotic arm, or deploying a weather sensor.

Some references suggest looking for Venus and Mercury at the end of the month. They will be low in the WNW with Mercury a tad higher than Venus shortly before May begins. However, I have my doubts that they will be visible as the Sun will be setting right behind them. Venus will set at 9.15pm not long after the Sun and you will need a clear horizon towards Lincolnshire – Heacham beaches.

The gas giants remain morning objects before sunrise. See Jupiter



Not Heacham South Beach. Its Mars! NASA

and Saturn low in the SE at about 5.50am at the beginning of the month and, unfortunately, an hour earlier at the end. Both planets are actually getting higher in the sky as the month progresses but the sky is also lightening earlier. So, to see them easily, you have to catch the planets low in the sky before sunlight overwhelms them. If you have a telescope you can certainly see Jupiter in daylight - I have observed it in the middle of the afternoon – but don't point a telescope in the direction of the rising Sun.

A few days before the time of writing, flashes of light in the sky made the news, one in particular. Both were fireballs and the remnant of one was found on the drive of a house in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. (The other was seen in Yorkshire)



The Gloucestershire fireball. Internet

Fireballs are large meteors which burn brightly and for a comparatively long time. Meteors are most often little more than grains of dust left behind from the passage of a comet through space. When the Earth passes through the dust trail, we get a meteor shower. A fireball might start off as an object a metre or more in size.

The larger a meteor, the more likely that part of it will survive its journey through the atmosphere. It will land on the Earth and then be called a meteorite. About 17 meteorites appear on Earth each day. Many are found on desert surfaces and on the ice in Antarctica. In addition, tiny particles fall all across the Earth adding around 100 tons to its mass every day. Run a magnet along the dust in your house gutters. It will pick up magnetic particles some of which will be space dust (the rest will be most likely be dust from car brake linings).

As it happens, the Gloucestershire fireball was likely part of an asteroid – small rocky bodies which orbit the Sun. They vary in size from Vesta which is 530km across to many more a mere 10 metres wide. The current number of known asteroids is 1,068,666 – NASA keeps an eye on them as a big one, impacting the Earth, would make news editors think hard about what adjectives to use.



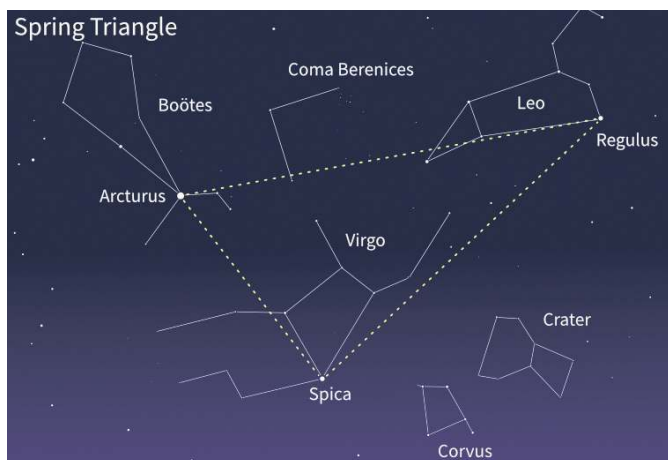
The free Gloucestershire asteroid sample. Internet

The importance of this fireball meteorite is: It is the first time in 30 years since a meteorite has been recovered in the UK; over 300gms has been recovered; it is in excellent pristine (uncontaminated by soil) condition, and it is a carbonaceous chondrite which is the first ever to be found in the UK.

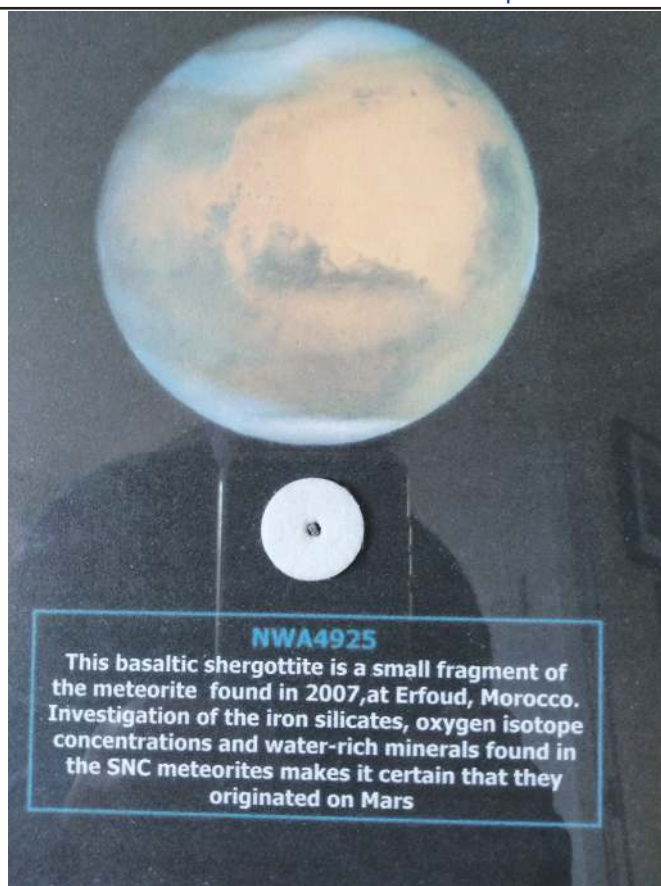
A carbonaceous chondrite contains volatile organic (carbon containing) compounds whose presence demonstrates that it was formed when the planets condensed out of the gases and dust surrounding our proto-Sun. They enable the chemistry and physics of that birth, 4.6 billion years ago, to be examined. There are just 51 meteorites of this type within scientific collections.

The Gloucestershire meteorite is considered to be at least as important as samples returned to Earth, or due to be returned, by multimillion dollar space missions. Hayabusa 2 returned just 4.5g of asteroid in Dec 2020 and Osiris Rex will bring back a whole 60g in 2023. So, British scientists have what might be regarded as a free sample of 300g + as it was donated by the householder, whose drive it landed on, to the British Museum.

Back to the sky. The Lyrid meteor shower is on the 22nd / 23rd. Viewing is best at around 3am. There will be a waxing gibbous Moon washing the sky out so face away from it. You never know, a larger than usual Lyrid might be tucked into the old comet trail and it might land on near you. The comet that left the tail is named Thatcher. It was discovered in 1861 so not Mrs Thatcher.

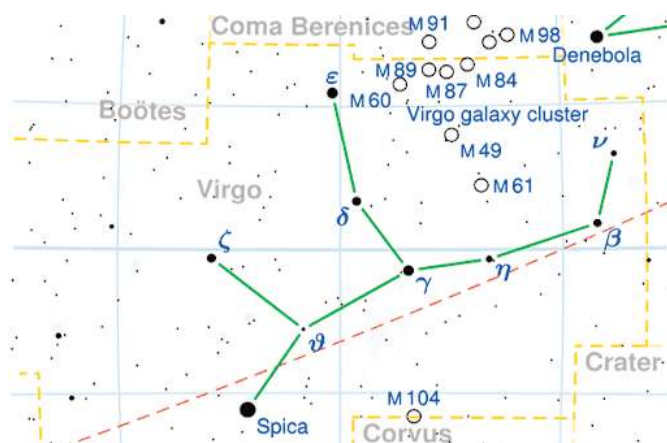


The Spring sky brings the Milky Way into view. It lies on the north, east and west horizons and will climb higher through to autumn. Look south and you will be looking away from our Galaxy and fuzzy blobs will be other galaxies far, far away.



A tiny part of a meteorite which originated on Mars. An impact knocked a piece of it into space.

SSE to South, between the bright stars Spica and Regulus, and across the constellation of Virgo, is the Virgo supercluster of 2000 galaxies. This includes the massive Messier 87 which contains the first black hole to be imaged – or rather an image of the energy surrounding it. This object is 6 billion times as massive as the Sun which might not mean much – it is very big.



M stands for Messier object, fuzzy blobs in a telescope which, here are galaxies of millions, billions, of stars. Internet

Returning to the first line of this article. April 1st is April Fool's Day.

May your pockets soon be full of meteorites.

Thornham Cricket Club news

By Jim Clarke

We are planning to start our 2021 season on time this year, and are excited and hoping for some nice hot weather as well.

Since our last article we have held our AGM instead of being held in The Lifeboat from the comfort of our living rooms and cosy office seats.

The election of officers were as follows:

President Stephanie Moccata
Chair Graham Boal
Vice Chair Andy Arnold
Secretary Ron Williamson
Treasurer Tina Burgess
Club Captain Kevin Williamson
Vice's Ben Harris, Andy Arnold and Jacob Hewson
2nd XI Captain Bobby Richardson

Vices Aaron Woodcock and Richard Skeen
Sunday Skipper Jacob Hewson
Vices Liam Woodcock, Bobby Richardson

Over 40's captain Richard Skeen
Club Welfare Officer Sam Rix
Junior Co-ordinator Jim Clarke

It is so great to have so many people standing for positions, we are extremely lucky to have so many committed people willing to stand and help Thornham achieve their potential.

Senior Season

We start our senior season with a trip to our friends from Hardingham on the 18th April followed the week after by our opening home match of the season when we take on local rivals Snettisham at home.

To follow the fixtures please click our fixture list Thornham CC, Norfolk (play-cricket.com)

We are always in the lookout for new players so if you would be interested in playing we offer cricket for all so please drop an email to Ron Williamson on ron.williamson@btinternet.com or Jim Clarke on thornhamccinthecommunity@gmail.com.

You will be given a wonderful warm and friendly welcome as well.

Junior Season

We are restarting the junior section at the club after a hiatus in 2020, we offer cricket for all, regardless of age, gender or ability it is all about having fun and developing new skills as well

as making new friends as well.

Our Ethos is LBW - LEARN BEFORE WINNING

Training starts on the 27th April

Times are as follows : Minis (4-8) 5.15-6.15 and Juniors (8 - upwards) 6.15-7.30

We are very lucky to have a committed group of coaches who will work on every child's game to ensure that they grow in both confidence and grow as a team together

We are entering in both the Under 9 and 11 softball festivals in the area as well, so there is plenty of cricket for all

To join the club please contact Jim Clarke on Thornhamccinthecommunity@gmail.com or 07885995414

THORNHAM TENNIS CLUB

We are really chuffed with the recent full re-surface of the court - it is looking almost Wimbledon-esque (to quote one of our members!).

We will get the windbreaks up in the next couple of weeks and then, Boris-willing, we should be able to re-open on 29th March.

Bookings will be MEMBERS ONLY for the moment, for more information on becoming a member, please email Winter on: thornhamtennis@gmail.com

And to our existing members, just to confirm, your membership will not need to be renewed this Spring - since we have been forced to be closed, Tennis Membership will be extended and now run through to 31st August 2021.



The Arts Society - Enriching lives through the Arts

'The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.'
Elliot W. Eisner

In the 1940's artists including Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore and Henri Matisse created prints for schools. They gave children access to high quality artwork. Many leading artists will acknowledge that their early exposure to art at school played an important part in developing their love of art. Just being able to look and think was crucial.

It is widely acknowledged that arts make a valuable contribution to the development of our creative, cognitive, communication and social skills. Other fields as well - history, the environment, science and technology. Young people need to be inspired with a lasting enthusiasm for the arts. They need to have an awareness of our arts heritage and its conservation.

Now more than ever the horizons of all of our young people, not just the privileged few, need to be expanded and the creative arts are a wonderful means to their involvement. Funding for school budgets and organisation of timetables are required to enable a visit to an art gallery, working with an artist, watching a craftsman at work, being part of an audience at a good production of a play or an opera but all

are a spark for a lifelong interest in the arts.

The arts can help young people expand their imagination and gain different perspectives on the world around them before "they've internalised the wrong idea of history". It is probable that today's children may imagine that an artist is someone who is male and white, whereas the artist can be female, British and black. Since 2018 The Hepworth Wakefield has run a Schools Print campaign. The ambitious aim is to engage every primary school child in the Wakefield district with contemporary arts by gifting their school a set of limited edition prints by leading contemporary artists, for display. This is supported by an engagement programme led by local artists to encourage creativity across the curriculum. This year the project will place work by six prominent black artists. The potential is that children will think about art and who can be an artist. Recent events have highlighted a lack of diversity across the arts sector and the need in schools programme to include black histories.

Young minds need encouraging to be creative, develop critical thinking and build confidence. Art can be a wonderful facilitator to provide just such encouragement.

Lesley Nadel

* FREE online lecture 12.04.2021 see advertisement on facing page.



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Thornham Village Hall news

We do want to open our Hall up to you all, and welcome everyone back, just as soon as we safely can. We are, as ever, following government advice and also very much taking into account the safety of all our patrons and everyone here in Thornham and surrounding villages.

"Thornham Hash Harriers" - OK they don't quite exist yet (!) but we will consider re-starting this April 12th, although it may be May 17th
Classes in the Hall - subject to the class leaders being happy, and having COVID precautions in place, these should re-start on May 17th.

Elections - Looks like the Hall will be open as a one-off on May 6th for the Elections, we are working out how to make it COVID safe

All other activities - Films / Live by Satellite / Art Exhibitions etc etc - should be able to re-start from 21st June.

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THE ARTS SOCIETY - ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS.

[View our lecture online for free](#)

Monday 12th April at 2.00pm

From desk to bureau: writing furniture from the 16th to 18th Century.

The rise in importance of writing furniture from the 16th to 18th centuries reflected economic as well as the social need for greater literacy and numeracy. This lecture traces the development of the bureau, bookcases and other writing furniture from the humble "writing stoep" or "Bible Box" through to magnificent symbols of status and power - such as Louis XV's in Versailles or its replica at the Wallace Collection.



Visit the 'Home' page of our website and and click the 'Free on line lecture' link to request your free access code.

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Hunstanton & the Saxon Shore Benefice

On Monday 8th March, the clergy of the Diocese of Norwich had the opportunity to Zoom with the Archbishop of Canterbury, not something that I ever thought I'd be doing! In this Zoom conversation, he talked about what the church has looked like during the pandemic, much being done unseen on Zoom, in foodbanks, in funeral ministry and in pastoral support, amongst other things. He also talked about his desire for imagination.

It got me thinking about all the imagination that we've all needed this last year. We've had to have imagination to live a different way, to assume different social graces: social distancing, mask wearing and the action of sanitising hands everywhere we go. We've had to be imaginative in finding different ways to fill our time, cooking creatively when we couldn't get hold of ingredients, thinking of different ways to exercise. It also got me imagining what life is going to be on the other side. Some wish for things to 'go back to normal', others are still anxious, especially those who haven't yet had the vaccine or are still shielding.

Some in the church family across the Benefice have journeyed through Lent on Zoom, using some excellent material from The Diocese of Sheffield. We've looked at how, as Christians, we can live our lives reflecting the light of Christ. It struck me that

Jesus, who is the light of the world, had imagination and was rather radical with it. Who'd have thought a carpenter from Bethlehem ('of all places' as the Bible puts it!), would enter the world and at the age of about 30, turn the status quo upside down? Who'd have thought that such a person would radically imagine a world where there is no class divide, no poverty, no loneliness, no egos, no abuses of power and no prejudice? Who'd have thought that over 2000 years ago, a man from a humble background would challenge those in authority to look at themselves and how they treat others, then ask people to follow Him in spreading a message of hope and love?

During the pandemic I've heard countless stories of hope and love from within the church and beyond: neighbours helping each other out, shops delivering to those that were (and still are) shielding, folk picking up prescriptions for those that couldn't get out. And I've seen two young people regularly picking up all the plastic that gets washed up on Brancaster beach. Whoever you are...thank you and good on you! THIS! This is the sort of society that Jesus came to tell us about, this is the sort of society that He imagines for us. A society that follows what Christian's would call kingdom values, rather than worldly values that sometimes think about money, reputation and profit first, and people second. Jesus came as the light of the world to shine a light on what is dark and wrong in society and to

help us through His teaching to imagine a different world, a kingdom world, a world built on love and light and where hope abounds.

My prayer is that we can hang on to all that's been positive about 2020 and lockdowns 1,2 and 3. That as we emerge from all this, together we can continue to make our communities a place of real welcome where love and hope shine through.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you.

And give you peace.

Kirsty

Rev Kirsty Allan

Team Vicar - The Hunstanton and Saxon Shore Benefice

revkirsty@icloud.com

01485 211159 0777 371 6781

Easter Day Services

Titchwell	8.00
Thornham	9.00
Holme	9.00
Ringstead	9.00
Deepdale	10.15
Old Hunstanton	10.45
Hunstanton	11.15

All churches will be taking details of those who attend and we ask that you maintain social distancing and wear a face covering.



The World Day of Prayer service this year prepared by the women of Vanuatu with the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation', was very different as we sadly couldn't all get together as we normally do. As a global event people worshipped on the day in unusual ways, mostly online services or private prayers at home. You can still give online donation via the WDP website – www.wdp.org.uk – minimum £10

For Parish news including Mass times and prayer requests, please see the Parish News page on our website, where you will also find Easter Mass times.

For information about live streamed Masses in the Diocese and related matters, please check the Coronavirus section on our Links page. People are advised not to go to Mass if they have any symptoms, however mild. Please remember to wear a mask when coming to church, keep your distance and use the hand sanitiser provided.

The Sunday Masses are at 9am at Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

and 11am at Sandringham Road, Hunstanton but there is a limit on the amount of people allowed in. Daily Masses are at 10am at Hunstanton Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 10.15am at Dersingham Wednesday. There are quite a few changes to the way Mass will be celebrated and people should be guided by the stewards. Website: www.hunstantoncatholicparish.org

Email: parish@hunstantoncatholicparish.org

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

Our Lady & St Edmund RC, Sandringham Road, Hunstanton

1st April - Maundy Thursday Mass from 6.30pm

2nd April - Good Friday Liturgy from 3pm

3rd April - Easter Saturday Vigil from 7pm

4th April - Easter Sunday Mass from 11am

St Cecilia's Mountbatten Road, Dersingham

1st April - Maundy Thursday Mass from 7pm

2nd April - Good Friday Liturgy from 3pm

4th April - Easter Sunday Mass from 10am

Christian Science church

Easter- A time for rejoicing!

Eggs, bunnies and blossom hint of renewal (a welcome relief after a long winter!) but the true message of Easter is always in the account of Jesus' resurrection from death, of unending life, and his ascension.

Easter is a reminder of renewal, a celebration and a promise for each one of us. We can all experience this renewal and restoration and the overcoming of human limitations, bringing us out of the tomb of fear and restriction to proclaim "Christ is risen!" Easter blessings to each one of you!

Further information on the worldwide Christian Science church can be found at www.christianscience.com. Due to the current situation our we have suspended our church services in our building, but Christian Science Sunday and Wednesday services are available online. Please go to www.spirituality4.me/livestream/ to find live-streamed services around the UK, along with other online events, talks and webinars. An online shop is also available where you will find books, CDs and many other resources. Follow us on Facebook to find out when our regular services in Hunstanton will resume. For daily inspiration look at <https://www.christianscience.com/christian-healing-today/daily-lift>.



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An unimaginative budget

By John Crofts

I have to say that I was disappointed to hear of the meeting to consider the County Council budget for next year. Our Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Steffan Aquarone commented "Norfolk's recovery from the pandemic cannot be business as usual with the same tired out old ideas. We need a bold, new vision for Norfolk. The Conservatives have simply relied on government handouts whilst continually asking people to pay more for less."

Indeed the Conservatives have increased council tax by 18% over the last 4 years while cutting Council services by a massive £180m since 2017/18. There is also an extra 1% deferred until next year rather than doing it now, so they can say it is not a 5% increase!

The majority of those cuts are on services for people who need them. This year it will be 43% just in social care. This destroys lives!

I find it interesting, by the way, that Liberal Democrat run North Norfolk District Council is not raising council tax this year and it is not cutting services.

A few weeks ago in the EDP I read an article by the Conservative MP for Mid Norfolk, George Freeman, in which he said "For too long we've allowed ourselves to be treated as a rural backwater and lacked a clear vision for Norfolk as an innovation county developing the smarter, cleaner, greener, healthier model of growth the world urgently needs". He was speaking about fellow Tories and yet it could have been said by a Lib Dem!

Our alternative plans:

- An industrial strategy to give green businesses in key sectors the infrastructure and support they need to grow, and stimulate more

manufacturing and high-value industry in our county.

- Re-wiring council services to put individuals at the heart of service delivery, just like many thriving businesses have managed to do in recent years.

- Pledges to the young people of Norfolk across a wide range of policy areas including the environment, mental health, education, jobs and transport.

- Zero-carbon public transport that works for everyone, and how to put more power in the hands of local people when it comes to the decisions that affect them.

- Putting the climate crisis at the heart of everything the county council does. Not least because it's a route to much needed economic growth. But for the people of Norfolk, it's also a route to cleaner air through innovative technologies that could improve our public spaces and reduce air pollution.

I am very keen on an amendment proposed by Lib Dems for 'CityTrees', a scheme to provide the world's first biotech pollution filter, which uses living plants and mosses to filter pollutants from the air, creating microenvironments of cleaner air that is even showing signs of reducing covid transmission. Polluted air is the cause of one in seven deaths worldwide. CityTrees are an extremely cost-effective way to reduce air pollution levels - each one is the equivalent of planting 275 trees. This was however rejected by the Conservative group.

Another amendment that was rejected was to do something tangible for the people of Norfolk who have sat, patiently, observing the lockdown rules and keeping their friends, neighbours and family members safe for the



past year. Like many of you I have spent time on DIY projects and yet I have not always been able to get to a recycling centre safely to dispose of my household waste and even when I can there is a cost, which perhaps explains the level of fly tipping - a small minority of people creating a big mess for others to clear up. The Lib Dems therefore proposed a one day trial to allow people to dispose of the waste for free at the County's Household Waste Recycling sites, offering a chance for the council to say thank you to those members of the public for doing the right thing during the lockdown.

As a candidate for the North Coast seat I would like to see change in the way the County Council prioritises its spending. led by a county council with the vision and credibility to drive change.

You can help see change by voting for John Crofts on May 6th.



As I write this article the Prime Minister has just outlined a 'roadmap' out of lockdown for England. I don't know about you but it made me feel better just knowing that better days are ahead with fewer restrictions and more freedom even if that is sometime in the future.

When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday the future for his followers couldn't have seemed more bleak. Their beloved master, friend and teacher had died a most cruel death and the likelihood was that the authorities would now be after them. They were frightened and in hiding when the news of his resurrection was brought to them. Suddenly, the future seemed much brighter, they had hope, all was not lost.

Every year thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps to stand at a crucifix. One tourist noticed a trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the undergrowth and to his surprise came upon another shrine that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected and overgrown. Everyone had gone as far as the cross but there they had stopped.

Far too many have got as far as the cross and known the despair and the heartbreak. Far too few have moved beyond the cross to find the real message of Easter – the message of the empty tomb.

The message of Easter is one of hope. Although things looked bleak on Good Friday it was through Jesus' death on the cross that we can all look forward to better days ahead. When we accept Christ as our Saviour then no matter what dark times we go through we know that there is a roadmap out. A roadmap to a brighter future.

We hope to be able to reopen our charity shop from 12th April if the restrictions allow and will restart Sunday worship as soon as it is safe to do so.

Alison Kirby

Snettisham Salvation Army

Email alison.kirby@salvationarmy.org.uk

Mobile 07436425118

Union Church

LINKING UP

On Fri 5th March Union hosted a zoom service for the World Day of Prayer as we were not able to hold it in a church building. In this way 37 people were able to attend, coming from a number of the local churches. It was another opportunity for us all to link up and see each other.

Our service was written by the ladies of Vanuatu, a small group of islands in the South Pacific and actually in the news that week as an earthquake had caused a tidal wave in the region. It brought home to us how many links we have around the world and how we can sympathise and support in prayer and practical help with those who are suffering. Technology brings the other side of the world as well as the local area closer and links us with

knowledge as well as ways to support one another.

The first Christians soon became known for caring for others, either through miracles of healing or sharing what they had with those in need. Christian charities work from this basis, that just as Jesus had compassion on those he met, we should follow his example of meeting the needs of the world wherever we can. Even in these difficult times we can still find ways to link up and be stronger together.

With Every Blessing,
Janet Brown

The World's Best Seller

By Gordon Tanner, a member of The Way C F Leadership team

Every year lists are published of the world's (or Country's) best-selling books. It's a bit like the music charts but over the whole year. One thing you don't learn from those charts is that the No1 selling book is The Bible. It has been for years, and the next best pales into insignificance in terms of the sales volume.

The Bible is an extraordinary book. It was compiled in the first couple of centuries AD from writings some of which were up to 2000 years old then, and has remained essentially unchanged since. Yes, the language has been updated in keeping with the current use of the language, but scholars comparing the oldest scripts with the recent translations say it has not varied in meaning or content in that time. It gives the account of the whole of history; God's creation of the world, his love for mankind, the rebellion against him, and his plan to redeem us, and how things will end.

The majority of homes in this country have a bible, or at least part of it in the form of a new testament (provided by the Gideons to every school child), but sadly most volumes remain unread. The peak of the Christian year is at Easter-time when we remember not only that Jesus was crucified, but that three days later he rose again from death in fulfilment of many prophecies. In rising again he overcame the power of death on my behalf and your's if you choose to follow him. Christians are not special people – they are just people who have asked Jesus to help them live this life for the good of others as well as themselves. The Bible makes it clear - we have all sinned. But in asking forgiveness and putting our faith in Jesus we will find the way to eternal life, because He is the way to eternal life. The essential quality of God revealed in the bible is love, and Jesus came to demonstrate that in dying to pay the penalty for our sins.

The bible is also a guide to how we should live our lives, caring for each other. You'll be amazed how much it is life-changing. God will speak to you through it if you allow him. For me, though I'd read the bible in the past, it had not changed me, until I allowed God to use it to speak to me and suddenly it seemed to be technicolour and in 3D.

Why not dust off that unread copy you have? If it uses old English, for a few pounds you can get a more modern translation. If you can't afford that we do have a few copies at the Way CF building in Downs Close. It is worth sitting down with it and seeing for yourself what God has done for you.

NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL CONFIRMS FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE 17 - 30 MAY 2021

Daniel Brine, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Festival said: "We are delighted to be able to say that the Festival is going ahead. We have been working for 12 months on a special Festival that could take place safely in COVID times and hope, subject to the scheduled easing of restrictions that we will be able to deliver on all our planning.

Mr Brine also revealed that the 2021 Festival organisers and partners will make the vast majority of the programme available on a free or 'pay what you want' basis.

"This is just one of several radical changes we've made in 2021. We're aware that it has been a tremendously difficult year for everyone, in all sorts of ways. While it's not a sustainable business model beyond this year, the approach allows as many people as possible the chance to access and enjoy the Festival and the collective experience and healing power that art and events of this nature bring.

The Festival will feature a programme of music, performance, visual arts and literature in venues and outdoor spaces across Norwich and Norfolk.



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Smithdon pupils banish winter blues with physical challenges

Pupils at Smithdon High School kept a spring in their step all through winter after a lockdown physical fitness challenge saw them raise more than £500 for a mental health charity.

With normal schooling disrupted by lockdown, Dan Ward, head of PE at the Hunstanton secondary school, was keen to ensure that students at home did not miss out on the physical side of education, and set a series of challenges which proved so successful that they were extended to the February half term.

"There's a national challenge called Red January which encourages people to be active and to raise funds for a mental health charity called Sport in Mind, and as they're spending so much time learning through screens all day, we thought it would be good for the children to get involved," he said.

"We wanted all the children in all year groups to take part, so we said everything counts, from walking the dog to going for a bike ride, and then when it came to days where they were timetabled for PE, we set specific challenges, with things like the Joe Wicks home workout challenge."

Smithdon is a member of the West Norfolk Academies Trust, which runs 11 schools across the borough, and when he saw how well the challenge was going, Mr Ward introduced a fundraising target.

"January is always a month when it's hard to get motivated, so it was voluntary for those who wanted to get involved, and we set up a Just Giving page with a target of £200, so we were amazed when the total at the end of the month was £510.

"We wanted to encourage a 'new year, new me' mindset, and we were thrilled by how many bought into it and earned rewards through the school's rewards system."

Mr Ward said he hoped the activities the pupils had been involved in remotely would make a difference when normal schooling returned.

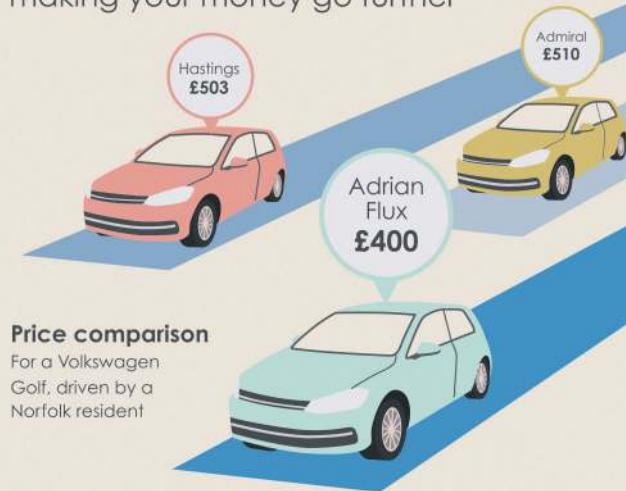
"We didn't want it to be a chore," he said. "It's important for mental and physical health, and hopefully when we get back to school and having proper face-to-face PE classes, they will show the benefits of what we've done in the meantime."



The teacher is head of PE, Dan Ward. The students are Hannah (tennis racket), Alfie, Chloe (football) & Ella (rugby ball). Photo: Ian Burt

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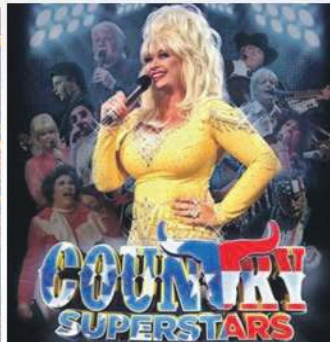
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We are so excited about things returning and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

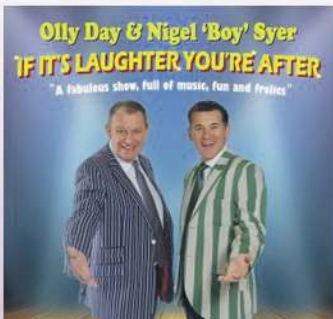


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