

TOWN and AROUND

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Local News • Events • Great Outdoors • Features

First word



With so much news about the Lifeboat Station (see pages 10, 14 and 25) it seemed right to feature Kate Craven with new Hunstanton Lifeboat Station recruit Lisa Cosh on our front cover. Thanks to Ian Burt for the great photo.

There are 80 very full pages again this month and between print editions news items are posted to our website townandaround.net - do take a look, there you will also find items that couldn't be squeezed into this edition including all the church

news.

In this corner of Norfolk there's lots to do during April and there are plenty of ideas on our centre pages - and even more on our website What's On pages.

Since Richard's bicycle accident last year that resulted in surgery and a stay in the QEH, Andrew Murray and Pat Richardson kindly took on the distribution of the magazines to the non-supermarket outlets. It's a job that takes about a day and a half and all their help over this difficult period is truly appreciated.

Thanks also to everyone who has supplied content for this edition, writers, photographers and of course our advertisers who fund the printing on the magazine.

I hope you enjoy your read.

With very best wishes for a joyous Easter,

Elaine

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Red carpet offer for Lord Markham

On Wednesday 8th March the community action group 'Save Our QEH' made a cheeky open public invitation to Nicholas Markham, the minister now heading up the hospital rebuild programme.

Campaigners constructed a life size cardboard cut-out of 'Lord Markham' the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Care.

They rolled out the red carpet for the cut out to show Lord Markham what a warm welcome he'd receive if he did deign to visit the most propped up hospital in the UK in person.

The purpose of the event was to persuade Lord Markham to attend the QEH. He has been invited by the hospital to attend but to date has not taken up the invitation. As the most propped up hospital in the country we believe that it is important that he sees the reality and seriousness of the situation for himself.

One of the local hospitals rebuild campaigners, County Councillor Rob Colwell said: "Lord Markham was appointed in September last year as the latest minister who will apparently make the decision on any rebuild. He hasn't been to the QEH, he hasn't seen the struts, he hasn't met the patients, doctors or nurse that are all having to put up with this. We want him to see the seriousness of the situation and regardless of the horrendous delays in a decision, he will be very welcome. We will roll out the red carpet out for him!"

Local Trades Council secretary, and independent borough councillor, Jo Rust,



explained: "while our campaign group believes that we've had enough of ministers coming to our hospital for yet another photo opportunity, we do understand the need for those unconnected to our local area, to see for themselves the extent of the problem. We've seen minister after minister come along for a photo and nothing has happened as a result of that so far. But maybe a visit from Nick Markham will be different. We're prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt and say, you'd be welcome. Please do come and see exactly why we've been campaigning for nearly two years to get

funding for a new building.

"So close to the budget and to the pre election period where no political announcements can be made, I'm really concerned that once again the needs of those who rely on the QEH, are going to be ignored leaving us in danger of losing many of our vital hospital services by 2030."

Dr Pallavi Devulapalli, local GP, has said "The QEH is in a desperate situation. Further delay from the government at this late stage is unacceptable and will not be forgotten by the people."

Photo ID – help for people without online access

To help people meet the new requirements for presenting photo ID when voting at the local elections in May, the borough council is putting a range of measures in place, including drop-in sessions for people without internet access.

Most people won't need to do anything because the list of acceptable forms of ID is long and even out-of-date ID will be accepted – they just need to remember to take their ID with them.

People who don't have a photo ID at all can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate and the council can help with this.

The borough council's chief executive, Lorraine Gore, explains: "The easiest way to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is online and the process is quite straightforward – as long as you have internet access and a camera, you can do it.

"We know that not everyone has internet access so we are also arranging drop-in sessions, where we can complete the whole process for you. All you need to do is make sure you bring your National Insurance number or other documents that can prove your identity.

"However, don't worry if you can't do either of these. You can apply for a certificate by post, or alternative option is to apply for a postal vote, which does not require a photo at all.

"We're doing everything we can to make sure that people can take part in the democratic process and we're here to help every step of the way."

Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- UK driving licence or passport*
- Bus pass
- Blue badge
- PASS proof of age card

*As long as the photo still looks like you and your name on the ID is the same as your name on the electoral register, it doesn't matter if the ID is out of date. For a full list of acceptable photo ID, please visit: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>.

To apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

Applicants need their National Insurance number or other documents (which must be scanned in or uploaded), such as utility bill, council tax statement, birth certificate, and a passport-style photograph. Full details provided on the gov.uk website.

The council is running drop-in sessions where they will go through the process with people for anyone who would like help with it. Applicants need to take their National Insurance number or other documents such as utility bill, council tax statement or birth certificate. See the advert on the facing page..

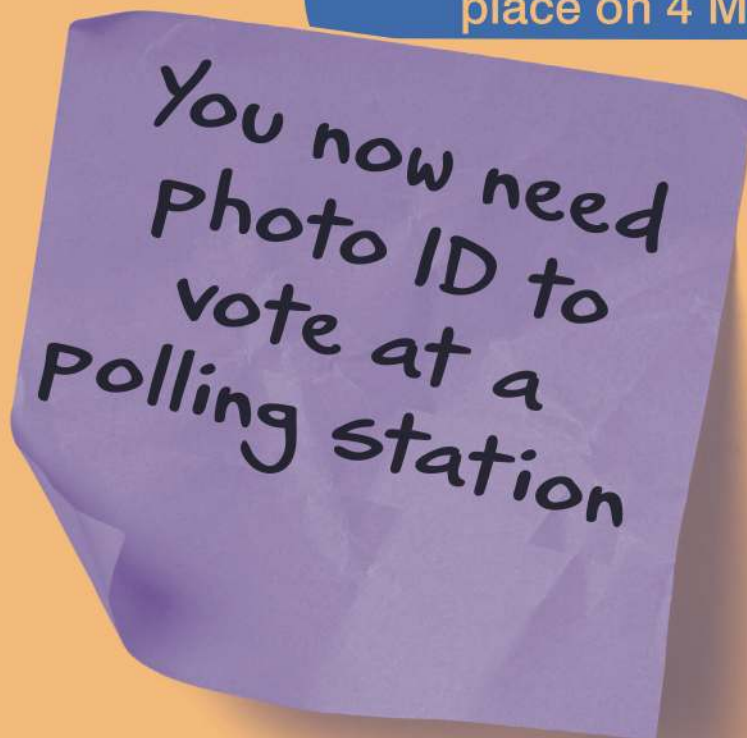
* Passports are acceptable if they have been issued in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, a Commonwealth country or an EEA state (which is all EU countries plus Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein).

The Electoral Commission

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Local elections take
place on 4 May 2023



No ID? You can apply for free voter ID at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

A wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Visit west-norfolk.gov.uk/elections, call 01553 616200 if you need help.

Need more help?

The borough council has arranged drop-in sessions until 25 April 2023, no appointment necessary:

Borough Council office,
King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn
Every Tuesday
2pm to 5pm and
Every Wednesday
9am to 12noon

Hunstanton Library
12 – 14 Valentine Road
Every Wednesday
9am to 12noon

Downham Market Library
78 Priory Road
Every Thursday
2pm to 5pm

Hunstanton parkrun has a portable defibrillator thanks to Town's Charity Shop

Now in its 14th year of operation, Hunstanton Charity Shop has provided the funds for a portable defibrillator for the Hunstanton Promenade parkrun, taking its overall donations to local groups to a staggering £90,000.

Volunteers from the shop, Heather Rees and Sandie O'Donnell presented the machine to the event director Mike Shaw and the core team on a Saturday morning in March immediately after 83 runners took part in the parkrun's 106th Hunstanton event.

Angela Green from Hunstanton Charity shop said: "It was an absolute pleasure to purchase a defibrillator machine for Hunstanton Park run; our shop loves to support local groups and we always try to support where we can.

"The thought that a simple device could save a life is truly satisfying to me and my husband Kevin and to all our volunteers who give their time for free to help raise funds for things like this.

"We wish the park run many, many more hours of safe and happy running." Angela Green shop owner.



The machine will be carried in the backpack

The parkrun is organised by the core team



Event Director Mike Shaw and Charity Shop volunteer Sandie O'Donnell (centre) with some of the parkrun team

of Mike and seven race directors, all volunteers, and the event attracts up to 150 participants during the summer and a growing number of park walkers.

Mike Shaw said: "Hunstanton Promenade parkrun are extremely grateful to the Hunstanton Charity Shop for providing us with the funding to purchase our own portable defibrillator, which we will hopefully never have to use but will give further reassurance to those who take part in our weekly parkrun and also to our volunteers.

"It will be available to us from week to week and will be particularly valuable when we are using our summer route where currently there is only one community

defibrillator located on the clifftops.

"Thank you to all of those who have support the charity shop to in turn support local charities and good causes.

"Please remember parkrun is free, weekly starting at 9am and you can walk, jog or run the 5km distance or join the friendly volunteer group. We are currently still meeting at the Sailing Club on the North Prom until Easter when we move up to the clifftops for the rest of spring, summer and into early autumn."

You can register at: [register | parkrun UK](#) and take a look at the website: [home | Hunstanton Promenade parkrun | Hunstanton Promenade parkrun or Facebook page: Hunstanton Promenade parkrun | Facebook](#)

SAVE THE CHILDREN BRANCH NEWS

Children in the Ukraine and young victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria have benefited by a magnificent £1,270 raised by a SAVE the CHILDREN FUND afternoon concert in Hunstanton.

It was enjoyed by over sixty generous supporters of the SAVE the CHILDREN, Hunstanton Branch, at the home of committee member Marie Jarvis and her husband Howard Johnston.

Matthew Preston and Benjamin Howell, two very talented local pianists from Wells, known as the 'Missing Coda' entertained their audience with a variety of amazing duets from classical pieces to playful tunes.

In addition to the concert, a successful raffle was held followed by a wonderful afternoon tea organised by the supporters. Marie and Howard and the rest of the Committee would like to extend a very big thank you to all the guests for their generosity.

The local branch of SCF has several forthcoming fund-raising events which you might like to be involved in. Look out for bucket collections at our local supermarkets and at the Princess Theatre, the bottle tombola at the Hunstanton Carnival, and a lunch at Old Hunstanton Golf Club on November 3rd.

Sales of Christmas cards take place at these events and especially at the Christmas Tree Festival in the Town Hall.

Please contact our Chair, Christine Earnshaw tel 533367 if you would like to be involved in supporting an organisation that saves lives

and eases the misery of children worldwide. Our Patron HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, graciously visited us in Hunstanton in 2018 to give her support to our work here.



Photo credit: Howard Johnston

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Cigarette and trade cards a piece of social history remembered

Cigarette and trade cards are as popular today as they were 80 plus years ago by a dedicated band of collectors. The urge to collect or hoard items still thrives in today's computer age and cigarette cards are easy to store and display.

What is more satisfying than searching for an item (whatever it may be) and finding it to complete a set? Cigarette and trade cards satisfy the basic need felt by many collectors.

Cigarettes may not be the socially acceptable habit they were, but from the turn of the last century until the late 1960's most people smoked. The cards came about in the late 1890's when cigarettes were sold in flimsy paper packets and were forever being crushed in the pockets so a card was inserted to act as a stiffener. They were soon recognised as a way of advertising the particular brand of cigarette and then, very soon, by adding pictures to the cards were used to entice smokers to buy those cigarettes and make up sets of the different pictures.



Cigarette card issued in November 1909 by John Player Ltd Nottingham. It is from a set of 50 titled 'Celebrated Gateways' Number 26 South Gate Kings Lynn. Card value £1.80. Set value £90.00

Away from the monetary value they are a mine of social history and information, with just about every subject covered on a cigarette or trade card, together they give us an insight into life 70 or 80 years ago. Collectors normally specialise in a particular area of interest with subjects like sport, cricket, golf, football and military being the most popular. But 'of course' there are many other themes collectors find on cards.

Today's collectors have developed their interest into trade cards, such as chewing gum cards (from the 1960s), sweet cigarette cards (from the 1950/70s) and even more recent the many issues of Brooke Bond Tea cards issued in every packet of tea around the 1960s/70s and 80s. The range of subjects covered by these companies particularly Brooke Bond was vast and that company produced well over 750 million cards in this period. This has seriously devalued them for modern collectors and therefore they are financially worth very little nowadays.

The East Anglian Card Collecting Club is the largest Cigarette and Trade card club in the country and meets every month at Roydon near Diss, with

The Cartophilic Society of Great Britain Ltd presents
THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF CIGARETTE & TRADE CARDS
Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd April 2023

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NORFOLK PE30 2NB

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 Non members: 12.00am - **£4 (Family Ticket)**
 Event closes at 17.30pm

Sunday: **FREE** entry for all
 Open 10.00am - 16.00pm

Enquiries: COLIN FAWCETT
Telephone: 01553 674358 Email: clnfa@aol.com

www.card-world.co.uk

an average attendance of over 50 very keen collectors and a large 250 lot auction every month, it is a great place to go and chat about our passion, as well as increase your collection from the auction and from national dealers who attend every month. Details can be found on their website www.eacc.co.uk.

If you have a collection that you inherited and have stored away in the attic for many years, this club can value them for you, tell you all about them and even sell them for you. Selling through our club means they are going to real enthusiastic collectors. The club has recently celebrated its 50 years of meetings and has a strong membership of 100 loyal enthusiasts from all over East Anglia.

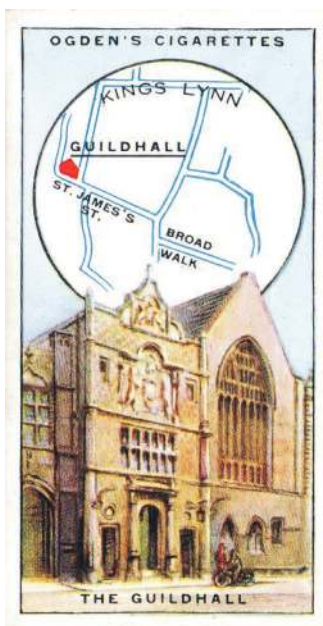
We are very pleased to have been asked by the Cartophilic Society of Great Britain to host their 2023 Annual Convention and are in the process of organising this in Kings Lynn on the 22nd/23rd April. Collectors and experts will be present from all

over the world as well as the cream of cigarette card dealers ready to show you (and sell you) their many cards. In fact millions of cards will be available for you to see. Why not come along to Alive Lynnsport and take a look for yourself.

If you require any more information on either the East Anglian club or the Convention in Kings Lynn please ring Colin Fawcett 01553 674358 or email clnfa@aol.com.



Cigarette card issued in August 1938 by R&J Hill London. It is from a set of 48 titled 'Views of Interest' 1st series Number 37 Sandringham House Card value £0.30p. Set value £15.00.



Cigarette cards issued in February 1932 by Ogdens Ltd. It is from a set 50 titled 'By the Roadside'. Number 21 The Guildhall Kings Lynn. Card value £1.20. Set value £60

The sets which are still collectable today mostly comprise of 25 or 50 cards and can suit all pockets for the collector. With prices from 50p to £500 there is something for everyone.



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SPAM and the Lifeboat Station

Sunday 12th March saw old friends reunited, family connections with the Lifeboat Station celebrated and a donation to the RNLI by the Snettisham Pensioners' Annual Meal (SPAM).



From left: Charles le Strange Meakin, Eric Langford, Rodney Forster and Alan Clarke

A member of the SPAM working group, Eric Langford, explained: "The SPAM working group, consisting of Gareth Barnett, Dee Burak, Rodney Forster, Jan Sexton, Rita Fry and myself, for so many years the organisers of the monthly SPAM Coffee Mornings and the annual SPAM subsidised meal and entertainment event, have decided to 'call it a day' and disband.

"A prime reason being the two year forced social restrictions due to the Covid pandemic.

"It is good to note that the re-established Village Events Committee had put on a pensioner's lunch and entertainment for 128 pensioners on 16th December 2022 and agreed to organise future pensioners' annual meals.

"One of the last acts of SPAM has been to contributed a large amount to the cost of putting on that event.

"Worthy of note is the decision of the Memorial Hall Trustees to establish a monthly coffee morning along similar lines to the SPAM coffee morning and provide attendees with drinks and cake as well as craft and bric-a-brac stalls to peruse.

"Equally good are the plans being developed by village volunteers for a monthly 'activities and social interaction' event, geared to meeting the needs of the older generations to be held in the village Royal British Legion



Chairman of Hunstanton Lifeboat Station, Charles le Strange Meakin accepts a cheque from SPAM's Rodney Forster

Hall. SPAM wishes all of these village organisations success for the future.

"The SPAM working group are grateful for all the generous contributions received from sponsors over the past years in the local area. Most importantly, a big thank you to all the volunteers, and the villagers, who attended the regular SPAM Coffee Mornings, all of whom helped make the annual pensioners meals over the past five years financially possible and such a success."

The final action of the SPAM WG has been to close down its bank account and distribute the remaining funds to six charitable organisations, namely RNLI, East of England Air Ambulance, Snettisham Memorial Hall, Cancer Research, Royal British Legion and Medical Detection Dogs.

From a family of ten children, Rodney Forster, a former deep sea trawlerman, docker, publican and gamekeeper is one of the five original SPAM Volunteers. Although Rodney lost both legs last year to gangrene, he was able to attend on the day in his wheelchair to present the cheque to the Lifeboat Station.

Co-incidentally an old friend of Rodney's was visiting the station the same time as the presentation. Former Hunstanton Lifeboat Helmsman Alan Clarke was with the Fisheries Board for 25 years and they met when Rodney was a trawlerman. An information board at the station entitled 'A battle against the winds' tells the story of when Alan was awarded the RNLI Bronze medal for his heroic action saving a windsurfer in 1985.



The picture next to the information board shows Rodney with Alan, and Alan's grandson Ryan Darby who is carrying on the family tradition with Hunstanton Lifeboat Station.

Accepting the cheque from SPAM the Chairman of Hunstanton Lifeboat Station, Charles le Strange Meakin, said: "Donations like this it enable us to run the station, so thank you."

Bob McDonald is the Hunstanton Lifeboat Treasurer and he explained that fundraising is essential as each launch costs between five and ten thousand pounds.

More lifeboat news on page 14.

Donate your old car or other vehicle
With/without MOT | Running or not | The older the better | Monies raised go to local good causes
All correct paperwork completed | No charge for vehicle collection
Contact: Richard Bird 07860 476 198

A message from your local Conservative Councillors

Hello everyone,

I hope you are well. I apologise it's been a while since I've written an article, but hopefully you'll have seen from press reports that we have been rather busy delivering for West-Norfolk.

I want to take this opportunity with a vital election coming up, to respectfully highlight to you our record locally on the things that we think really matter and our positive plan and vision for the future as a counter-point and provide some 'checkable truths'.

Despite being the 5th largest local authority in England, proudly serving 150,000 residents over 550 sq. miles, with all the costs and complexities of delivering essential services such as your bin collections over such a vast area, your local Conservative led Borough Council;

Receives only 4p out of every £1 raised in Council Tax in West Norfolk – the rest going to the Police, County Council, Fire Service, Adult and Children's Services, Town and Parish councils, Drainage Boards etc. This makes us the 179th lowest charging out of 181 Shire Districts in the country (despite being the 5th largest). I ask that you please look at what we achieve in this context.

You give us a little and we do a lot

Has consistently delivered every one of its essential services and put in place new ones when required to protect the vulnerable and local business - including administering c.£90million of local grants and support during an unprecedented period of a pandemic, war in Europe and resultant cost of living pressures.

We have proved you can rely on us to deliver for you

Has, when you have seen in the press other Councils locally and nationally reporting financial instability and cutting back on services, events, staff, investment and ambition palpably been doing the opposite. We have continued to put significant investment into key areas, services and capital projects creating jobs, opportunities or affordable local housing, maintained our award winning parks and open spaces, administered and created new grants that are supporting community buildings and equipment, charities and 'grass roots' good causes throughout the entire borough and continued to deliver and assist events throughout the year, such as this month's Hunstanton Soapbox derby (I'm in one of the RNLI's teams) that make West-Norfolk so great to live in. We have also brought in, through our Leisure company, reduced charges for children for the duration of every recent school holiday, supporting fun, health and wellbeing. Despite all this we have established a stable 'funded budget' platform for the next 3 years to ensure we can continue to deliver or improve on all of these areas, as we are continually striving to be the best we possibly can be. On this important point, you may be interested to know as an aside, despite numerous opportunities for opposition councillors to bring forward amendments to your local Conservative administration's 'budget' and 4 year projected financial plan, or for them to even submit an entirely different 'budget' with their costed, alternative vision for what should be done in February 2023, not one proposal came forward to the budget-setting meeting, with several opposition councillors voting for 'our' budget and plans.

You can trust us to ensure we are financially fit to deliver and to continue improving

We have actively taken the lead on all major issues affecting our region and continue to work effectively with strategic partners to ensure interest and money comes into West-Norfolk benefiting us all or to help each other to protect our common interests such as our work against the mega-incinerator in Wisbech. In the last 4 years c.£100m of external capital funding has been secured from central government, the County Council, the LEP and other partners to deliver truly transformational change here, an unprecedented and increasing level of co-operation and investment. Change and projects that are potentially under real threat if publicly made opposition statements around their intent if they become the next administration are to be believed. One such completed c.£700k project in Kings Lynn being the 'College of Nursing' training local students to enter this laudable profession and join the QEH. Speaking of the QEH, it can be seen that we positively led on the issue of a much-needed replacement alongside the region's MPs for many months, working in lockstep with the Hospital's leadership team, to effectively magnify the bid and underpinning issues to key decision makers in London.

We work well and will continue to work well with strategic partners who can help us

I'll leave you with one crucial thought. Whilst there is understandable frustration with national politics, I believe that this is not the time to engage in a 'protest vote' in an attempt to hit out at politicians in Westminster. I believe an election that will determine how all our essential local services will run for the next few years and how West Norfolk will develop is perhaps more important than a general election in terms of direct local impact. It is my earnest hope that you also see this and that the 'stakes are high' and come out and lend us your trust and support, which we will endeavour to repay for the next 4 years as we have done this, as without it we cannot continue.

Thank you for reading this, all best wishes,



Stuart Dark MBE on behalf of your local Conservatives

Promoted by M Eva on behalf of the Conservative candidates in Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, all of Shirley House, 23 London Street, Swaffham, PE37 7DD. Printed by Mortons Media Group Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, LN9 6JR

Hunstanton Eyecare blog

Diabetes and Eyes

Following on from our chats about eye conditions, we talked about Macular Degeneration in January and Glaucoma in February, the next major topic is Diabetes as it is the leading cause of preventable sight loss in the UK, so very important.

We hear a lot about Diabetes these days, and we should heed the warnings as it has many effects on our general health and can cause damage to our vision. Our eyesight is so affected by Diabetes that the NHS fund a routine sight test for patients with the condition, so there's no excuse!

"Diabetic Retinopathy" is a complication of diabetes. If your blood sugar levels and blood pressure are consistently high, you can seriously damage the important blood vessels that feed the retina, the sight-giving nerve layer at the back of the eye, they can get blocked, leak or grow randomly. This means the retina can't get the blood and nutrition it needs and so can't work properly, therefore this will affect vision. There are lots of things you can do to keep your blood sugars and blood pressure in your target range, I'm sure you've heard it all before, eat healthily, take more exercise and don't smoke. The better you control Diabetes, the lower your risk of developing serious problems with your eyes.

If you do begin to develop eye complications, there are treatments to avoid long term problems - as long as they are diagnosed in time. Diabetic patients are offered a screening service, where the retina is photographed to examine for any haemorrhages, but this only views the surface and we can see that when we look into your eye. At Hunstanton Eyecare we would always recommend our OCT scan for all patients as it will pick up any anomaly in the deeper, not visible to the naked eye, parts of the retina too. Our OCT scan is far more detailed than the diabetic screenings, and as records are kept confidential, we have no way of knowing what the screening found good or bad. So don't be surprised if you are diabetic and we still say that the OCT is a very good idea, I would even say an essential part of your eye exam! We keep the records on our system so that at future tests images can be compared with those of previous times. The OCT scan is the only equipment that will confirm your eyes remain healthy, or if we do notice a change it is likely to be small and we will have plenty of time to treat the condition before it damages your vision. So if you are diabetic, have regular eye tests AND an OCT scan, and let's make sure you have good vision for life.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Annette

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Good control of diabetes can slow the development of diabetic eye problems



Aim for the best blood sugar control that you can



If you have diabetes you need an eye check annually or more often if advised



Increasing your regular exercise, lose excess weight and/or stop smoking



Talk to your GP or diabetes specialist nurse if you need help

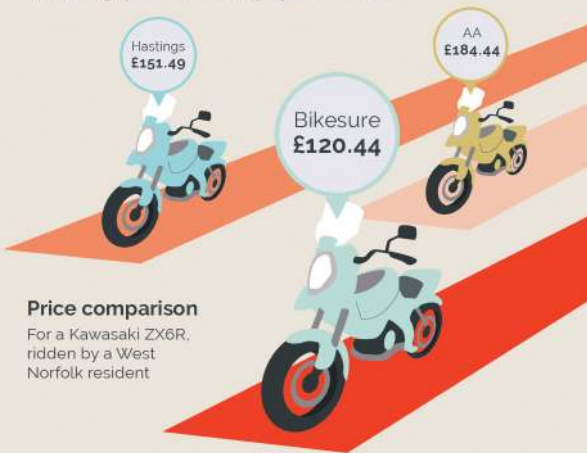


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April 19th Cream Teas from 3.00 p.m.

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Yoga for U3A members on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Mondays : Strength and Balance Class 4.40 p.m.

Wednesdays : Scrabble 10.00 a.m. , Whist Drive 7.00 p.m.

Fridays : Lunchtime Raffle drawn at 1.00 p.m. Cash Bingo start at 7.30 p.m.

Saturdays : 'Open the Box' draw at 1.00 p.m.

www.hunstantonconservativeclub.co.uk



Hunstanton Lifeboat Station news

Geoff Needham

With no shouts to report Training and maintenance carries on.

On Sunday 5th March we held a recruitment day, despite the cold weather and road works, a steady flow of visitors visited the station, and were shown round, and ten people signed up for different roles, they will now undergo a period of training, which range from shore crew to shop assistants, if you think you would like to volunteer to become part of the lifeboat family, come along any Sunday morning where you can see at first hand what it's all about.

On Sunday 12th March members of the Norfolk Caravan & Motor Home club, presented to the station a cheque for £1550.00 to the station, money they had raised from different events. Mrs Shirley Capes presented the cheque accompanied with other members, a big thanks from all at the Station.



Volunteers signed up to help the work of a busy Norfolk lifeboat station when it staged an open day

Chris Bishop

A steady stream of people turned out to see behind the scenes when the RNLI's Hunstanton crew threw open the doors of its base to visitors on Sunday (March 5).

They found out what it takes to join the team on board the lifeboat and hovercraft, which launch from their base on Sea Lane.

They also learned about all the roles which help to keep both craft at sea, from launch officers and tractor drivers, to helping out on the shore safety team, keeping the station ship-shape and helping out in its souvenir shop.

Lifeboat operations manager Rigil Kent said around 10 signed up on the day.

"It seems to have been very popular, there's been a good interest," he said. "We've had a mix of people enquiring about different roles, so we'll now look through them and see who's able to give us what we need."



to volunteer for anything and everything I can."

David Wooster, 58, also from Hunstanton, decided to sign up for the shore crew after being shown around the station by crew member Nathan Torrice.

"I just came down here to find out more and got sucked into it," he said.

The crew attended 49 'shouts' last year, ranging from people cut off by the tide and surfers in difficulty, to yachts and motorboats requiring assistance.

The station is staffed entirely by volunteers, aged from their teens to their '80s.

Photos of Fran Moore and David Wooster credit: Hunstanton RNLI



Above :- (from left) Debbie Carter with Ivan & Leesa Espley

Below: back row (from left) Debbie Carter, Lee Torrice & Andrew Chance. Seated are Kate Craven, Rigil Kent & (R) David Cleland.

Credit: Ian Burt



Would-be volunteers included Fran Moore, 55, from Hunstanton, whose late aunt was a supporter of the station, which she remembered in her will.

"It's because of my Auntie Di, who supported them for years," she said. "I want





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All change please! We're closing your railways

Ben Colson

Sixty years ago – on 27th March 1963 to be precise – a much anticipated report was published. It was “The Reshaping of British Railways”.

Today we know it as the much-derided Beeching Report, as its content didn't chime with the kernel of a feeling then emerging that putting ever more cars on the road was not the best way forward for the nation's transport system, economy or environment. We tend to overlook the fact, though, that Dr Beeching was commissioned by the government in 1961 specifically to review the railway network to make it financially viable.

We need to understand the context: the first section of motorway in the country had been opened in 1959, the same year as the longest single railway line in the country closed. Government saw future transport investment being in road building, and it may or may not be significant that Ernest Marples, the Transport Minister (today the Secretary of State) part-owned a road-building company. The Ministerial Code was not as tight then as today and he complied with it by selling his shares to his wife, which was then entirely permissible, if not now. Marples has aptly been described as “the shadow behind Beeching”.

That longest line to close in 1959 was the Midland and Great Northern, which ran from Peterborough and near Melton Mowbray in the West, through South Lynn, Fakenham and Melton Constable and on to Yarmouth. One reason for the closure was the need for costly repairs to the swing bridge at Sutton Bridge, but it was conjectured that it was also to send a signal to the railway industry that there wasn't a bottomless pit of money to keep the system going.

Today we like to blame Dr Beeching for everything that's wrong with our transport system. Actually, his research and analysis was first class, even if we didn't then, and still don't, like the outcome. The



Hunstanton Station from the air

report includes figures for the branch line from Swaffham through Watton to Thetford – only one of a small number detailed in the report because railway finances were then regarded as off limits for scrutiny. It made a loss on the cost of operating the trains of over a third of a million pounds in today's money, and carried on average just nine people per journey. Of course, the key missing point is how much those nine passengers then spent on other railway lines they connected in to.

Beeching recommended that the lines out of Lynn to Hunstanton, Dereham (for Norwich) and March (for Peterborough) should remain open, although with some of the smaller village stations closed. On the Hunstanton line that may well have then included North Wootton and Wolferton. In the case of the lines going East and West from Lynn he recommended that through “inter-regional” services be run between Norwich and Peterborough via Lynn, an outcome we could all heartily support today. Instead, all three lines were closed within a few years.

Why, then, was Dr Beeching ignored? This is a peculiarly East of England thing. If you look to the South West, to Devon and Cornwall, you'll find all sorts of short branch lines still open today, linking the main line which acts like a trunk, to coastal communities, keeping them vibrant and lively in a way that those along the East coast – and not just in East Anglia – struggle to achieve. In one case, in Cornwall, a park and ride site has been built so that the seaside resort can be reached more easily by transferring to train for the last few miles. The sort of thing we can only dream about.

So what went wrong? British Railways was divided into regional management teams and the Eastern Region team was absolutely determined to close as many lines as it could and focus only on main line services. Remember, nobody had access to railway accounts, so when a closure order was made, not even the Inspector appointed by the government had access to the figures. All the Inspector was allowed to do was decide whether the closure would cause hardship to users and recommend (not demand) such hardship be taken into account.

Had the figures been published for scrutiny, the Hunstanton line would almost certainly not have closed. Researchers since have found that some 42,000 trips a year were claimed to have been made to and from Hunstanton but that was just tickets bought on the line itself. At Hunstanton alone, another 170,000 or so tickets were recorded at the platform barrier, having been bought elsewhere around the country. They were ignored, banished from the account.

That lack of transparency wouldn't be allowed today but it gave Eastern Region's managers a convenient cloak behind which to hide. It was a guaranteed win for them, and a guaranteed loss for everybody else. In many parts of the country the disused tracks were ‘reserved’ so they could be turned back into railway lines again, but our Council decided instead to build over them, almost as if to secure the car as the only means of transport for the future.



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Three local artists exhibiting in King's Lynn

Three local artists are exhibiting at the Purfleet Brasserie, just off King Street, 50 yards from the Customs House in King's Lynn. Kerry Long and Michelle Louise Carter both from Heacham, are exhibiting alongside Snettisham based artist Helena Anderson from 26th March to 7th May. It's an exciting opportunity that is curated by the West Norfolk Artists Association of which all three artists are members.

Kerry largely paints landscapes, and has a wide range of recurrent themes running through her work. Michelle Louise is a sea and landscape oil painter who has recently been experimenting with hand-made charcoal. Helena is mainly known for her portraits, specialising in horses and dogs, but on this occasion she is exhibiting a range of colourful silk paintings.

There are no entrance fees to view the work on display.



Above: "Cherry Blossom", acrylic on canvas, by Kerry Long



Above: "Seydisfjordur, Iceland", hand-made charcoal on card, by, Michelle Louise Carter. Below: "Rhododendrons at Sandringham," painted on silk, by Helena Anderson.



Lavender Lace Day

Are you crafty? The Lavender lace makers are having a Lace and Craft Day on Saturday 20th May 10-4pm at Hunstanton Community Centre in Avenue Road PE36 5BW.

You are invited to go along and have a go at lace making. You can also take your own craft making and share your expertise. Tatting, crochet, knitting, patchwork, quilting or other crafts, all are welcome.

Tea, coffee and cakes are included in the ticket price of £5.50 and you should take your own packed lunch. There will also be demonstrations, exhibition and trade stands.

For tickets and further information: Mrs Lyn Hallifax, 5 Sarahs Road, Hunstanton PE36 5PA or phone 07443 596777. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

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Snettisham Art Group



Easter Art Exhibition with associated crafts at the British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham Friday 7th to Monday 10th April.

Open from 10.00 am until 5.30 pm each day. Entry Free - Donations welcomed for British Legion.

Telephone Les on 01485 572370 for further details

u3a Hunstanton

We will meet at the Community Centre, Avenue Road Hunstanton at 2.00 pm on Monday 17th April when the Speaker will be Georgette Vale with a theatrical presentation on Edith Cavell.

We will be present at the Town Hall on Wednesday 26th April providing information alongside other local groups.

You will be most welcome to join us

For further information please see our website hunstantonu3a.org

Little Fish Aquatics

Named as one of the top 40 aquatic stores in the UK Snettisham's Little Fish Aquatics has much to celebrate especially as they achieved this accolade in their first year of trading. They will be celebrating their first birthday on 6th April.

Based at Poppyfields Retail Park the enterprising owners and management team have great knowledge and experience of all things aquatic and their enthusiasm is palpable.

Owner Kerry Flux had always wanted an aquatics shop and the manager Emily Watson, who has worked in the trade for nine years, was keen to take on the challenge of the new venture. Completing the management team Jason Brushett is the marine specialist.



Emily and Jason

The business aims to provide the aquatic keeper with a very wide range of fish and especially the more unusual varieties that are otherwise difficult to find. Tropical fish, sea water species and fishing corals along with plants, tanks, food and cleaning equipment is available from the store that also offers expert advice.

The stress-relief benefits of aquariums are well known, have you ever wondered why fish tanks are often found in waiting rooms? A study by researchers at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth and the University of Exeter found that aquariums can lower a person's blood pressure and heart rate and can also reduce anxiety and help with sleep.*

Welcoming the local community, and especially those with anxiety is part of Kerry's vision, and there's always a cuppa available in this warm and calming environment.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday 9.30 to 5pm and on Sundays from 10am to 4pm – and they will also be open every day over the Easter Weekend.

* *Marine Biota and Psychological Well-Being: A Preliminary Examination of Dose-Response Effects in an Aquarium Setting*

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Beauty and the Beef

Campston Farm - in a land of opportunity forged by 5000 years of unique history

A West-Norfolk couple have realised their dream and moved to Orkney for a new life of farming and holiday letting. Jack Schmollmann (you may know him from Jack's Gentlemen's Barbers in Hunstanton) and Veterinary Surgeon Rhiannon Jones (formerly at Millhouse Vets in King's Lynn) were married last year and their island adventure in the archipelago off the north-eastern coast of Scotland has begun.



On 1st February the couple took over Campston Farm which is on the largest of the islands known as Mainland. Rhiannon said: "As you may already know we ditched our well paid jobs, sold our sports cars and departed the country, after we tied the knot back in September.

"We relocated to the small wilds of Orkney in search of aurora, orcas, puffins and peace. The plan was to buy a farm, which is something Jack has dreamed of since we got together 13 years ago.

"We very nearly didn't make it to this day, with our buyers dropping out at the last minute from our house sale leaving us well and truly up the creek without a paddle... the dream farm seemed to be slipping through our fingers.

"Just when the farm was about to go back on the open market we had a pair of heroes step in to save the day.

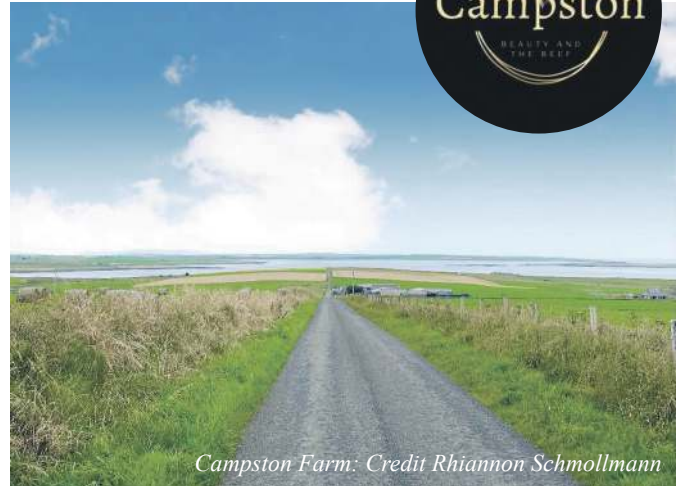
"We have put in all our money and more, in order to finance this venture and the hard graft really starts here as we embark on ensuring our business grows.

"Campston Farm is to be a beef farm with holiday lets, for everyone to enjoy this beautiful, wild and unspoilt haven."



Credit Jack Schmollmann

The first cows (in-calf) arrived at Campston in February; these are Aberdeen Angus/Hereford cross and Jack is keen to add another breed to the herd. Stabiliser cattle are a specialised suckler beef breed with the added bonus of hybrid vigour. Jack said: "Stabilisers are relatively



Campston Farm: Credit Rhiannon Schmollmann

new, they were officially recognised as a breed in 2014; they are docile, easy to calve and produce very high quality beef."

Sitting on the Gulf Stream, Orkney's climate is much milder than other areas on the same latitude and there is less than 10 deg C difference between the average summer and winter temperatures. However winter is the coolest and wettest season, just like the rest of the UK, so cattle come in and are fed silage and barley that are also produced on the farm.

Jack and Rhiannon have been busy preparing their holiday lets and are now open for business. Perfect for lovers of wildlife, it is closer to the Arctic Circle than it is to London and fifteen percent of the world's seal population can be found there, along with the orcas, puffins, otters



Credit Rhiannon Schmollmann

and so much more amazing wildlife, which can all be viewed from the shore. The landscape is stunning and you can see part of the 500 mile coastline from practically anywhere.

Campston Farm is a cottage that faces north, and with no light pollution it offers unrivalled views of the milky way and the iconic aurora. The cottage is within walking distance to a small beach down the private farm track, with another larger beach one mile away.

The accommodation is ideally situated for people who want to explore an area with a 5000 year history and wonderfully preserved sites that are easily accessible. Definitely not to be missed and less than a half hour away is the Ring of Brodgar, a Neolithic henge and stone circle. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.



Standing Stones Brodgar: Credit T&A

More recent history might lead you to the sheltered natural harbour of Scapa Flow which was the Royal Navy's main Fleet base during both World Wars, its strategic importance can be discovered at the museum on Hoy which is a short ferry trip from Mainland.

Just six miles from Campston is Kirkwall - The city is described as a vibrant capital with a Viking heart. It is the administrative centre for Orkney and has high street banks, a wealth of independent shops, restaurants, distilleries a busy harbour and a magnificent Cathedral founded in 1137.



St Magnus Cathedral: Credit T&A

We visited Orkney in late February – the blue sky you see in the top photo has not been enhanced! The views were magnificent, the food was lovely and the welcome was very warm.

Getting there: We drove via A1 and A9 - 659 miles (taking in part of the Scottish 500) then by Northlink Ferries from Scrabster to Stromness. You can also fly from Norwich via Aberdeen. Kirkwall Airport to Campston is about 10 minutes.

Enquiries to Jack and Rhiannon on: 07590 927817

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TIME FOR SOME PERSONAL TAXATION SPRING CLEANING?

By Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton

The new tax year starts on 6 April. Could there be a better time to take a long hard look at your personal taxation affairs?

• The first £1000 of interest is tax free (£500 for a higher rate taxpayer). This simple “quick win” should be considered if you currently have savings sitting on low interest deposit accounts or bank current accounts. After years of negligible interest rates, it is now possible to find accounts paying in excess of 3%.

• Are you making pension contributions outside your payroll deductions and wondering whether you have received the correct tax relief? Even non taxpayers (aged under 75) can save up to £2880 net each year, and the government will top it up by 20%, so you get the relief at source automatically and if you pay £2880 you will find £3600 in your pension account. Higher rate taxpayers will also be able to claim the balance of their relief to 40% in their tax return, reducing the year end liability. Remember, the higher rate relief will not be given automatically, so if you are in this position it will be necessary to file a self-assessment return – according to some sources many higher rate payers fail to claim this relief and the amount lost runs into hundreds of millions every year. There are restrictions on the maximum level of pension contributions that receive tax relief so these need to be checked if significant amounts are being contemplated. Additionally, as always, any investment decision regarding making pension contributions should be referred to an Independent Financial Adviser.

• Are you making charitable donations under gift aid? Rather like pension contributions, gift aid payments reduce your taxable income, although in this case the basic rate relief goes back to the charity, so a £80 gift aid payment will mean that the charity can claim £20 from the government. However, a higher rate taxpayer can also claim the difference between basic and higher rates personally, so would see a repayment or tax reduction in the year end tax bill. Those who fall within the 60% tax band (see below) could actually have half their charitable deduction refunded in this way – perhaps enabling them to make even more charitable donations. The maximum gift aid relief will be restricted to the total income for the year. There is a limited opportunity to “carry back” gift aid payments to the previous year, but only in respect of payments made after the year end and before the tax return is submitted. This is a rare opportunity to retrospectively “fine tune” income for optimum use of the rate bands.

• Make the most of your marital status/ review your individual and joint shareholdings. Gifts between spouses or those in civil partnerships are not subject to capital gains tax (CGT) and take place on a “No Gain/No Loss” basis. With the annual allowances for CGT dropping to £6000 for 2023/24 and then £3000 in the following year, splitting the ownership of investments between you as a married/civil partnership couple can reduce the CGT liability when they are eventually sold. Since the tax-free dividend allowance is also reducing (to £1000, then £500) this course of action can have more immediate benefits. Moreover, since those with more than £500 of dividend income will need to file self-assessment returns by 2024/25, sharing dividend income might well save the need for that chore. It is estimated that over 4 million shareholders will be caught by these new rules. Alternatively, or additionally, if the shares can be liquidated without triggering a CGT charge, it may be advantageous to sell them and repurchase within an ISA, where they will be exempt from both CGT AND dividend tax in future but again IFA advice should be taken.

• Watch your tax rates: From 2023/24 these are:

Up to £12,570	nil	NON-TAXPAYER
£12,571-£50,270	20%	BASIC RATE
£50,271-£100,000	40%	HIGHER RATE
£100,001-£125,139	60%	MARGINAL RATE: SEE BELOW

Over £125,139 45% ADDITIONAL RATE

Many people do not realise that there is an effective 60% band – this arises because personal allowances are reduced by 50p per pound of income where income is over £100,000. The government has made it clear that these bands will not be increased in line with inflation, so many more taxpayers will be affected in coming years.

All this means that careful attention to income levels can be well worthwhile, those in business who may be able to time capital expenditure for best tax effect, but almost everyone can use pension contributions or charitable donations to keep income in the lowest band possible.

N.B. This article was written in March 2023 before the Budget, and therefore needs to be considered in the light of any announcements made on 15 March 2023 and before 5 April. For further advice please contact either of the partners Kate Gigg FCA or Nicola Tarry FCA at Kathryn Gigg Chartered Accountants, Hunstanton on 01485 534800 or kate@kathryngigg.co.uk.

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 we endeavour to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, neither we nor our 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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A page from the Sage

Fish and Chips

A few years back I did a write up about all the fish and chip shops that had been and gone over the years and the ones that were still here. I thought I would do another write up as there have been many changes since then.

The first fish and chip shop to open in Hunstanton was in Chapel Lane and it was called A Fried Fish Shop. It was opened in 1925 by a Mrs Hastings and is now long gone. Mrs Popperwell kept the Coach and Horses pub at Dersingham during the Second World War then moved to Hunstanton in 1946 and opened the Brooklands Fish and Chip Shop and Restaurant in Beach Terrace. In 1960 when the Vegas was built her son Dawson opened a fish and chip shop there which he ran for many years. The fish and chip shop is still there but under different ownership. There has been a fish and chip shop in Searles caravan park for a long while run by a man called Harry; it is still there but it is operated by his grandson. Then we come to Sally's fish and chip shop that is on the car park opposite the Fairground. This shop had two or three operators before Sally took over. There was at one time a fish and chip shop on the Fairground near the promenade but as I cannot get out and about any more I'm not sure if it is still operating. It was there in the 1950s when I worked on the fair ground!

When you go along the promenade heading north you come to three new units operated by Mick Large one of which is a fish and chip shop. Mick operated a fish and chip shop under the pier building for a long time and now the building is an amusement arcade.

Further along the promenade is a mobile fish and chip shop that has been there a few years, now we go on to le Strange Terrace; over the years there has been at least five fish and chip shops in le Strange Terrace when you came along from Southend Road the first one was Jones Brothers which was where O'Quigleys bar now is, then you cross over the road and Don Shaw opened a shop in what was Castles Wine shop, at the present time this shop is empty, next to the Showboat Amusement Arcade is another arcade called The Mint. This too was another fish and chip shop that was operated by two or three different people including Charlie Mann. The other side of the showboat was another shop called Bears Fish Shop which at one time called Baggy Ann's and before that it was a cake shop and restaurant operated by Peter Brooke. The next fish and chip shop in le Strange Terrace, and the only one in that street that is still operating is outside the Green Lodge Restaurant (now Joe's)

Turning into The Green and the first fish and chip shop and restaurant you come to is a new one called Henry's named after Henry le Strange for many years this building had been a ladies fashion shop called Focus on Fashion. Carry on up Greevegate and you come to Fishers Fish and Chip Shop and Restaurant. Fishers started off with a shop in Dersingham before the Second World War they also had a potato crisp factory. They moved the whole

operation to Hunstanton in the old Jackson's building at the top end of Hill Street, which was operated for many years by Jason Smith. You will be pleased to know that there are still nine fish and chip shops operating in Hunstanton so don't worry about any of you good people going hungry!

I have just been told another shop will be opened in Beach Terrace in the unit next to the Number One amusement arcade where a Kentucky Fried Chicken shop was many years ago.

Many people will not remember we had a Wimpy Bar in Hunstanton on the corner of the slipway by Johnson's shops; in 1978 it got very badly damaged on the same night as are dear old pier got washed away and a lot of the tables and chairs from the Wimpy Bar being washed out to sea, the unit never opened again but in later years it opened as the rock shop as it still is today.

Advisory Group

I have been told that yet another advisory group has been formed by about a dozen people in Hunstanton some councillors and some not. I have been a member of about four of these groups since I came to live in Hunstanton in 1967.

The first one was in 1974 and about a year later a booklet called Hunstanton Draft District Plan was printed by King's Lynn Borough Council. It had 84 pages about things that we suggested but very few of these suggestions were ever carried out one thing we asked for was a new slipway on the beach at the end of Seagate if you go past there you'll see there is still no slipway there after about fifty years of asking for it. I thought that the best thing about these groups was the hot soup that we got with our lunch, I wish this new group the best of luck in sorting out dear old Sunny Hunny. My advice to this is group is to leave Sunny Hunny as it is it has been spoilt enough, but that's just what I think.

The best view

Watching the sun set in the west from the promenade is amazing, and there is a lot you can see fifteen miles across the wash at other times of day too.

The first thing you can spot is the power station at Sutton Bridge then if you traverse slowly to the north the next large building you spot is Boston Stump, St Botolph's Church as you go along this Lincolnshire coast road you come to the village of Wainfleet. There used to be two large silver grain silos here and if you looked at them from Hunstanton cliffs they would sparkle in the sunlight but I think they were removed some ago. If you carry on you come to the large seaside resort of Skegness with its Butlins holiday resort, this is the end of the Wash and you are now in the north sea. Going back to the cliffs at Hunstanton you can see the wind farm out to sea that is five miles from Skegness. If you stand on the cliffs to the north of the lighthouse on a good clear day with a very strong pair of binoculars you could be lucky and see a much larger wind farm out in



the north sea about ten miles north of Hunstanton.

Boston Stump and other churches

When St Botolph's Church was built it was constructed as a calender in stone. Some facts and figures: there are 365 steps to the very top of the tower one for every day of the year there are 7 doors for the days of the week, 52 windows for the weeks in a year, there are also 24 steps leading to the library above the south porch, whilst on either side of the chancel there are 60 steps by which the roof can be reached these steps indicating the hours, the minutes and the seconds by which our days are numbered. If some energetic person should prove this information to be incorrect remember that such sayings are not always meticulously accurate. Named the Boston Stump, at one time many years ago an iron basket was mounted on the top of the tower it was filled with coals and light at night to guide the boats in at night. On our side of the Wash we have Snettisham church with its tall spire; because of the lay of the land the church spire at Snettisham is level with the door at Great Bircham Church.

Flood warnings and wardens

At the end of February this year when the tides were high with one tide of 27 feet the water splashed over a bit at Hunstanton and Wells but it was nothing serious we had the flood warning sign flashing at the Tesco roundabout, it has a newfangled name - the short name is PEN the full name is precautionary evacuation notice.

During the last war we had air raid sirens around the town they were on the top of 30 feet high posts the ones that I know of were at the corner of Beach Road and Seagate Road, one where the Tesco petrol station now is, another one was behind the library and some more around the town. There were also air raid wardens they were also used as flood wardens but their main job was to go around the town making sure your black out curtains were closed.

After the war the air raid sirens and wardens were kept on as flood wardens. The council also had some mobile air raid sirens in case of emergency. A team of three flood wardens to warn people about flooding were kept in service until sometime in the nineteen nighties as were the flood sirens. Since the 1953 flood millions of pounds have been spent on Hunstanton and all around the Norfolk coast and many other coastlines.

Well, that's your lot for now, just keep on a troshin', the Boy Dick, Sunny Hunny

Team effort to improve safety at Old Hunstanton

A joint project between the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, the RNLI and the Le Strange Estate will help to improve beach safety at Old Hunstanton beach.

New signage will help people to make informed and safe choices about their visit to the beach by providing updateable information about tide times and hazards. It will be installed by Easter.

Cllr Stuart Dark MBE, council leader, said: "We know that our local lifeboat crew do wonderful work so, when they approached us saying that they were having more emergency callouts in Old Hunstanton due to holidaymakers not knowing the tide times and the dangers of being cut off from shore, we wanted to help them all we could.

"It became clear that a simple and straightforward solution to increase public safety and decrease demand on the crew was available by putting in clear signage and it was absolutely right that we, as a council, found the money to make this happen promptly."

Charles le Strange Meakin, of the le Strange Estate and president of Hunstanton RNLI, said: "I'm very grateful to the borough council for their help in improving public safety information here at Old Hunstanton. It's a great contribution to keep beach users safe."

Rigil Kent, Lifeboat Operations Manager, Hunstanton RNLI, said: "The installation of the safety sign has been a great collaboration between the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, The Le Strange Estate and the RNLI. To see it coming to fruition makes us all very proud that we are able to display safety messaging in such a pragmatic way. Hunstanton Lifeboat Station has always displayed tide times on the station notice boards but these were not easy for everybody to read. The new sign displays the tide time electronically, features a scrolling screen which can be used for additional safety messaging, and includes printed beach safety messaging. We would like to thank the borough council and Le Strange Estate for working



with us and for helping us to make our beaches safer."

Beach safety signs are already in place in a number of council-owned locations, where they help residents and holidaymakers to make safe decisions about their bathing by providing a range of information.

This joint project, between the borough council, RNLI and the Le Strange Estate, will extend the network of signs to include Old Hunstanton. This will see an additional sign being installed in Old Hunstanton on land owned by the Le Strange estate, which will show the main hazards for this stretch of the coastline, emergency information and a beach map. It will also feature an updateable digital display panel that features tide times and other safety information. It will be located near the RNLI station at the main access point for Old Hunstanton beach.

Please note: the copy date for the May issue of Town and Around is 12th April.

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When does a Lasting Power of Attorney take effect?

By Emma Langley, Solicitor, Hayes + Storr.

If you have been asked to act as an attorney for someone you may wonder when it will come into effect, especially if the Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) was made when your friend or relative was in good health.

Lasting Power of Attorney (after October 2007)

Lasting powers of attorney (LPAs) in English law were created under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and came into effect on 1 October 2007. They replaced the previous system of Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) which had been in place since 1986.

LPAs have the option to allow a donor (the person making the LPA) to register the LPA with immediate effect, whereas an EPA could only be registered by an attorney once the donor started to lose mental capacity.

Lasting powers of attorney were introduced to allow people to appoint attorneys in respect of both their financial decisions and their healthcare decisions. Separate documents are required to appoint each type of attorney.

LPA – Property and Financial Affairs

When a donor creates a lasting power of attorney for property and financial decisions, they need to decide whether the document could be used while they still have capacity (i.e. as soon as the lasting power of attorney is registered) or only in the event that they lose their mental capacity.

If the donor chooses to give power to an attorney with immediate effect, the attorney can only deal with the donor's financial affairs when they are instructed to do so, for as long as the donor continues to have mental capacity. If the donor prefers to manage their financial affairs until they lose their mental capacity, then the attorney will not be able to act for them until such time.

Unlike the enduring power of attorney, most lasting powers of attorney are registered in advance to ensure they are available and ready to use in the event of loss of capacity, as the registration process is rather lengthy. Registration of a lasting power of attorney with The Office of the Public Guardian can take up to 20 weeks.

The Office of the Public Guardian is a government body that, within the framework of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, polices the activities of deputies, attorneys and guardians who act to protect the interests of those who lack mental capacity.

LPA - Health and Welfare

A lasting power of attorney for health and welfare decisions follows the same registration process as for property and financial affairs. However, the key difference is that a healthcare lasting power of attorney may only be used if the donor no longer has mental capacity. There is no option for the donor to delegate their healthcare decision making sooner.

Important considerations

If you have been appointed as an attorney for someone, it is important to remember that the LPA is the donor's document, not yours.

It is the donor who makes the LPA and who determines how it can be used and, in some cases, when it will be effective. An attorney cannot override the donor's decisions in this regard.

How can we help?

LPAs are important documents, make sure you understand the nature and effect of an LPA before starting to act.

For further information, please contact Emma Langley at Hayes + Storr Solicitors on 01328 863231 or email emma.langley@hayes-storr.com.



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The Barking Bugle

Royalty and the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



What on earth am I going to do? How am I going to cope with such responsibility? Will I be able to woof at the right times without howling too much?

These were the questions that were troubling me so much one day that I couldn't even finish my doggy chunks and pint of Pawsecco! It was only a few months ago at Christmas, whilst attending the Church service at Sandringham, that this human called King Charles III looked over in my direction and pointed at me with a big beaming smile on his face. This must surely mean I had been knighted and therefore given special duties to perform at his Coronation in only a few weeks' time! Panic stricken I had to wake my sister, Miss Zsa Zsa, from her deep slumber to reveal all my woes.

'Ziggy Bear, you are a daft doggy,' Miss Zsa Zsa woofed. 'The King wasn't knighting you – he was just being very friendly because he's a nice human. Let's be honest, no one could ignore you that day because you were howling so much! So don't worry, you won't be called on to do anything.'

I instantly felt a pang of relief. My sister is very wise, you know, and her comforting barks reassured me a lot. However, all this made me quite inquisitive. I had heard that the royalty in this country and my breed, the King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, have had an interesting relationship. I decided to do some research which I would like to share with my fellow furry friends and human readers.

Did you know that King Charles Cavalier Spaniels have been popular with English royalty for centuries? Our breed is first thought to have arrived in Europe from Japan during the early 16th century, probably as a royal gift. We were rare at that time and very expensive and so only really wealthy humans like the members of the royal family or the aristocracy could afford us.

The first record of spaniels was during the reign of King Henry VIII. He declared that no dogs were to be kept at court except small spaniels for the ladies. His last wife, Catherine Parr, had a pet spaniel called Rig who wore a velvet collar studded with gold. She was so devoted to him that she was buried with one of his teeth.

In 1587 Mary Queen of Scots hid a small black and white spaniel beneath her skirts as she was about to be executed. It is said that this doggy refused to leave his dead mistress's body and died of grief a few days later.

The King that we are most associated with is of course Mary's great grandson, and our namesake, King Charles II. He loved us dearly and so did his dad, King Charles I whose spaniel, Rogue, accompanied him to his execution in 1649. It was during the reign of Charles I and II that we became a major part of royal family life. In fact Charles II doted on us so much that he was rarely seen without a spaniel by his side. We were even allowed to accompany him to posh state banquets, to council meetings and the best bit of all, to the royal bed. We had our own royal hairdressers and footmen, we wore collars of silk ribbon,

precious metals or gold embroidered velvet, and we were allowed to eat the poshest food on offer at the time. It is a common belief that the King also decreed that we should be allowed free access to all the royal palaces and parks. This gave rise to the myth that we are allowed to go anywhere we like, including the Houses of Parliament. Samuel Pepys, that human who wrote a lot of things in a diary, used to get so annoyed by King Charles II. He wrote, "All I observed there was the silliness of the King, playing with his dog all the while and not minding the business." By 1670 spaniels had become the must-have companion for every fashionable court lady.

Queen Victoria had a Tricolor just like me called Dash during her teens. Apparently she loved him to bits and was heartbroken when he died in 1840. A marble effigy was erected over his grave at Windsor Home Park.

Our current King is familiar with us spaniels; his Aunt, Princess Margaret, had a spaniel called Rawley and Queen Elizabeth II had a ruby. However, somehow I don't think any Cavaliers will be sleeping on his bed! He, along with his wife Camilla, will begin their reign with their own beloved pooches, two Jack Russell Terriers.

I hope you all enjoyed reading about our relationship with royalty over the last few hundred years. I just wanted to woof that ALL doggies are very special, not just us, but I'd like to think King Charles II and his dad would be delighted to see how popular our breed has become. These days we no longer all live in palaces but we still expect to be treated like Kings!

Woofs Ziggy Bear

Ziggy Bear and Miss Zsa Zsa are canine repawters with The Barking Bugle. To get the latest doggy news and information on dog friendly Norfolk visit www.thebarkingbugle.co.uk

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The Ski Café launches its summer opening hours

Tim Keogh

Located half way between Hunstanton and Heacham, along the promenade, sits the superbly positioned Ski Café. A unique setting to the South of Hunstanton, the café sits in a beautiful location with prime vistas across the Wash. Where better to enjoy a cold beer or an ice cream on a hot summer's day.

It is owned by Peter Byrne who took over the café late in 2019. Then COVID struck and, like many businesses in the hospitality industry, this had a devastating effect. Eventually, they were able to offer a takeaway service before restrictions were lifted and the café could begin to operate as normal. "I often wondered what I had let myself in for to begin with" Peter says with a wry smile, "but we persisted, kept to our business plan to provide good quality home cooked food to holiday makers and locals alike". It certainly seems to have paid off as the café is always vibrantly busy with an array of different clientele from hikers, dog walkers and day trippers alike who mix amiably with the regular customers.

The friendly staff certainly help to enhance the experience. A wide variety of menu options satisfy breakfast, brunch, and lunch requirements with a takeaway service also available. There is very much a focus on 'home cooked food' and desserts with choices to meet all dietary requirements, including vegan and vegetarian. You will also do well to find better value for money locally for the Sunday lunch menu. Custom seems to range equally between passing trade and regulars who have all discovered this little gem with well known golf commentator, Ken Brown MBE, recently spotted enjoying coffee while his dog chewed on a treat, provided by the staff of course.

Peter is certainly no newcomer to the hospitality trade having worked at 5 star hotels across the world, including the Taj Mahal in India and The Sheraton and Retail Sales in San Francisco. He then met his partner, Monica, who hails from Kings Lynn, where he setup a



Jammin' Joe with Peter and staff at the Ski Café

business selling Valenté Italian ice cream. Then the Café became available and he hasn't looked back. It is no surprise that the name comes from the water skiing and water sports club who are based in the same building, which was built in 2000.

Throughout the Summer, the café will also be providing live music on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12pm to 3pm, alternating between easy listening, soul and Elvis themes. In fact, Peter is responsible for launching this month's "In The Spotlight" personality Jammin' Joe's career! (See our sports pages)

From 1st April café is open daily from 9am to 5pm. The restaurant can accommodate as many as 40 people inside, with seating available for a further 150 people outside. For more information, please visit their website at www.hunstantonskicafe.co.uk. To make a reservation you can contact the café on 01485 524475 or why not simply pop in and try it out for yourself.

Competition

The Ski Café have kindly offered Town & Around readers the opportunity to enjoy a free lunch for two. For your chance of winning, please answer the following question:

Between what years was the promenade wall, linking Hunstanton and Heacham, first built? (there is a 'hidden clue' on the Ski Café deck).

Please email your answers to tim@townandaround.net no later than Friday, 21st April.

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KLHS Reunion

All former pupils and staff of the King's Lynn High School for Girls are invited to a reunion on April 22nd 2023, 11 til p.m., in the Sixth Form Cabin at Springwood School, Queensway.

A finger buffet and drinks will be provided. Parking is available at the school.

A chance to relive old times, meet former class mates and share memories including those iconic green berets and gym knickers!

If interested, please contact:

Veronica on 07522 783638 or email Sue on sue.oga@icloud.com

Veronica Woods

On behalf of the organising committee of the King's Lynn High School for Girls OGA (or OWLS ...Older Wiser Ladies, as we prefer to be called!)



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News from The Woottons

Richard Coates

I talk with a lot of Wootton people on an almost daily basis and I find it fascinating to hear what they have to say to me. Often it's about national politics or all the building work that's planned for the Woottons yet smaller things like the need for footpath repairs, a new street light or a bus shelter can be equally important for some people and that's the main point: we're all individuals and whatever is important to that person is what matters most for them and needs addressing. It's not the big bucks things that niggle in your daily life but the small everyday things. If we can improve those, we improve our daily life. So I wrote to the Norfolk County Council about several things relating to footpaths that were niggling various people - and I got replies to each one. Unfortunately, the County Council Highway Authority declined to take action in each case but it did say that it would keep some of the cases under review and the people did get some satisfaction to know that their matter had received official consideration and so it will no longer niggle quite so much.

And there was one possible success! An extra street light is sorely needed between Nursery Lane and Bracken Road/Meadow Road. It really is dark in that area. Now new street lights would be provided by the parish council and South Wootton Parish Council have put it on the list of capital requests. I think it's a long list but it might not be an impossible request. There's nearly 50 households use that area and schoolchildren walk there in the winter time so the extra street light would benefit many people. And



the parish council is going to be receiving a bit of a windfall in the future from all the building work that going on. The developers have to pay a tax called Community Infrastructure Levy - or CIL for short - and the parish council will get a quarter of it that they can use for "good works", such as street lighting.

I had a surprise when I was talking to one couple, the wife said "I know you! You write that column in Town and Around magazine". "Yes", I admitted, "that's true". "I write one as well" she said. Turns out she's another columnist for Town and Around who lives in The Woottons. I've always said The Woottons attracts nice people!

Last month I told you about the planning application for a temporary construction access for the big building site off Grimston Road near Knights Hill. I suspect that temporary means "not permanent" and, although in a covering letter the applicant

says that the temporary access is only needed until the roundabout has been built, there's no mention of when it will be built! The planning inspector had said it should be built first but he failed to include that in his planning conditions. I think the developer has spotted this loophole because the temporary construction access is nowhere near where the roundabout is to be built and the plans show the access feeds to a large complex of buildings that would be convenient to build the whole of the road structure of this building site.

You can't object to a planning application because you suspect the applicant is pulling a fast one. However you can make a valid objection on road safety issues and I've found four separate road safety issues with this planning application, any one of which would give the Council good grounds to turn the application down. It's near the brow of a hill; it's in a corner of the site and a hedge obscures the view coming out so you have to pull out on to the road to see if the road is clear; it's in a 50 m.p.h. zone when it could just as easily be in the 40 m.p.h. zone; there's no provision for pedestrians to cross the access road. As with the Allison Homes roundabout on Edward Benefer Way, I'll hope to be able to speak directly to the Planning Committee when the time comes. Of course, ward councillors can always speak to the planning committee but only one member of the public, whoever is first to apply. I like to speak up for the people of The Woottons so I hope that I get that chance when this matter comes before the Committee.

Community Afternoon

Hunstanton Town Council will once again be holding its popular Community Afternoon on the 26th April 2023 from 12 noon - 4 pm in the Town Hall.

Local organisations & groups are invited to participate and to present the activities they carry out for the benefit of the local community.

The event should also provide an opportunity for all those attending, to recruit new members and volunteers.

Refreshments will be on sale, all proceeds will be going to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, the Mayor's nominated Charity for 2022/23.

If you would like to participate or discuss the event further, please contact clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01485 532402.

An information table will also be in place for leaflets/flyers for local groups & organisations to display if unable to attend.

Community Afternoon
Wednesday
26th April 2023
Town Hall 12 noon - 4 pm

The idea of holding a Community Afternoon is to provide an opportunity for key organisation, groups, individuals & charities in Hunstanton and surrounding areas to offer their assistance, advice and support to our residents and to showcase what is available in our community.

Refreshments will be available, all proceeds to the Mayors Charity 'East Anglian Air Ambulance'

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NEWS FROM BRANCASTER VILLAGE HALL (BVH)

Geoff Wingrove

Forthcoming events

Beauty and Wellness 5th April

There will be short talks including those on make-up and floristry, demonstrations and the Sandringham Laser Clinic. Stands will include skin care, jewellery, hemp products, greens and others. Tickets can be obtained from info@brancastervillagehall.co.uk and proceeds from the event will be shared between The Samaritans and BVH.

Race Night 8th April

A night of virtual horse racing that was hugely successful last year. Come and have a flutter - with prizes for winners!

Wine Tasting 18th May

Liberty Wines will give a wine tasting evening: details to follow.

Shop and Post Office

Following an extensive refit the shop and Post Office are now back in full swing.

Regular groups and Bar 71

For details of the regular groups at BVH and activities at Bar 71, along with the events listed above, please visit our website: www.brancastervillagehall.co.uk and for enquiries:

brancastervillagehallcommunitybookings.co.uk

FROM THE BRANCASTER VILLAGE ARCHIVE: THE BRANCASTER LIFEBOAT STATION 1874-1935



Brancaster village has always had a close association with the coast and the sea. The Norfolk coastline has suffered from time to time from extreme weather conditions, which has led in the past to shipwrecks on the dangerous shoals off the Brancaster, and surrounding, beaches. In the mid 19th century it became apparent that a lifeboat station at Brancaster was a necessity

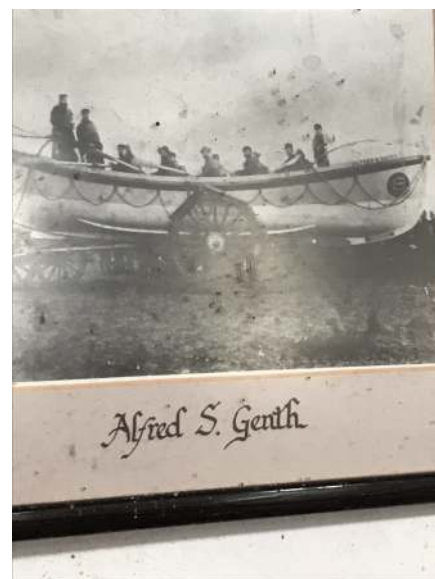
as there was a significant gap between the existing stations at Hunstanton and Wells. It should be remembered that lifeboats in those days were powered by rowers, and it was thought that the seven miles to Hunstanton or five to Wells was too far for rowers to cover quickly enough if a rescue was needed.

Initially the first lifeboats on the Norfolk coast were established and operated by the Norfolk Association for Saving the Lives of Shipwrecked Mariners. This Association was founded in 1823 and recommended that a lifeboat be established at Brancaster. However, nothing seems to have been done, and no lifeboat supplied. The Association was taken over by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute in 1857, and in 1874 Brancaster received its first lifeboat. A lifeboat station was built in the same year, slightly to the east of the current Royal West Norfolk Golf Club (RWNGC) clubhouse. A rammed chalk runway was also created through the sand dunes to allow the lifeboat to be launched.

As it turned out, launching the lifeboat to Brancaster proved very tricky, and it needed horses to assist the process. The horses were provided by local farmers and were used to tow the boat into the water. Another problem emerged, in that there was a problem actually seeing vessels in distress. A lookout tower was constructed, but this quickly rotted, and the post was moved to Barrow Common above the village, which gave a panoramic view of the whole coast. There was also a problem in getting the lifeboat crew on station, as they were based in Brancaster Staithe, where the fishing fleet was located.

In 1892 the land in which the Brancaster lifeboat station was built was acquired by the RWNGC. This led to a problem of golf balls knocking slates off the roof of the station. It became an unwritten rule that any golfer hitting the station had to put £1 in a box attached to the building. The lifeboat station at Brancaster remained in use until the 1930s, when storms made it unusable. From this time on until the station was closed, the lifeboat was left in the open under a tarpaulin. The station was closed in 1935 when the advent of lifeboats with engines at Wells and then Hunstanton could be used to reach all parts of the coast quickly.

The first lifeboat to be based at Brancaster in 1874 was named "Joseph and Mary" and took part in a number of rescues. It was renamed "Lily Bird" in 1877, and continued to be active in rescues following wild storms and gales off the coast. One such occasion resulted in the Wells lifeboat, which had also been launched, losing a number of lifeboatmen. The Brancaster lifeboat was manned by 13 men: 10 rowers, a bow man, coxswain and second coxswain. The second



lifeboat based at Brancaster arrived in 1892, and was given the name "Alfred S. Genth". This vessel, which had a self-righting capability, was first launched in 1893, and went on to complete several successful rescues.

The last lifeboat at Brancaster was named "Winlaton" and completed in 1916, just after the start of the First World War. The RNLI also decided to replace the launch horses with a powered tractor, as well as the launch carriage. A powered tractor had been used successfully at Hunstanton: it had to be fully waterproofed to allow it to be submerged in up to five feet of water. This final vessel was involved in a number of rescues for the next twenty years before the station was closed in 1935. The lifeboat station building underwent a number of repairs and extensions, but in 1933 had to be demolished.

This story would not be complete without a mention of the people who gave their time in manning the lifeboats described above. Most of these local people were fishermen who risked their lives to rescue ships in distress, using primitive craft propelled by oars and occasionally – wind permitting – by sails, in appalling conditions. These traditions continue today at Wells, with its new boathouse and latest RNLI deep-water vessel, and at Hunstanton, with its inshore rescue craft.

I am grateful to the work of Michael Softley, who has carried out in-depth research on this subject and who has published a detailed account through the Norfolk and Suffolk Research Group publications. The pictures show the lifeboat "Alfred S. Genth" and a commemorative plaque in St. Mary's Church, Brancaster, which displays the list of lives saved by the Brancaster lifeboat.

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Hunstanton Society news

On Wednesday 19th April we have Kath Fryer presenting a talk on Henry Le Strange and his work in founding Hunstanton St Edmund. Not only that but she will be telling us about his involvement in many other projects during his relatively short life.

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Centre reopened mid-February with very much a revamp of many of the displays. You will see that we split one of the Harry Croad displays into two parts which now occupy a wall roughly where the reception desk was situated. The latter is now back where it was when we first opened the Centre but minus the Perspex barrier between our volunteers and our visitors.

We will need to carry out some painting of the outside of the ground floor windows and we ask that if anyone is prepared to help when the weather warms up a bit, please contact a committee member.

You will remember that we have submitted an application to the Arts Council to be accepted as 'Working towards Accredited Museum Status'. We are now pleased to report that we have been accepted for this status and we now have three years to achieve full accreditation. This involves a whole lot of work sorting out our formal policies and recording all that we have on display - or available in our store to enable visitors, probably both at the Centre and online which would protect all the items that we have been given or loaned for the future.

WORK EXPERIENCE

A student named Lewis Little will be carrying out some work-experience at the Heritage Centre during July. He has had a thorough

look around the Centre and some of our Committee members had a good chat to discuss what he might like to work on whilst with us for a week. He clearly has an interest in anything historic and with some suggestions made to him, he will come up with a subject or subjects that he would be interested in working on. We will need to make sure that the Centre is manned during his week there so, even if you are not a volunteer, any extra help during the week 3rd to 9th July would be appreciated to ensure that there are always two people on site.

Lewis' grandfather was Headmaster at Smithdon High School many years ago and one suggestion was to gather together a history of Smithdon. This ties in with a project we are currently working on to record the history of the many Hunstanton schools. If anyone has any materials associated with any of these schools please get in touch with Sheila Kent on 01485 534200 or secretary@hunstantonsociety.org.uk.

It has occurred to us that perhaps there are some young Hunstantonites working towards the Duke of Edinburgh award who might consider offering their time to the Heritage

Centre. We are very keen to engage with students and to hear how we might support them in their studies.

HUNSTANTON SOCIETY HISTORY GROUP

We are pleased to announce that a new history group has been formed under the umbrella of Hunstanton Society. Any member of the Society with an interest in the history of Hunstanton is eligible to join and is invited to contact the Chair, Kath Fryer (kathfryer@aol.co.uk) to learn more about the group's activities.

HISTORY OF HOLME NEXT THE SEA

Some memories and ramblings, mainly from the beach road area 1940s - 1960s

The Local Bobby and village crime

In the 1950s this was P.C. Spanton. He lived in the police house in Ringstead, but visited Holme regularly, to inspect gun licenses and investigate minor mischievous/criminal behaviour.

Spanton had 2 modes of transport. A 500cc Norton and a bicycle. You could hear the Norton as he left Ringstead, so when he was on that you were not likely to be caught doing something wrong. On his bike it could be different.

We thought he was being crafty when he was on his bicycle but it was probably because he had used up his petrol ration.

Spanton had a theory which he expounded to me on two occasions. Basically he thought that the miscreant/criminal always returned to the scene of his crime. He wasn't that far wrong.

Of the two occasions he mentioned his theory to me, it was firstly at the scene of an "apple scrumping raid" at the Reverend Ulyatt's orchard and secondly inspecting Victor Sheldrake's goat, which had been milked by person or persons unknown, an hour or so before Victor was due to do it. The goat milking was thought to be quite

serious. Having already been milked the goat violently objected to being milked again, turned nasty, and had given Victor a black eye.

I am personally admitting very little about the two events other than that I might have been in the vicinity, but I most certainly wasn't the only one.

A couple of years after the "apple scrumping raid" I was helping to "Knock and top" sugar beet in the field adjacent to the Rev Ulyatt's orchard. We had stopped for "elevenses" and were sitting with our backs to the beech hedge which still surrounds that orchard, "we" being my father, George Nicholls and I.

The Rev spotted a pheasant perched in one of his apple trees and let fly at it with his 410 shotgun. He missed the pheasant. The beech hedge stopped most of the pellets, but three number 6 shot got through and peppered the back of Georges head. The range was long so it was light damage only- hardly any blood at all.

George confronted the Reverend with the words "You've just shot me sir". After a short negotiation George was handed a ten shilling note (50p) and both parties agreed the matter was concluded.



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Borough Council News Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring

Terry Parish, Independent Borough Cllr, Heacham ward which includes Sedgeford and Fring

Spring is well underway, though, as I write, we have a cold spell and snow is falling. However, Park home residents have received their £400 fuel subsidy at last!

We remain in a drought that has followed us from last year and seems set to continue through this. The agenda for the Environment and Community Panel meeting in February was about water management and flooding

A staff member of the Internal Drainage Boards gave a good explanation of what they did to keep much of West Norfolk from surface water flooding whilst improving the ecology where they could. The cost of maintenance and pumping stations is huge which is why you and I pay a large proportion of our Council Tax to them. As said in a previous newsletter, this tax burden is, perhaps, unfairly levied on areas such as ours and government, having caused it to be charged locally some years ago, is looking at it again. Interestingly, a recent TV programme reported on recycling surface water drainage back to the land rather than letting it run into the sea. Re wetting the Fenland will help alleviate drought problems and keep the peat from drying out.

The other presentation, by the Environment Agency, was about flooding by sea water incursion and coastal erosion which has made the news recently along the North Norfolk coast. Adaptation and resilience are the key words which effectively means being 'better prepared for flooding and 'transition' which appears, to me, to be a nod towards the more emotive 'planned withdrawal' from at risk areas.



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Dear Elector,

I have been a Borough Councillor of Heacham for almost 7 years. In 2019, electoral boundaries changed and I became Ward Councillor for Sedgeford and Fring too. I have always been elected as, and remain, an Independent Councillor. I have never had any affiliation to any political party in my adult life. I live in Heacham.

I endeavour to ensure that **local issues affecting Heacham, Sedgeford and Fring meet local needs** and, where possible, improve. I have pursued many problems experienced by individuals and most have either been resolved or mitigated. I got nowhere with a few.

Best Wishes, Terry Parish

(full name Terence Parish)

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The second of three resilience actions is 'avoiding inappropriate development in the flood plain'. Taking it at face value means that much of the development proposed or in the pipeline for West Norfolk should not happen as water tables are often high and the height above sea level small. Hence the IDB and sea defences around Lynnh. However, the Borough is set housing number targets by the government and the rules are, if you can't build houses in appropriate locations elsewhere then you can build them where they are likely to flood - if you take measures to protect the inhabitants: Raise floor levels; no single storey homes; move power points higher etc.

I mention all this because a second meeting I attended was of the Local Plan Task Group which has overseen the writing and submission of the revised Local Plan. Government Planning Inspectors, at the recent public hearing, effectively threw the Plan back for more work to be done. It is unfortunate that the officers who could have best represented the revised plan at the hearings have all left the authority.

Anyway, a big sticking point was the massive West Winch proposals which put houses in a wet area with poor road links (bid for but not yet secured). The inspectors want more work done on that and 'a housing requirement calculated for designated neighbourhood areas'. This could spell trouble for some Neighbourhood Plan areas as the Borough has told them all that there is no need for development. Before the vultures start circulating here, they can buzz off, because of the Heacham NP accepting already allocated sites not yet built out (Cheney Hill) we more than meet any future fiddling of the books.

Aside from that, planning inspectors should be having their wings clipped as it has been announced several times by Government, specifically Gove, that the housing requirement numbers calculated by the approved formulae, will be a guide only, not a requirement and could be less if local needs can be met or there are problems with development (flooding?). We wait and see.

A third meeting, that of the Member Major Projects Board, discussed, surprisingly, major projects the Borough is involved in. Several of these were red rated against criteria used to monitor them. One of these, the much flaunted carbon reduction scheme which received £3.8 million pounds of public money to reduce the carbon footprint of public buildings. Essentially this meant replacing gas heating with air source heat pumps. Well, a reduction was made but the heat pumps couldn't cope with cold weather so gas was used to supplement them. Consequently, two heating systems have to run in tandem with associated costs. A warning to all who are contemplating putting heat pumps in older properties.

At the same meeting, there was an amber warning for the infamous Parkway housing development due to 'local opposition' and, incidentally, it may prove to be economically unviable (it is another wet site).

Several of the Town Deal projects are under pressure due to projected cost overruns. As I intimated last month, the balanced Council budget, kept that way by using reserves faces significant challenges.

I have championed the Heacham Neighbourhood Plan in recent issues. I am sorry to have to inform you that an application which failed to meet one bullet point in a policy was approved by planning committee. This was due to several factors, an officer's interpretation was incorrect and defended; too many planning committee members do not understand, still, neighbourhood plans and several members, who do, were absent for legitimate reasons. Planning can be a lottery and this does need to change.

The two related planning applications which straddle Lamsey lane junction made by Wild Ken Hill will have come to planning committee on the 2nd April. It has always been anticipated that there would be long overdue junction improvements and these applications would enable them to happen. Highways, whilst acknowledging there are problems on the A149 where it meets Lamsey Lane have said that the developments will have no impact on that junction. I asked (in February) for a Highways representative to be present at planning committee in April to explain their reasoning. To be continued.

**Best Wishes,
Terry Parish**

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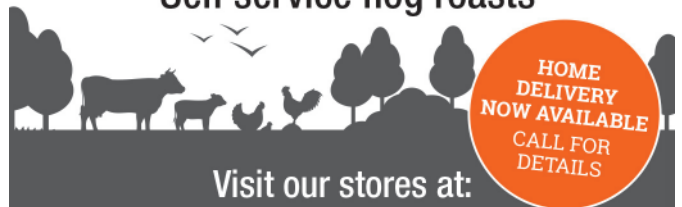


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There are newer, more fashionable chippies on the north Norfolk coast, but I've eaten at them all, and the best is the shop on the Green that has been serving since the 1950s. Most fryers make a big deal about their "signature batter", but Fishers is the lightest and crunchiest I've tasted this year. There's a charming restaurant, but unless it's raining you'd be mad to use it when you could sit on the Green overlooking the sea, or walk for five minutes up Cliff Parade to find a bench in Esplanade Gardens and watch the sun set over Lincolnshire. Cod and chips £9.70 (fishershunstanton.co.uk)

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Grace brings joy to care home residents when her school closed for strike action

Thirteen-year-old Grace Ashford volunteered at Norfolk Lodge Care Home in Hunstanton on a day when she was unable to attend Springwood High School due to strike action.

Grace, whose ambition it is to become a police officer, wanted to gain experience through working in a care home as a way of helping the community whilst bringing joy to our elderly residents.

It was an early start on Wednesday 15th March as she began her shift at 7am. During the day Grace entertained the residents with activities, assisted the care staff with drinks and tidying the home. She also engaged in conversations with the residents and got to learn about their past.

Registered Home Manager Leah Guy said: "This has had a positive impact on our residents and has led Grace to having a passion to volunteer in a care home environment again.

"Hopefully this will inspire other children to volunteer in their own communities and support our elderly generation."



Holiday home to let?

Spring is just around the corner (at time of writing the snow has appeared briefly) so this is the time when we think about holidays, also when holiday home owners may think about their own holiday home and if they can achieve some income to pay its bills at least if never been let out before. This is the first thing I am honest about when meeting potential holiday home clients. You will be happy if you achieve enough rentals to pay for all the service bills, housekeeper, gardener, our commission and any maintenance. The rest is a bonus. However, there are certain outgoings like tax to be aware of but that is up to each individual to make enquiries with their accountant or similar.

So, if you do own a holiday home or are thinking of buying one, we are always looking for more properties to add to our portfolio. Each year we gain some and lose some for various reasons, but usually have an excellent variety of different properties to offer to our guests. Houses, apartments, cottages, conversions, offering a diverse selection of accommodation to suit all pockets and families. Please get in touch if you would like a chat about your holiday home or call in to the office. We can even look on line at any property which you may be interested in purchasing to give you our opinion.

I write honestly (and in jest) of all incidents in my working life at Norfolk Holiday Homes of over 43 years and still we have the same ones every year. My shared insights about people in our business and others, for that matter, may seem patronising, disrespectful, irritating and a lot more, but really this is life, this is what we are and what us humans do and not just in holiday situations so no apologies – we all do the same, myself included especially as I get older! But there are some which do drive you mad!

I have covered this before but now may be the time when holidays might be on our minds and we are looking to book. Think of all the holiday possibilities you look through – cruising the internet, ploughing through glossy magazines (if holiday shops still supply them) and then finally your brain is frazzled. OK, so you have dates, availability, sunny photos with happy families and people, pages and pages of info all rolling into crazy stupor in your head.....then you book, at last. Relief. You tell your family, other half, friends, relatives.

After a while, you start to ponder..... and a million questions surge through your head. Are you sure you booked the property or holiday for the right reasons and it ticked all the boxes. Are you? And you start to doubt yourself. You know it has an enclosed garden so the dog and kids cannot escape. You saw the kitchen items, which included the coffee maker, freezer, ice making machine and dishwasher. All very important items to add to the holiday experience. Plus WAS it only a five minute walk – very handy – to the shops? Hold on, you will just call or email the holiday agent who may answer some more queries just in case and they won't mind:

Does it have a cot and high chair? Is there a bath or shower? Is the beach far? Can I take my dog?

Now we are very polite and patient in our office. Friendly too and we do tend to chat with the guests and owners or whoever else crosses our threshold during our day. The same applies to phone calls. However, if you have made your booking, you have obviously read all the info, right? You booked it because it ticked all your boxes from the info you saw, right? So why are you asking us all these questions when they are in the descriptions? As I just said we are very polite, friendly and patient and we will add helpful to that as well! Even when very busy. So, what I am trying to say here is that make sure you know exactly what you are booking, so you do not have to ring the agent and double check only to hear them say 'did you not see it mentioned in the details?' Several times. The agent is after all waiting for the next person like you to call and waste another twenty minutes. But that is how it is. Call us and we will oblige with smiley faces. I am sure we can all relate to this with the general public.

Our businesses in the town are all waiting for Easter, with the first real influx of holiday makers into the town..... and then we do it all again. Winter respite is over. But we desperately need visitors at any time of year so we must always make them welcome, give them the service they need and hopefully they will return – with smiley faces.

Sandra Hohol – Norfolk Holiday Homes
01485 534267 info@norfolkholidayhomes.agency
www.norfolkholidayhomes.agency

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Your April diary - more events are li

Saturday 1st

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: K.C.R.DUO all eras 8.30pm

Sunday 2nd



Hunstanton Soap Box Derby is back to mark 70 years since the first Soap Box Derby was held in Hunstanton, in 1953. Registration and karts on show on the Green from 10am. Racing starts at 11.30am Teams will race their homemade karts down Hunstanton's hilly streets, as the crowd cheer them on.

Monday 3rd

Anmer Social Club Bingo Night – Club opens at 7.00p.m. Eyes Down at 7.30 p.m. £6.60 for a book of 10 cards & £1.75 for a Flyer Card. Fully licensed bar and Raffle – Donations of prizes welcome. For information email events@anmerclub.co.uk

Monday 3rd -Saturday 16th



Spring into Easter at RSPB Titchwell Marsh Explore the depths of our freshwater pools, habitats rich in wildlife and quiet stretches of unspoilt beach. Pick up an activity backpack full of everything your young explorers need for a wild time on the reserve.
events.rspb.org.uk/browse?filter[schedule]=2243

Tuesday 4th

Bingo Night at Snettisham Memorial Hall
Doors 6.30pm Eyes Down 7.30pm Great Prizes and fun for all.

Jolly Charity quiz at The Jolly Sailors, Brancaster Staithe 8pm. Teams of 6, £2pp. All monies to The Bic C cancer charity

Thursday 6th

Stanhoe and Barwick WI Ruth Smith, with her hilarious tales of "Life with Nanny". The Reading Room, Stanhoe 2pm. Visitors are most welcome; our charge is £5, which includes refreshments. Please contact Valerie (01485 576261) for further details.

Friday 7th

Snettisham Playing Field Car Boot Sale
8am-12noon £10 a pitch. Field will open at 7am for setting up.

Ingoldisthorpe Easter Fun Day at
Ingoldisthorpe Social Club 12noon-4pm
raising funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Quiz
night 7.30pm Entry £2 per person. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own refreshments. Come join the fun - all welcome. Up to 6 in a team.

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: CECIL FARAYA Motown
8pm

Friday 7th-Monday 10th

Easter Art Exhibition with associated crafts at the British Legion Hall, Church Road, Snettisham. Open from 10.00 am until 5.30 pm each day. Entry Free - Donations welcomed for British Legion. Telephone Les on 01485 572370 for further details.

Saturday 8th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 5km run, jog or walk. Meet outside Salad Bowl Cafe, Cliff Parade, at 8:55am for 9am start.

Easter Fun Day 11am-5pm at Hunstanton Community Centre, Avenue Road PE36 6BQ Food, petting zoo, climbing wall, music, stalls, bouncy castle and more. Free entry.

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ NTL
encore performance of 'THE LIFE OF PI'.
Doors open 7pm, showing starts 7.45pm.
Licensed bar available. Book through
EVENTBRITE or pay at the door £5 entry.

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: JUST US DUO all eras
8.30pm

Sunday 9th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School sellers
6am-1pm £5 pitch fee per car/van. Buyers
7am-1pm 50p per person. Contact Chris on
07774 650606 or at
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre open
day 10am-4pm Entrance and parking free.
Disabled access & toilets. Satnav: PE31
6RH

Sandringham Easter Egg Trail 10.30-2.30 in
aid of the East Anglian Air Ambulance, £3pp
or make a donation of the EEAA for £5., £10
or £15. More info sandringhamestate.co.uk

Monday 10th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School sellers
6am-1pm £5 pitch fee per car/van. Buyers
7am-1pm 50p per person. Contact Chris on
07774 650606 or at
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

Easter fun! Holme-next-the-Sea 10am-
12noon. Quiz – Village Trail £3 entry, Easter
Bonnett Parade – prize for best entrant,
Children's craft activities £1, Raffle,
Homemade Refreshments. PE36 6LJ

Thursday 13th

by the book - Talking books. A monthly
reading group for men. 7pm The Golden
Lion Bar, The Green Hunstanton. Contact
Adrian at by the book shop, 9 High St
Hunstanton or email
adrian@buyanotherbook.com

Friday 14th

Snettisham Memorial Hall Coffee and
Brunch with stalls. Refreshments, soup and
rolls. 10am-1pm
Anmer Social Club Film Night – See How
They Run – 12A - The club opens 7.00 p.m.
– Film starts 7.30 p.m. Admission £4 at the
door. For further information email
films@anmerclub.co.uk or tel: 01485
579465

Saturday 15th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 5km run,
jog or walk. Meet outside Salad Bowl Cafe,
Cliff Parade, at 8:55am for 9am start.

Anmer Social Club Fun Darts Night –
Admission free – Club opens 7.00 p.m.
Fully licensed bar and Raffle

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: SIMON LEE all eras 8.30pm

Sunday 16th

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School sellers
6am-1pm £5 pitch fee per car/van. Buyers
7am-1pm 50p per person. Contact Chris on
07774 650606 or at
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

Monday 17th

u3a Hunstanton. Community Centre Avenue
Road Hunstanton 2.00pm Speaker:
Georgette Vale with a theatrical presentation
on Edith Cavell.

The Arts Society North West Norfolk lecture
at Sedgeford Village Hall 2pm. Colin
Schindler : When the MGM Lion Roared –
The Hollywood Studios. £5 for guests.
www.theartsocietynwnorfolk.org.uk

Wednesday 19th

Hunstanton Society talk at the Heritage
Centre, Hunstanton Kath Fryer presenting a
talk on Henry Le Strange and his work in

e listed at www.townandaround.net

founding Hunstanton St Edmund. 7.30pm
Members £1, Non-members £4.
Refreshments included.

Quiz night at The Pavilion, Heacham Manor
PE31 7JX 7-10pm £2pp Cash prizes, Bar
snacks.

Friday 21st

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Bingo
Night. Cash bingo with raffle and other
games. Just pay for the games you want to
play. Doors open 7.30pm with eyes down
8.00pm. Bring your own nibbles & drink.

United Services Club Hunstanton: QUIZ
NIGHT £50 first prize £4 per person
including supper 8pm

Saturday 22nd

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 5km run,
jog or walk. Meet outside Salad Bowl Cafe,
Cliff Parade, at 8:55am for 9am start.

Snettisham Flea Market at Snettisham
Memorial Hall 9am-3pm Admission 50p

King's Lynn Festival Chorus present Johann
Sebastian Bach's Mass in B minor. They are
joined by period instrument ensemble
Noxwode Baroque along with an
outstanding line-up of soloists. St Nicholas
Chapel King's Lynn 7pm. Tickets £15
Under 16s Free. Available from the Box
Office 01553 764864
kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ. A
Murder Mystery event at 7.30pm. Entry £5
at the door, licensed bar available. Can you
work out 'who dunit' from the clues
provided by the cast?

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: A.M.I. DUO all eras 8.30pm

Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd

The Annual Convention of Cigarette and
Trade Cards. Lynnsport, King's Lynn PE30
2NB. Info: Colin Fawcett 01553 674358
clnfa@aol.com.

Sunday 23rd

Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School sellers
6am-1pm £5 pitch fee per car/van. Buyers
7am-1pm 50p per person. Contact Chris on
07774 650606 or at
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

Anmer Social Club - St. George's Day
Sunday Roast Lunch - 12:30p.m. for 1:00
p.m. £15 per person to include dessert - To
book please email
anmerchair44@gmail.com by Monday 17th
April. Fully Licensed bar.

Wednesday 26th

Community Afternoon at Hunstanton Town
Hall 12noon-4pm. Local organisations &
groups are invited to participate and to
present the activities they carry out for the
benefit of the local community. Contact
clerk@hunstantontowncouncil.gov.uk or
call 01485 532402.

Snettisham Gardening Club. 7.30pm
Memorial Hall, Old Church Road,
Snettisham when Michael Croot will once
again update us on the best Spring plantings
with advice on hanging baskets and tubs,
accompanied by some of his plants for us to
purchase. Info:
Gail on 01485 541279 or Addie on 01485
544754.

Thursday 27th

New Hunstanton Women's Institute meeting
2.15pm, Methodist Church Hall,
Hunstanton. Open Meeting. Speaker Sue
Jickells, The Science of Fingerprinting.
Visitors welcome £5.00. Enquiries 01485
532174

Friday 28th



Coffee concert at King's Lynn Town Hall
11am featuring Noah Zhou. Programme
includes Beethoven Piano Sonata No 11 in
B flat major, Op 22 and Mussorgsky
Pictures at an exhibition. Prior to the
concert, from 10.30am, enjoy a cup of
coffee and slice of cake with fellow
audience members (included in the ticket
price). Adult £15, under 25 £8.50
Anmer Social Club Quiz Night - Club
opens 7.00 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m.
Entry £2 per person Fully Licensed bar -
Raffle

Fincham Memorial Hall PE33 9EJ Fincham
Film For All showing Living starring Bill
Nighy, Alex Sharp, Aimee Wood Doors
open 7pm. Licensed bar available. Book
through EVENTBRITE or pay at the door
£3 entry.

Saturday 29th

Hunstanton Promenade parkrun 5km run,
jog or walk. Meet outside Salad Bowl Cafe,
Cliff Parade, at 8:55am for 9am start.

Free Family fun Morning at Glebe House
School PE36 6HW 10am-12noon. Activities

for ages 2-8. Free refreshments for children.
Free parking. Refreshments for adults from
Red Kite Coffee. Activities include: Get up
close to minibeasts, reptiles and
invertebrates. Experience coding toys from
unicorns to robots. Fun early maths
activities. Hartbeeps movement and sound.

Craft Fair rising funds for the Hunstanton &
District Festival of Arts. Hunstanton Town
Hall 10am-4pm. Free entry. Wide range of
handmade items. Refreshments.

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Syderstone Village Screen presents LIVING
(12A) Starring Bill Nighy and Aimee Lee
Wood. Amy Robsart Village
Hall, Syderstone. 7.30pm. £4 advance
booking or pay at the door 01485 578171

United Services Club Hunstanton
entertainment: STEVE MOYSE 8.30pm

Saturday 29th- Monday 1st

Craft Fair Mayday Bank Holiday at the
Royal British Legion Hall, Church Road,
Snettisham PE31 7NJ. Entry Free.
Donations to the Poppy Fund. Wheelchair
Friendly. Contact Julia Quance 01485
542240

Sunday 30th



Car Boot Sale at Glebe House School sellers
6am-1pm £5 pitch fee per car/van. Buyers
7am-1pm 50p per person. Contact Chris on
07774 650606 or at
chrisHDMS7@gmail.com

RAF Bircham Newton Heritage Centre open
day 10am-4pm Entrance and parking free.
Disabled access & toilets. Satnav: PE31
6RH

Recipharm GEAR 10K King's Lynn The
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Start time 9.30am

Looking after your lawn

Wendy Warner

Last year's heat and drought was a very stressful time for our lawns, and by late summer many resembled something similar to straw. Your lawn may still be looking a little worse for wear and April is the month to start remedying it, as temperatures start to rise and there is less likelihood of frost.

If there's been a warm spell, the grass may have put on considerable growth. For the first mow, it's advisable to raise the blade height so you only remove about one third of the length of the grass. You can then see the composition of your lawn. If you have a mixture of weeds and moss along with your grass, now is the time to start using an all-in-one feed, weed and moss killer following the packet instructions to ensure you get the right coverage. It can be applied manually or with an appropriate spreader. If there is no rain within 48 hours, water it in using a hose or sprinkler. Once the moss turns black you'll need to rake it out and the grass will start to fill the gaps. If you've been left with large bare patches, you can then reseed. Add a little fresh top soil before seeding and cover with a net to protect from the birds. If there's no rain, you'll need to water the area after a few days to aid germination. Allow new grass to grow for approximately two months before using any weed or moss treatments. Also, avoid putting grass clippings that have recently been treated onto the compost heap.

If moss is a problem, especially in areas of excessive moisture, shade or if turf quality is poor, don't rake or scarify before treating as this will spread the spores and encourage more moss to grow. If you have moss, but few weeds, use a feed and moss killer. You will rarely find a moss killer without a feed as the grass needs to be strengthened so it can fill the area where the moss dies. Once treated, try to remedy the cause of the problem by aerating the lawn. A hollow tine aerator will remove plugs of soil, a rotary aerator will spike the lawn or the same effect can be created by pushing a normal garden fork into the lawn. A mixture of topsoil, compost and sharp sand can then be brushed into these holes to improve drainage and encourage the roots of the grass to grow deeper and become stronger.

Weeds can be controlled throughout the year by hand weeding. Dandelions and others with taproots should be levered out to ensure the whole root is removed. Again, you may need to reseed if large patches of earth are left bare. For chemical weed control, the weeds need to be in growth, usually April to September. For stronger, perennial weed growth which hasn't been treated with the all-in-one treatment, choose a specific lawn weedkiller. Make sure you don't use a general weedkiller as this will kill the grass too.

As your grass grows stronger lower the blade height on the lawnmower when cutting

until the weather gets very hot. If there are still signs of moss and weeds in the lawn in July, apply a second treatment of all-in-one. If the grass is weed free, either a soluble liquid feed or a high nitrogen granular feed can be used to keep it green and healthy looking.

If we get another very hot summer, don't panic, your grass will probably look unsightly on the surface, but it would take many continuous months of drought to affect the roots. Avoid cutting your grass in the heat of the day – early morning or in the evening will be better for both you and the grass!





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Spring at RSPB Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve

Carrie Carey

A flurry of snow drifted lazily onto the garden. Unlike the rain a few days before, it didn't arrive in haste or fury or with purpose. It embraced the bare branches of the birch tree and drew a powdery blanket around the bushes as it fell. I felt the soft flakes on my face, caressing my cheeks and lingering there ever so slightly before melting away. It wasn't unwelcome, but it wasn't the sign of spring I had been hoping for.

Spring is the favoured season for many of us as we look forward to longer days and warmer weather. Gradually, barren areas of garden and countryside are transformed into hues of green and yellow. Fragrant blooms reappear in borders, hedgerows are interspersed with splashes of colour and defiant daffodils push their way through winter hardened soil. For centuries, spring has been seen as a period of rejuvenation and regrowth following the long-awaited passage of winter. The term 'springtime' dates to the 15th Century in celebration of the new year springing out from the old. Idioms linked to the season pepper our everyday vocabulary; 'spring to life', 'spring into action', 'hope springs eternal'....they all anticipate a period of activity and growth after winter's dark slumber.

The arrival of spring heralds a time of change across the reserve. We'll say a fond farewell to the last of our overwintering visitors such as redwing and pink-footed geese. They'll have filled their bellies enough to take the long flight home to breeding grounds in the Arctic circle. Their presence missed only for a moment while we await the arrival of sand martins and swallows returning from their winter sojourn in Africa. Whitethroats, house martins and cuckoos will soon follow. What precipitates this arduous journey from sub-Saharan regions? Firstly, they come here to breed. UK springs and summer days are cooler and longer. This means the birds have more daylight hours to hunt for food. And while we might not welcome April showers, those warm, wet days trigger a frenzy of insect activity... instant 'all you can eat' buffets for hungry birds. Secondly, there is more available space here for the males to hold territory and of course, less predators.



Marsh-Harrier: Lawrie Webb

Higher up the food chain, marsh harriers, also spurred on by 'spring fever' take time to show off their aerial expertise. Soaring to great heights, the male will circle over the reserve using the energy of the wind and exaggerated wing movements to stay airborne. Effortlessly gliding overhead, he then begins his acrobatic descent. Listen carefully and you might hear him 'mewing' to his mate as he performs a series of twists, rolls and turns. Tumbling and spiralling to the ground he will suddenly spread his wings and sweep low across the reedbeds, vanishing out of sight. At other times, the male will entice his mate into the air with a tasty food offering. Rising to meet him, the female harrier flips upside down so that she is flying underneath him, and he drops the prey for her to catch.

Another Titchwell favourite, the bittern, marks the arrival of spring

with his booming call. His plumage makes him almost invisible among the tall reeds, but during the mating season he gives his presence away with an unusual and loud vocal display. You might see a bittern stalking the water's edge, then stopping for a moment as he drives his long beak into the reeds to retrieve a small fish. No need to share, it's dinner for one.

This year it feels as if spring is standing in the curtains, waiting to take centre stage. Winter has been hogging the limelight and it's time to move on. If like me you're eager to shed the layers and shake off those winter cobwebs then do pay a visit to your local nature haven, Titchwell Marsh reserve. With a diversity of habitats to explore there are places to take a brisk walk, a gentle amble or sit and enjoy the view. We can also help you discover the best that the season has to offer with our guided walks and mini-workshops. If you're keen to improve your knowledge of reedbed birds and maybe spot a bittern or diminutive bearded tits, or you want to get more out of the dawn chorus this spring, then book onto one of our activities at www.events@rspb.org.uk/titchwell

But whatever you're plans are this month, you can't beat a fine spring day to invigorate the senses and recharge those batteries.

Go Wild Once a Week

If you have been able to tune into the BBC's Wild Isles programs on a Sunday evening you will no doubt be blown away by the stunning landscapes, wild places and wildlife that inhabit the UK. We know that our nature is incredible. It's our life support system, but it's in crisis. This is an urgent call to action for everyone to help #SaveOurWildIsles. Along with @wwf_uk and @nationaltrust we are calling for everyone to Go Wild Once a Week. To find out more please visit <http://saveourwildisles.org.uk>



Easter Family Fun at Titchwell Marsh

April 3-16, daily from 9:30am to 3:30pm
Activities start at £2 (plus entry charge)

- A beautiful butterfly needs your help. Follow our nature trail and help her find a safe place to rest
- Grab an activity backpack and make your own adventure on the reserve
- Pick up everything you need to discover the critters that swim, wriggle and dive into our freshwater ponds



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity (England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC030544) Images by Ben Andrew from images.com

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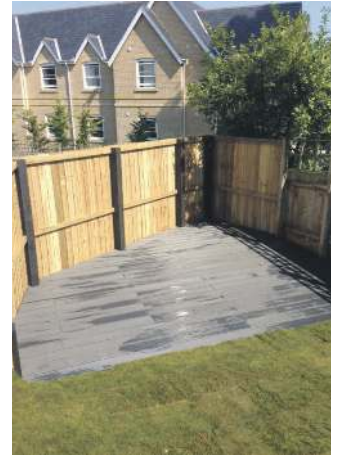
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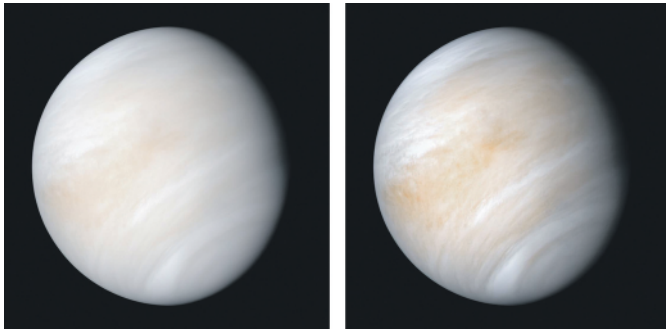
Heacham and Hunstanton at night

Terry Parish

Spring is well underway though, at the time of writing, snow and sleet batters the windows. Recent cold weather cleared the night skies a little but mist often intervened.

I did observe bright Venus on several occasions and saw the evening star drawing closer to Jupiter (or the other way around). I even saw the actual conjunction, closest approach, between clouds but missed a photo opportunity by being too slow – I went in to gather the kit and upon my return the sight had gone. Such is life. However, I think it is more valuable to see things with your eyes than capturing them on camera – someone else will have done that.

This month, Venus remains an unmissable object in the west after sunset. It doesn't set, fall below the horizon, until midnight.



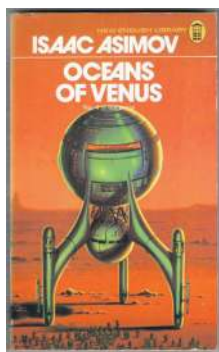
Mariner images of Venus 1974 NASA

Venus was the Roman Goddess of Love and has been called the Evening Star and Morning Star for millennia. As it is closer to the Sun than Earth, the planet is always seen towards the Sun, either in the west as the Sun sets or in the east when it rises. Most people see it in the evening sky.

I was once lucky enough to see Venus in the middle of the day with the Sun high overhead. It was in 2017 during the few minutes of the total eclipse of the Sun in Wyoming. The Sun went out and Venus and Mercury were revealed.

Venus is by far the brightest planet in the sky and this is due to several obvious reasons. It can be relatively close, roughly 30 million miles if it is our side of the Sun, though 130 million when on the far side. It is the size of Earth and being closer to the Sun, receives far more sunlight. The reason why it reflects much of this light is not so obvious; it is because it is completely encased in reflective clouds of sulphuric acid and carbon dioxide.

Early assumptions in the 19th and 20th centuries were that the clouds were water vapour and hid a primeval surface of water and jungle populated by beasts and Venusians. Science fiction novels based on this premiss abounded, some by renowned authors like Asimov, Heinlein and C.S. Lewis. My Boy's Book of Space by Patrick Moore (1954) has a plate showing an artist's impression of the surface of Venus showing rain, lakes and jungle. However, there is also a plate showing it as an arid desert and Patrick considers both descriptions in his book.



The illustrator seems to have been hedging his bets. Internet

The truth of the matter was not really tested until the first spacecraft landed on the surface of Venus in 1972. The Soviet Union's Venera 8 was the first successful landing on another planet. Twenty other craft had preceded it. They either failed, flew by Venus or entered its atmosphere. They included Mariner 2 from NASA which

scanned the planet's surface by radar in 1962.

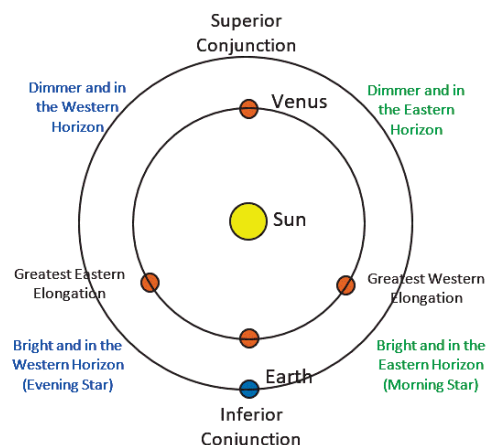
Since then, 25 more craft have shown interest in Venus, some on the way to Mercury, Saturn or Jupiter (using gravity slingshots etc). The Soviet Union was the most successful and interested country and 5 or 6 more landings were accomplished though craft survived just minutes. The European Space Agency's (ESA) Venus Express orbited the planet between 2006 and 2016 whilst a Japanese craft has been doing the same since then.



Images from the descent of Venera 8 before it failed. Internet

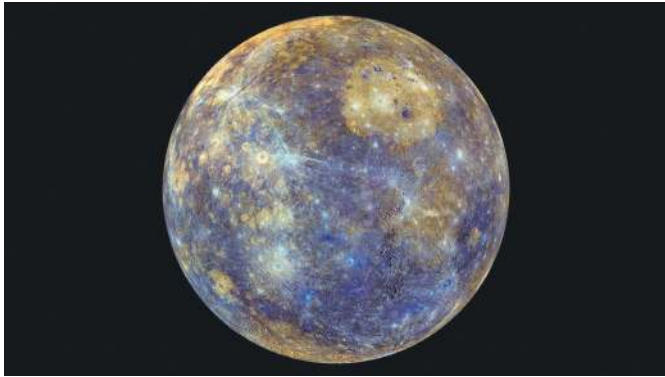
Observations from the various missions revealed Venus is the hottest planet in the Solar System. At 475°C, hotter even than the closest planet to the Sun, Mercury, which is at a paltry 164°C. The thick Venusian clouds trap the Sun's heat in a greenhouse effect (as does increasing levels of carbon dioxide in our own atmosphere). There is also evidence of active volcanos. The atmospheric pressure at the bottom of this dense atmosphere is enormous, 90 times more than we live in and the same as that at about a mile under the sea. Venus is not a planet destined for human exploration and habitation as described in the books of my youth. Mars remains the hope for that.

Venus's orbit of the Sun is almost circular and observations of it follow a regular pattern. It shows phases which are dependent on its position in its orbit. When on the far side of the Sun and furthest from us it can be almost full (like a Full Moon). When on our side, almost at its closest, it shows a crescent. In between half or quarter phases. Where it is has little effect on brightness as when crescent it is closer, when almost full, further away.



At inferior and superior conjunctions Venus is not visible. Internet

On the 11th April, Venus is close to the Pleiades star cluster which will be to its right. A week later and the Hyades open cluster is its neighbour and the star Aldebaran also close. Later in the month, on the 22nd and 23rd, a Crescent Moon joins Venus.



Messenger image of cratered Mercury. False colour used. NASA

I briefly mentioned Mercury earlier. This small rock of a planet has a very elongated orbit and observational opportunities depend on where it is in relation to the Earth. This April provides the best opportunity to see it this year. Lying closer to the Sun it follows Venus into the sky but is always much lower and generally in a brighter and murkier part of the atmosphere.



Whilst Earth's orbit is almost a circle, Mercury's is not. Internet

This month Mercury is brightest, magnitude -1.2 at the beginning of the month when it is also lowest in the sky, not far above the western horizon and to the right of Venus. As the month progresses it gets higher but dimmer. It is furthest from the Sun, maximum elongation, on the 11th when it has a magnitude of 0.1. This is well within naked eye visibility but you have to know where to look. If you have an app on your 'phone use that – or download one. I use Stellarium which is free. Later in the month, Mercury drops down towards the horizon and fades away.

Mariner 10 flew by Mercury in 1974 and 30 years later Messenger orbited it for 4 years before being crashed into its surface. Messenger revealed many things and it is worth Googling it. The ESA Bepi Colombo mission arrives in 2025 and my name is filed on it somewhere along with many more.

Mars is still around, setting at 2.30am. It is naked eye visible at magnitude 1.2 but much fainter than Mercury (remember magnitudes work backwards, the higher they are the fainter the object). Mars is close to a Crescent Moon on the 25th at 10pm. It will be in the middle of Gemini and the two bright stars above it are Castor and Pollox.



Now for something different. The Hunstanton Observatory has begun construction and it is intended to be completed, weather permitting, by the end of April (the cold snap in March delayed matters a little). There will be an opening event announced and I will be giving a talk, in tandem with a friend from Kings Lynn Astronomy Society, on May 17th. This will be through the Hunstanton Civic Society and be held at the Heritage Centre, Hunstanton, start time 7.30pm.

The observatory is a shed type with a roller slide off roof. There will be no telescopes housed but places to mount them both inside and outside the shed. It was funded from the EXPERIENCE project which is, surprisingly, European Union funded and managed by Norfolk County Council. It is to support off season tourism experiences but facilities will be accessible to locals. The location will also be used for environmental activities.

And, I almost forgot, a meteor shower peaks on the nights of 21/22nd and 22nd/23rd April. The Lyrid shower occurs between the 15th and 29th and will be in a relatively dark sky as the Moon will be New on the 19th. No need for any instruments just get your eyes dark adjusted (15 mins outside and don't look at lights), get comfortable and look up. Any direction really but they emanate from the NE close to the star Vega. From 9pm should do but if you can manage 11pm until 2am that will be better.

So, stare at Venus and pretend that Venusians have foiled us and live under those clouds. Then try and find Mercury; Heacham Beaches or Hunstanton cliffs are your best bets for that. See a meteor or two and the month is complete.



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David Elsey's cryptic crossword

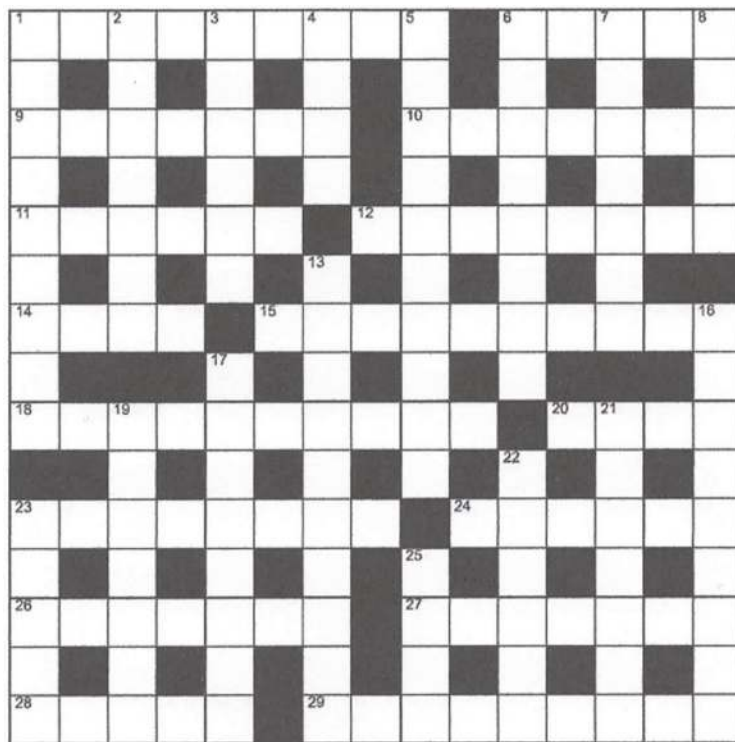
CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

1. A small piece for beginner I have to change (4,5)
6. Papers are behind? Publish without centre spread (5)
9. Gosh! Herb and flowers pinned to dress (7)
10. Favoured follower cheers Spanish princess (7)
11. Wind up bar service for the afternoon (3,3)
12. Toff has a taste for old-fashioned clubs (8)
14. Settles for no points (4)
15. Acquisition of mint tea Nat brewed (10)
18. Cocaine plant, completely hidden, grew quickly (10)
20. British officer backed alliance (4)
23. Swan past, courting intrigue and looking very fine (8)
24. Jumper could be worn by a husky (6)
26. Sanction letter heading (7)
27. Young lady I sign on has the makings of an astronomer (7)
28. Kind of energy needed to fly around lake? (5)
29. Doubt first doctor's opinion is to be entertained (9)

Down

1. Resist series coming up about old comic (9)
2. Official support remotely offered to island worker is different (7)
3. Spotted and took silver (6)
4. Not likely to go over points with dissenters (4)
5. One minute bursts into cheers, then stamps out (10)
6. Bowled over a female with affair that is quietening down (8)
7. Can lame doctor be a hindrance? (7)
8. Warms up for eliminators (5)
13. It comes from not using one's loaf (5,5)
16. Checked and marked right away (6,3)
17. Goal scored down the middle by striker (8)
19. Test, in part, for what's going round (7)
21. Legendary German rock singer learning to lie, discreetly (7)
22. Dog collar that is put on when a rector goes out (6)
23. Switches sides during game (5)
25. Wise guys go topless for dates (4)



Crossword solution is on page 74

Appeal from the Norfolk Coroner's Service for help tracing next-of-kin

The Norfolk Coroner's Service is appealing for help to trace the family of a man who died at his home address. 82-year-old Michael Willimott lived at Saddlebow Road, King's Lynn and died on 22nd February 2023. There were no suspicious circumstances and despite carrying out extensive enquiries no next-of-kin have been identified. Anyone with information relating to Mr Willimott should contact the Coroner's office in Norwich on 01603 774773 or email coroner.referral@norfolk.gov.uk



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Round the bend with Dean Baker

'Change is the only constant' or watch YouTube before you try this!

It's April – the days are getting longer and before you know it, there'll be tourists everywhere! The good news is that the wholesale energy prices have significantly dropped. The less good news is that, us, the consumers, are still not feeling the benefit – at least not on 12th March, which is the time of writing. But, there is some good news – the energy price cap change due in April, has been pushed back to July this year. Fingers crossed, May, June and July will be warm and we can catch up if we're in debt to our energy providers. If you are in debt – please don't worry – it's perfectly normal for the tail end of Winter going into Spring. Hopefully later in the year, the drop in energy prices will compensate for the change in the price cap.

In the meantime, keep energy saving. An energy saving light bulb will save you £7 a year – definitely worth it. Another energy saving 'hack' as my kids say, is for readers of the 'T and A' who have old boilers that are not combi boilers. If this is you, then you don't have to buy a new boiler to save money. You can save up to £110 a year by replacing the circulator pump with a smart pump. And if you're particularly 'handy' you can install it yourself! But probably don't. There are some things – bleeding radiators, unblocking sinks that can be done without all the rigmarole of calling the plumber. My advice is steer clear from the more involved jobs unless you're very competent.

Round the Bend



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That's it for April, keep money saving and most importantly, keep your chin up ...

Until next month, take care
Dean Baker, 07973 131 906.
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Murder in Norfolk – meet the authors

Thursday February 16th saw the latest in local bookshop by the book's events activities, as approximately 30 guests attended an evening at The Golden Lion Bar to come meet the authors.

Local Norfolk authors Nico Dobben (Downham Market) and Ken Ward (Terrington St Clement) came to Hunstanton, to discuss their work, read from their latest books, and sign copies for the audience.

Nico Dobben is the author of two novels, A Fenland Murder, and his latest A Fenland Secret. Ken Ward's latest, Time for Revenge is the fourth in his DI Keane series.



The evening started by introductions to the two writers from Adrian Eden, co-owner of by the book, and then short interviews, with a few questions for each of the writers, before Ken Ward read from his latest work - Straw, Blood and Bones – which is awaiting publication.

After a short break, to top up refreshments, and speak personally to both Nico and Ken, before Nico kicked off the second half of the evening, talking a little about his second novel 'A Fenland Secret' and then surprising everyone, by not reading from his book – but playing a song that features in it, accompanying himself on guitar, to the enjoyment of all in attendance. As well as his crime writing, Nico is also an accomplished composer and singer songwriter.

The evening was then rounded off with an opportunity for the audience to ask questions of the two writers, which was being greatly enjoyed, so much so, that by the time the book signings and further chatting was concluded, people had to be encouraged to head home,



so as not to outstay the lovely welcome of the Golden Lion staff!

Needless to say, a great night was enjoyed by all.

Adrian informed us that there are further meet the author nights planned, and they will be continuing their relationship with the Golden Lion, as he will be back there in April for the start of their Men's reading group - Talking Books!



by the book

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KL1 Radio news



As local radio for Kings Lynn & West Norfolk continues to make its mark in the area KL1 Radio is proud to announce that a former KLFM 96.7 presenter has joined out team to present the Weekend Breakfast Show.

Kelvin Scott is Norfolk born and bred and having worked for several commercial radio stations in East Anglia is well qualified to continue our mission to build a truly local radio offering to an audience that prefers listening to a station they can call their own.

Kelvin said "It's great to be part of a radio station that believes in serving the local community and great to be working alongside a team of presenters, many of whom I have worked alongside for most of my broadcasting career.

Over the last two and a half years KL1 Radio has built a loyal following proving that local radio has now come of age in West Norfolk. The station added to its broadcast platform in November of last year with the introduction of two new DAB+ transmitters bringing locally produced programming to a potential audience of over 148,000 listeners aged 15+

Richard Dix said "these are exciting times for truly local radio. Supporting the community and more importantly keeping revenues in the local economy is the most important facet of KL1 Radio but there is more in the pipeline for listeners in West Norfolk as we continue to develop".

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The Spontaneous Cuppa is for everyone!

A new restaurant has opened on Hunstanton High Street that offers a 100% gluten free menu



Adrian and Anne at the preview evening

Adrian and Anne JM Norman's careers have taken them around the world and the marriage of their skills in nursing, catering and logistics created the perfect recipe for their new business. The couple explained: "The Spontaneous Cuppa business is built on respect for people living with allergies and those who make lifestyle choices about what they eat. People particularly living with an allergy or intolerance to gluten can't be spontaneous when eating out. At The Spontaneous Cuppa, we want to change that. We are 100% Gluten Free!"

With a menu that is influenced by world cuisine and changes every day, breakfast wraps, muffins and cakes will be served between 9am and noon and from noon to 3pm homemade soups, meat and vegetarian dishes of the day will be available.



The calming and stylish décor has more than a nod to the years the couple spent working in Sweden and black and white pictures of Hunstanton adorn the walls.

The official opening took place on 16th March and Rosemary Meyer from SJP Solicitors was invited to cut the ribbon.

"Rosemary was very helpful to us when we were buying the business and we are very pleased she agreed to come along to officiate today" Said Anne.

On the evening of Wednesday 15th Town and Around were invited along to see the restaurant and sample some exceptional canapes prior to the launch along with other businesses.

Georgie from Georgie's Café said "How refreshing to find somewhere that is 100% gluten free – a diet I follow myself!"

Amanda Coral of Berni Beans wished Adrian and Anne every success. She said: "It's beautifully decorated and these canapes are delicious, what a great addition to our High Street."



From left at the front: Rosemary Meyer, Anne JM Norman, Adrian Norman and Adrian Eden with staff from SJP Solicitors



Rosemary Meyer from SJP Solicitors cuts the ribbon

by the book's Adrian Eden said: Adrian and Anne are lovely people, the coffee is great and their collaborative business model is truly admirable."

Next steps for Adrian and Anne include gaining the Coeliac UK accreditation.

The Coeliac Society report that around one in a hundred people have coeliac disease, but many other conditions including non-coeliac gluten sensitivity also need a gluten free diet and it is now estimated that at least 10% of UK consumers are following this diet.

Those who have nut allergies, dairy intolerance or are following a Low FODMAP diet are not forgotten either at the restaurant. Whatever dietary requirements you can be spontaneous at the new eatery in Hunstanton!

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Incinerator Update

Cllr Alexandra Kemp, County Division: Clenchwarton and King's Lynn South

I spoke at the Planning Inspectorate's Open Hearing, against the Wisbech Incinerator, on 22 February, as an Interested Party, along with Cllr Michael de Whalley and Cllr Stuart Dark. This is what I said.

Over Capacity of Incinerators & Breach of Proximity Principle

Both host authorities in Norfolk, Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk have adopted In Principle Objections to MVV's proposed incinerator facility on the West Norfolk border.

There is an over-supply of incinerators in the East of England, Norfolk's residual waste reduced last year, there is no need for this facility and, if it were built, it would breach the Proximity Principle, as waste would be brought from areas of high density to the Fens an area of low density and the area that includes half of England's most fertile farmland.

This Application would also breach County Policy. Norfolk adopted a No Incineration in Norfolk policy in 2015 to protect its residents from air pollution, after a multinational attempted to build an incinerator in the ward of South Lynn, causing great anguish amongst the residents of my Division and throughout West Norfolk. In the Borough Council poll in 2011, 65,000 residents voted no to incineration.

Norfolk County Council voted to terminate the South Lynn incinerator contract for planning failure in 2014.

Democracy

In May 2022 I tabled a Motion at Norfolk County Council, and the whole County Council voted unanimously to oppose this Application for an incinerator on the West Norfolk border in Wisbech. I have also tabled successful Motions at the Borough Council, which also has an In-Principle Objection to the Application.

The All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution called for a Moratorium on all new incinerators in the UK in 2021, based on the following evidence on the risk to human health and farming from incinerators:

Prof. Vyvyan Howard found that, even though incinerator filters stop small particulates like PM2.5 they allow ultrafine particulates into the local environment which at scale constitute a significant health hazard.

Ruggero Ridolfi MD found heavy metals in the toenails of children living near incinerators linked with childhood leukemia, and Kirsten Bouman's found dioxins in chicken eggs up to 10 kilometres away. This means that health impacts will occur in and beyond the poorer neighbourhoods where the government have largely granted 50 development consent orders for new incinerators.

Dr Dominic Hogg explained, for every tonne of plastic that is extracted from mixed waste and redirected into a closed-loop recycling stream, about 4 tonnes of CO2 are saved.

Mental Health and Physical Health Impact on Deprived Communities

The Applicant's Human Health Report at Appendix 16, chose to exclude all consideration of the effect on the mental health of my residents in South and West Lynn of this Application, ignoring the anguish of this community's 5-year long battle between 2010 and 2014 to stop the South Lynn ("Willows") Incinerator.

The public is aware of the health effects of air pollution and of the danger of uncaptured emissions from incinerators of dioxins and particulates and the link to cancer, respiratory and circulatory disease and even dementia.

We now know that there are 40,000 early deaths a year from air pollution.

My residents live in a ward within 10% most deprived areas in England, many live within the highest indices of income deprivation and experience poorer health outcomes than other neighbourhoods.

MVV'S Human Health Report Appendix 16 said it would not consider the impact of this application on my residents' mental health, because health was not a planning consideration at the time of the Willows Incinerator Application.

This was disrespectful to the community of South and West Lynn and shows that MVV does not consider human health seriously.

Yet again, an incinerator is being proposed that will affect deprived areas. The Medworth ward is also a very deprived ward, Incinerators are 3 times as likely to be built in poorer wards, where the health effects are masked by deprivation.

This Application should be refused as it would perpetuate health inequalities and is the opposite of levelling up.

Temperature Inversion Traps Air Pollution and Affects Human Health

The Application has not taken into account the specific meteorological conditions around the Wash - and the surrounding communities I represent - which increase the potential for adverse air pollution and human health impacts.

The Wash, downwind of MVV'S proposed incinerator, is maritime and vulnerable to temperature inversion, which traps pollution near the ground in King's Lynn, often for days, causing a pollution haze and sparking respiratory difficulties in the local population.

Vulnerability of the Wash to Air Pollution

The Applicant's reports do not acknowledge the existing vulnerability of the Wash to current sources of air pollution that affect human health. The Wash habitually suffers from air pollution from sand carried on the winds from the Sahara 2,000 miles away, particularly in the Spring, which mixes in the air with local agricultural and industrial pollution and also from industrial airborne pollution, carried across the North Sea, from the Ruhr industrial area in West Germany. This created a yellow haze in Clenchwarton in April 2014 for 2 weeks and residents attending the Parish Council found it hard to breathe. The pollution level in Norfolk was at the top of the Government Pollution index

It is not credible for the Applicant to conclude that air pollution from its incinerator 11 miles away could only be negligible or insignificant, when sand carried on the wind from over 2,000 miles away can have an adverse respiratory effect.

Negligible or insignificant amounts of toxins can have a serious effect on human health.

South and West Lynn and Clenchwarton are settlements along the banks of the River Ouse, and 15 km, as the crow flies, from Wisbech. Dust is even carried from the port of Lynn on the east side of the River Ouse across the River Bank to West Lynn and covers car windscreens. The powerful carry factor of air pollution is being ignored by MVV

Wrong Meteorological Comparison

The applicant's predictions of negligible impact on the environment and to human health from its emissions are based on readings from Marham, which is inland. This is inappropriate.

Prevailing Winds

The applicant's reports take no account of the strong prevailing south westerlies from Wisbech to the River Ouse and the Wash and the carry factor of elements from the incinerator plume to King's Lynn, the first town after Wisbech, across the open, flat Fen landscape.

The ferocious strength of the winds around the Wash have caused habitual floods in King's Lynn over the past millennium, including the International Disaster, the Great Flood of 1953 in which 15 residents in South Lynn were sadly drowned. King's Lynn was the locus of the Storm Surge in 2013.

Risk to Human Health

Incinerators emit dioxins, furans, cadmium, lead, arsenic and plastic

compounds PCB's and PAH's harmful to human health, but the incinerator filters do not capture all the particulate matter and cannot capture gases from the combustion process. Once in the atmosphere, secondary particles form. The toxins emitted are forever chemicals that can take years or never to decompose and will enter the soil, water and air and residents' lungs.

The 90 ft high incinerator chimney is designed to raise emissions high above the local population but the toxic material in the plume will be carried by air agitation and eventually descend and it is likely the south westerlies will carry particulate matter towards West Norfolk and the open farmlands of South Lynn, on the north boundary of MVV'S 15 km " Plume Study Area".

I ask the Planning Inspectorate to follow the All Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution's stance on no new incinerators, follow the Precautionary Principle and refuse this Application.

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Wild in Westminster and West Norfolk

Halve inflation, grow the economy, and reduce debt in order to create better paid jobs and opportunities are the government's immediate economic priorities. Despite challenging global pressures, there was positive progress at the Budget last month with the economy forecast to avoid recession and return to growth.

The difficult decisions taken by the government are working. Inflation is expected to fall from 10.7 per cent in the final quarter of last year to 2.9 per cent by the end of 2023. This is essential as inflation is a tax on everyone.

Simply lowering inflation is not enough though. The Budget rightly focused on boosting growth by encouraging companies to invest with a £25 billion tax cut and initiatives to get more people into work. On my regular visits to businesses across North West Norfolk, they tell me that unfilled job vacancies are the main issue holding them back. The plans outlined will help address the 1 million vacancies in the UK by removing barriers that stop people who want to work from doing so, putting in place greater support for people wanting to work more hours, and introducing apprenticeships – called Returnerships – targeted at the over 50s who may want to return to work.

One of the most welcome measures in the Budget was extending 30 hours of childcare a week to working parents of children aged 9 months through to 4 years, with an increase in the hourly rate paid to providers. In addition, universal credit childcare costs will now be increased and paid upfront rather than in arrears. These reforms will allow more parents who choose to, to move back into work, or take on more hours.

Energy costs continue to put pressure on many households. So I welcome the extension of the Energy Price Guarantee at an average cost of £2,500 until July. And ending the premium paid by households using pre-payment meters – of whom there are more than 10,000 in West Norfolk – will ensure fairness for all bill payers. In our rural areas, the cost of petrol and diesel is a real issue. That's why I backed the 5p a litre cut introduced last year and supported the successful campaign to freezing fuel duty for a thirteenth year, saving the average driver around £200 and companies thousands.

There is also further cost of living support coming with payments of £900 to households on mean tested benefits, £150 disability payments, and £300 payments to eligible pensioners. These will benefit many thousands of people locally. Norfolk County Council has also just announced how it intends to utilise £13.4 million of Household Support Fund to support the most vulnerable with higher costs.

By tradition the Chancellor unlike other ministers may drink alcohol at the Despatch Budget when delivering a Budget. Jeremy Hunt stuck to recent trends of having a glass of water. Ken Clarke chose whisky; Nigel Lawson had a spritzer; and Disraeli went for brandy and water. Despite his abstemiousness, he had good news for pubs with a Brexit Pub Guarantee so draught beer duty will always be lower than in supermarkets. Cheers to that.

While these remain difficult times, the plan to focus on enterprise and growing the economy is working.

Tel: 020 7219 6968 james.wild.mp@parliament.uk

James Wild MP backs North West Norfolk tourism

As part of promoting English Tourism Week, James Wild MP visited Snettisham Park to learn more about their lambing season and how visitors can get involved. First opened in 1986, Snettisham Farm is a great all year round working farm and tourist attraction that also offers lambing in spring.

English Tourism Week is an annual celebration of the tourism industry, showcasing its economic importance to local communities. This year's theme is 'Celebrating amazing experiences and amazing people', highlighting the role played by people working in the sector and how they ensure visitors have amazing experiences and add to the vibrancy of local communities.

During his visit James was hosted by Trevor Walters, Edward Stanton, and Charlotte Stanton, who explained the process of lambing at Snettisham Park alongside their 'orphan' work (lambs born in sets of triplets). During the visit, James met apprentices from the College of West Anglia and bottle fed some of the orphan lambs and it is these lambs that visitors are welcome to feed at the set feeding times (11am, 2pm and 4pm).

Visitors are also welcome to watch lambs be born and witness the 'working' aspect of the farm in comparison to just petting areas. Further lambing is set to start nearer the end of March, with details of this here: www.snettishampark.co.uk

Aside from lambing, Snettisham park also offers Deer Safari which is available all year round with the opportunity to feed the deer and get up close.

The visitor economy is valuable to the local economy contributing around £500 million to the West Norfolk economy pre-Covid and supporting around a fifth of all employment. Across Norfolk, it accounts for £2.8 billion of Norfolk's economy, supporting 54,000 jobs.

Commenting James said:

"North West Norfolk has so much to offer local people and visitors and given the importance of tourism to the local economy I am keen to promote our area.

"From feeding lambs which I highly recommend, to visiting the coast, countryside, heritage and leisure attractions, museums or the great pubs and restaurants, there is so much to enjoy this week and all year round.

"I encourage people to come and visit and experience all that North West Norfolk has to offer."



Feeding the lambs with Mollie Howlett



James with Trevor Walters

Letters to the Editor

Mobility

Delighted to read that the boardwalk from Thornham to Holme Dunes has been repaired. I used to regularly walk that before arthritis put pain to that activity.

Now use a mobility scooter to get out and about. Unfortunately, this area is now impossible for me. The chicane structures at the Thornham end prevent access.

Surely this against mobility legislation.

Ted Taylor
Thornham

Community assets

In early March, main stream media reported that the Supreme Court had ruled against Shrewsbury Town Council for selling parkland, used for recreation, to developers in 2017. The associated planning permission for 15 residential homes was quashed. The Court unanimously dismissed the council's defence that the protecting trust ceased to exist when the land passed into private ownership. The ruling arose after local residents lodged an appeal against the sale and granting of planning permission. The land will now be returned to community use. Readers will note that the wrong doing occurred 5 years ago.

I hope that this ruling will set a definitive legal precedent and sharply focus councillors and planning officers that the ill-conceived plundering of community assets for monetary gain by a minority, compounding local inequalities, will be relentlessly challenged. Insincere justifications such as 'to provide affordable housing' or 'stimulate the local economy' are obsequious. Past residents, including Henry Le Strange, have been generous and far sighted in their gifting and placing of covenants and trusts. We, as the living custodians, are responsible for respecting and protecting their community legacy.

Mr W Martin
Hunstanton



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THE CASE FOR CREATIVITY

“Nobody reads advertising. People read what interests them, and sometimes it's an ad.”

Howard Luck Gossage
Gossage, Freeman & Partners, San Francisco, 1950s

Why was this Covenant ignored when it came to the Hangar in 2003?

John Maiden

In last month's Town & Around Dick Melton forgot to mention that the "Pier Fire" in June 1939 also destroyed the Pavilion Theatre, which was added to the pier head early in the 20th Century. It was the destruction of this rather splendid structure by fire, so close to the outbreak of World War Two, which led to the decline and fall of our Grade II Listed Pier, and to the presence of a monstrosity currently occupying more land on The Green than Hunstanton Pier ever did. In order to make this important point, I recently handed a copy of the following memo to the Leader of the Borough Council and to the Council's Property Services Manager:

" MEMORANDUM - For Head of Legal & Democratic Services

To: James Alflatt - Planning. From: Melanie Egginton.

Date: 14 April 2004

Planning Application 2/04/0573/CU:

Parking of Motorcycles & Siting of Ticket Office.

"Further to your memorandum, dated 14 April 2004, I enclose a copy of the relevant bye-law for your information, but please note that this only applies to the promenade and seashore. It does not include "The Green"...

With regard to the Deed dated 20th July 1955, the objector is quite right in that there is a restrictive covenant binding the Council in relation to 'The Green'.

"When we purchased this land we covenanted with the Vendor that we would not allow anything to be done on the Green, which would cause a nuisance to residents, inhabitants of Hunstanton and visitors. We also covenanted to keep the Green as an ornamental grass green only and would not allow any erections of permanent buildings on the Green. We also covenanted to maintain the Green as an open space and public recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants and visitors of Hunstanton.

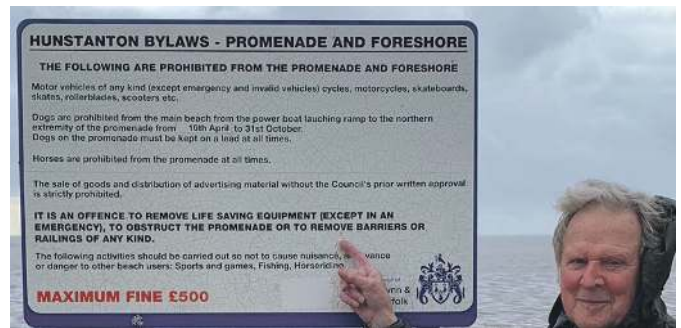
"It would appear that if we allowed parking of motorcycles, or siting of a ticketed office, then we would be in breach of the restrictive covenant. We would have no defence if challenged as we have knowledge of the restrictive covenants..

Regards

Melanie Egginton

Legal Executive, Legal Services"

This memo, along with many other related documents in my



possession, proves beyond a reasonable doubt that we, the beneficiaries of the 1955 Covenant, have been treated very badly by our elected representatives over many years. This is why it is so very important that no one should go unchallenged if they appear to be ignoring, or dismissing evidence of serious wrongdoing in connection with The Green and Pier at Hunstanton. With elections looming it is certainly something to be brought to the attention of all candidates...

How to avoid getting ripped off when buying a second-hand car - Part 2

Abigail Brown

Check the mileage

Continuing on where we left off in last month's column, it's time to talk mileage. Clearly, a car with low mileage (anything lower than 40,000 miles on the clock) is more desirable. However, if you've found a nice car, with low mileage and at low cost, it's likely something is not quite right.

Nowadays, it's easy to alter a car's mileage; it's just a case of having the right software on your laptop. If you're viewing a vehicle that looks to be in good nick but it's cheap given its low mileage, look closer. Check for stone chips on the bonnet, the condition of the seats and mats and how worn the pedals look. The general rule; if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Second-hand cars are expensive these days, especially those in seemingly good condition with low mileage.

Stop, look and listen

Talking about condition, if you're viewing a car to potentially purchase it, there are some important things to check for, and you don't have to be an expert to spot them. The first thing you should do is a visual inspection. Check outside, underneath and inside. Look for signs of repainting or body work replacement that could indicate the car had been in an accident. The most important thing is that the car is safe to drive and mechanically sound, which is why it's imperative that you test drive it. Turn the radio off and ask the seller (if in the vehicle) to

stay quiet. Listen out for unusual noises or rattles and check for excessive smoke. Test the brake and handbrake and pay close attention to the steering and handling. If you notice anything that seems off, it's not worth the risk.

Get a second opinion

Of course, unless you know exactly what to look for, it's hard to be certain you're not being taken for a fool. If you do buy a second-hand car, it's wise to have it inspected as soon as possible. A lot of garages will be happy to have a general look over the important elements of the car free of charge (we certainly will!) to either give you some peace of mind or to bring your attention to something you may have missed. If you buy from a dealer and have a problem within 30 days of purchase, you can either request a full refund or a like-for-like replacement. If you buy from a private seller, you don't have as much legal protection as it's ultimately your responsibility. Head to the Citizens Advice website for a confirmation of your rights.

The main takeaway is to be cautious. Don't get wrapped up in the excitement and think with your head and not your heart!

Give us a call on 01485 533786 in Hunstanton or 01553 763763 in King's Lynn if you'd like us to inspect your second-hand vehicle. Or if you're in the buying process and need further advice, we'd be more than happy to help.



National Coastwatch Brancaster

EYES ALONG THE COAST

Data for January and February 2023

Station operational for 458 hours.

103 vessels logged (30 commercial, 66 leisure and 7 other).

1 incident reported to HMCG.

Our first incident of the year was reported to HMCG towards the end of January. A large object was observed floating approximately 2–3 miles off-shore which could potentially be hazardous to shipping.

We received a great message of thanks from Hunstanton RNLI who provided us with some interesting data on the number of times they had deployed the lifeboat to Brancaster over recent years:

2019 = 13 Lifeboat Call Outs

2020 = 18 Lifeboat Call Outs

2021 = 6 Lifeboat Call Outs (NCI first stationed at Brancaster)

2022 = data not yet available

Training

The last few months have given us a good opportunity to catch up with some training. 10 of our volunteers attended a marine radio training course at Snettisham Beach Sailing Club. I am pleased to say that all 10 delegates passed and will receive their RYA VHF licence. A big shout out to Charlie Parfitt of Alongside Training for her excellent support.

Together with our colleagues from Wells-next-the-Sea, Cromer, Caister and Mundesley, five of our volunteers attended insightful presentations from HM Coastguard, HM Border Force and Norfolk Police Broads Beat.

We are currently in the planning stages of organising a joint training exercise with RNLI Hunstanton.

Fundraising

Our primary focus this year is to raise funds for a new station. The existing station was a second-hand lifeguard station which had been kindly donated by the RNLI. The station is not designed to be out in



VHF radio course at Snettisham

all weathers and it has been a struggle at times to keep operational through the cold and wet weather. We hope to provide further details of our fundraising programme in the coming months. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions to support us in this respect.

Recruitment

Our experience from last year means that we are fully aware of how busy it will get over Easter and the summer holidays. In order to crew sufficient numbers of watches over this time, we really need another 10 or so accredited watchkeepers.

How you can help!

If you or anyone you know is able to commit to volunteering for 4 hours every week, then please get in touch. No previous maritime experience is required. All training is at your own pace and is provided by an experienced accredited watchkeeper.

Richard Burrows Deputy Station Manager

Email: richard.burrows@nci.org.uk

Mobile: 07535 612777

A recipe from the Prudent Pensioner

As we are being warned of vegetable shortages and high prices a number of people have told me they are purchasing pulses and asked for recipes using lentils. The weather still being on the chilly side I thought another soup would be welcome. Maybe I will share a recipe for a vegetable and lentil bake next month.

Carrot, Courgette & Red Lentils Soup. Makes approx. 900ml.

1 med. Shallot or small onion

Carrots approx. 170g/6oz

1 large or 2 medium sticks of Celery

Red Lentils (dry) approx. 60g/2oz. (see note)

Medium size Courgette (Like a small marrow)

Chicken or vegetable stock cube

Salt and Pepper to taste.

Rinse lentils well in cold water. Place lentils in a large pan (They do froth up when boiling) and add 500ml of cold water. Bring to boil and boil rapidly for 10 minutes, stirring often to prevent lentils sticking to base of pan.

Meanwhile peel carrots and cut them into small pieces. Peel shallot or onion and slice thinly. Trim off and discard ends from celery and courgette clean and slice fairly thinly.

Remove pan from heat, place stock cube in a jug and strain off most of liquid from lentils into same jug, top up jug with hot water to reach

400ml and stir well to dissolve stock cube.

Return stock to lentils in saucepan, add all vegetables. 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.

Note: Boiling rapidly for 10 minutes was in accordance with instructions on the packet.

-o0o-

My updated book "Less Waste more Soup" 45 easy, budget friendly recipes for nourishing soup is available from Ridouts Bakery in Heacham, Docking Farmers Market, By The Book in Hunstanton and Hunstanton indoor market. It is available from Amazon. A search for Doreen Reed will find it (together with my books of light hearted poems & tales)

Copies are available to borrow from Heacham Library & Hinckley Library

See lots more recipes on The Prudent Pensioner Facebook page

Email: pru.pensioner@btinternet.com



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Hunstanton & District Inner Wheel

Sue Trewin- Club Correspondent

As I look out of my kitchen window it is pouring but at least it's not snowing. We have been chilly of late but Norfolk looks pretty special whatever the weather.



We were reminded that spring is on its way by hosting an evening with Gary Bocking, local flower arranger extraordinaire. My foray into flower arranging has been unsuccessful to say the least but I learnt a lot from watching Gary. Flowers should be treated with respect and they will respond and even continue to grow from within the display. Next time you put a bunch of tulips in a vase, when you

notice the tulips bending over the side of the vase it means they are growing not dying!



It is always a pleasure to welcome new members to our club. We were delighted to induct Ann King and Sandra Ellison, to present them with their regalia and to remind them of the aims, and objectives of Inner Wheel - promoting true friendship, encouraging the ideals of personal service and fostering international understanding.

Hazel Evans, one of our long standing members decided that we should play 'pass the parcel' at our Christmas party. We didn't have enough time to fit it in at the party but as you will see from the photo, Hazel was not

going to forget to produce it. As you will remember from children's parties there was one prize. On this occasion every layer of paper, resulted in a prize. Thank you Hazel!



Val Garner, one of our members organised two in house events for us-a games morning and chair yoga. Both were real treats and I decided not to include photos of the yoga class to protect people's modesty! Thank you Val.

A few of us will be off to conference in Blackpool shortly. This is a huge event and a veritable feast. I will bring you a taste of it in my next article.

New Hunstanton Women's Institute

At our March meeting we were entertained by the King's Lynn U3A Handbell Ringers and knitted hats made by members were collected for Briony Bax for her next visit to the Orphanage in Kenya.

We have a busy future programme including a visit to the Civic Centre, old Hunstanton Open Gardens, and a stall at the Carnival in June. Two Group Meetings and Norfolk Federation Annual Meeting in Norwich, besides our monthly meetings to which visitors are very welcome for a small charge. At our open meeting on 27th April Sue Jickells talk is entitled The Science of Fingerprinting. Visitors £5.

Cunningham Court raise £2000 for the Norfolk Hospice

Suzanne Cameron
Cunningham Court Manager

Myself and the residents of Cunningham Court Heacham raised £2000 for Tapping house by having a bric a brac stall in their lounge.

Whilst raising money for charity we recycled and prevented items going to landfill, win, win!

Here is a picture of our presentation to Lynsey from Tapping House.



Western Area of Norfolk WI

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2023

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Closing date 8th April 2023

On the turf with Charles Joyce

Conditional national hunt jockey Charlotte Jones was the first rider to have her horse disqualified under the new whip rules. She was sentenced to an 18 days suspension which included extra days because the race was of a higher than average value. The British Horseracing Authority have now set the precedent that an inexperienced jockey will face harsher punishment if riding in a more valuable race. What the value of a race has to do with horse welfare is beyond me.

Minella Times the horse that took Rachel Blackmore into racing legend has been retired following a setback injury to his shoulder. It's not known if he will need an operation to make his retirement more comfortable at JP McManus's stud in Martinstown in County Limerick.

Former triple French champion national hunt jockey David Cottin could face a 12 month suspension from training after a routine veterinary inspection of his stables found horses had been injected with the banned steroid substance Dexamethasone that has a 14 day withdrawal date from injection to racing. David Cottin retired from riding at 27 years old in 2017. He was won several top grade national hunt races in France as well as training Easyland to win the Cross Country at the Cheltenham Festival.

Richard Gurney is an owner who trained more than 50 point to point winners. He initiated the charity Cheltenham song. Based on the Petula Clarke 1960s hit Downtown it reached number 12 in the Irish charts in 2010 and helped Gurney raise more than a million pounds for charity over the years. He used to bet with bookmakers Betfair. But has refused to send Betfair his bank statements and tax returns when asked for them as a check on whether he could afford to bet. The Racing Post claimed that in a survey of over 10,000 punters carried out on behalf of the horseracing trade paper that 1 in 6 of respondents said they had stopped betting with regular bookmakers due to affordability checks. In a survey carried out by pollsters Yougov on behalf of the Betting and Gaming Council which represents licenced bookmakers found that 79% said it was likely that increased restrictions "would result in people moving to unregulated websites." 70% said they would consider a different bookmaker if they were asked to provide "private financial documents" in order to place a bet. The Government have done enough damage to punters by making it illegal to directly bet with betting giants such as Pinnacle with headquarters in Curacao which is governed by the Netherlands. It is possible to bet with Pinnacle and other similar bookmakers from the UK if using a bet broker. But that tends to defeat the object of betting to get the best odds, and not all brokers are licensed meaning punters have to be very wary. Unlike the regulated UK bookmakers Pinnacle do not offer odds on events such as horse racing but will accept very lumpy bets on other events from winning punters because they use a different model of pricing.

More than half of those asked for affordability checks documentation refused. Among the over a third who had complied 1 in 20 were no longer allowed to bet and nearly a quarter of the others had some kind of restriction placed on their accounts. It's becoming clear why punters look away from UK regulated bookmakers when bookmakers restrict if you win and restrict if you comply with affordability checks. Of those not yet asked 2 out of 3 said they would refuse to comply with affordability checks. More than 96% said they were the best judge of whether they could afford to bet. Nearly 40% of respondents who had faced affordability checks said they were earning more than £200,000 a year. Punters who bet £1,000 a time around 80% had faced affordability checks, but 1 in 4 had faced the checks if they bet £25. When asked if affordability checks stopped you from using UK regulated bookmakers more than 1 in 3 said they would either consider using black market bookmakers with 1 in 10 earning more than £200,000 a year already using black market bookmakers. 1 in 4 said their betting on racing has decreased significantly in the last 6 months (around the time bookmakers started to run affordability checks). Not unnaturally the Gambling Commission claim these results are nothing to do with anything they have done. That's a bit like the man holding the smoking gun claiming he ran a 2-minute mile when he heard a shot.

Since the gambling review began Lucy Frazer is the fourth Culture Secretary and Andrew Stuart is the sixth minister directly responsible for gambling. If the white paper does come before the House of

Commons what position will those of certain religious beliefs that are opposed to gambling take is an interesting question.

As we move forward to April the Lincoln is due to be run on 1 April. The second leg of the Spring Double, the Grand National will run 2 weeks later with Easter on the intervening weekend. The flat season really starts at the Newmarket Craven meeting on 18 April. The Guineas meeting is due to be run the first weekend in May where a race will be named after Ellen Osborne later Chaloner who in 1886, the same year the great Ormonde ridden by Fred Archer won the triple crown, and 80 years before the High Court gave recognition to women trainers, became the first woman to take out a training licence. Ellen was the wife of champion jockey Tom Chaloner who won 10 classics including the Epsom Derby in 1863 on Macaroni. On retirement from race riding Tom Chaloner took up training but died in April 1886. Ellen took over the licence. She trained at Osborne House where Sir Mark Prescott now trains. The following year Jersey Lily won the Triennial Stakes at Royal Ascot for Ellen. Her father Johnny Osborne snr was a racehorse trainer and her brother Johnny jnr won 12 classics, including the 1869 Epsom Derby, as a jockey in a riding career spanning 46 years.

Since her death at 98 years old in 1944 Ellen has laid in an unmarked grave in Newmarket cemetery. Ellen survived all her seven children who were still young when she took out her licence. Her son Tom Chaloner jnr became a jockey and later a trainer. She is the great great grandmother of Irish champion jockey Charlie Swan. A headstone will be erected to mark where Ellen rests in a private family gathering.

As always remember the golden rule of punting. Pay the bills first and under no circumstances bet if you cannot afford to lose, because even the best professional punters lose more often than they win.

Stop press – Winners for Charles:

Marine Nationale 9/2 wins opening race at Cheltenham. 6 year old won last time out rated 150 was 6/1 early.

Constitution Hill 4/11 wins Champion Hurdle was Evens all day with Bet 365.

Honeysuckle 9/4 wins backed in overnight from 7/2.

The Real Whacker wins at 8/1

Faivour wins at 33/1 pays £66.40 for a £ on the Tote. Dan Skelton trained winner of County Hurdle.

Roger Partridge

Roger Partridge has re-joined KL&WNBC on a permanent post basis. Roger was highly successful when he worked in Hunstanton a few years ago promoting the sea front activities.

He is currently working on the Soap Box Derby last run in 2019 and will be reviewing the other options available in his role of events coordinator for the area.

Roger said "My aim is to enhance the offering of events to residents and visitors alike, I really enjoyed working in this field before and have a lot of ideas about promoting the town and district." Roger who lives in Kings Lynn will be based in Hunstanton at offices within the Oasis complex.



Deepdale and Brancaster Staithe Tennis Club

Verily Borthwick

Our two lovely courts in the middle of the village are available for play by both members and visitors. Have a look at our website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/DBSTennisClub

Booking is available in half-hour slots for up to 90 minutes per person per day and is free for paid up members. For visitors the court fee is £10 an hour and you can pay online via Stripe. Log on to our website, go to the Court Booking tab and follow the instructions. You are welcome to join our Club. Again go to the website, click on the membership tab and follow the instructions.

Junior Coaching

We are holding a Free Easter Holiday Coaching Camp with Becky Palmer, our LTA coach, on Wednesday 5th and Wednesday 12th April.

Juniors, come along and join in to try tennis for the first time or brush up your skills after the winter. We would really love to see some new faces.

3 sessions for different ages:

10.45 - 11.15 am for 4-7 year olds

11.15am - 12 noon for 8-11 year olds

12noon - 1pm for secondary school children up to age 15

Numbers strictly limited to 12 children in each group. Essential to book in with our Junior Tennis Co-ordinator, Carrie Hendry, by email to juniortennis@brancasterstaithe.co.uk

Follow this up with weekly tennis coaching sessions for members on Wednesday afternoons in the summer term between 3.45pm and 6pm starting Wednesday 19th April.

Course fees vary from £6 - £18 for a 6 week course payable by BACS in advance. Again, contact Carrie Hendry to book your place.

Coaching for Adult Beginners or Returners

Coaching for Adult Beginners or Returners is available with Becky Palmer on Monday mornings from 9.30 - 10.30am beginning on the 24th April. These will be arranged in short courses of 4 weekly sessions at £20 per course to be booked direct with Becky in advance. Please contact her by email tennismadbex@gmail.com for further details. Please note the course will only run with a minimum of 4 players.

Wednesday Ladies Tennis Mornings

These continue every week when the weather allows from 9-10.30am. We are a group of experienced players (not beginners) of a certain age and the emphasis is on fun. If you would like to join us please contact Verily Borthwick by email to DBSTennisClub@outlook.com These sessions are for members but you are most welcome to come along and try us out for free for up to 3 occasions each year.

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For more info call: **01485 536029**
Or visit: www.searles.co.uk/facilities/indoor

Hunstanton Croquet Club



By the time you read this, the season will at last be underway, with the first club afternoon having taken place on the 27th March.

Now we look forward to 7 busy months of social croquet on club afternoons; competitive tournaments and coaching sessions. It's like that lovely feeling as a schoolchild right at the beginning of the summer holidays - so much to look forward to.

Thanks to Johnny's hard work in the close season, the lawns have been scarified, fed, seeded and watered and will be in great condition again. I shall have news and pictures to share with you in our regular missives. (Big thank you to the various editors who give us space in their publications.)

Do look out for details of our annual 'Come and Try' day to be held on Saturday 22nd April. We love our sport and want to spread the joy! We very much look forward to seeing some new faces.

All you need to know is on our website:- [Hunstanton croquet club.co.uk](http://Hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk) Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - just search for Hunstanton Croquet Club.

Hunstanton Croquet Club

Come and try...

Croquet, Cake and Chat

Saturday 22nd April 1:30 – 3:30pm

Tuition, use of equipment and refreshments.

To reserve a place or for more information, please contact:

secretary@hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk

No experience necessary.

Please wear flat-soled shoes/trainers.

<http://hunstantoncroquetclub.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/hunstantoncroquetclub>

King's Lynn parkrun Celebrate International Women's Day

Gary Walker

King's Lynn parkrunners adorned purple running tops on Saturday in celebration of International Women's Day 2023.



With the ladies taking over all of the volunteering roles and with the sun shining after a day of terrible weather the 263 runners had nothing to worry about.

Whilst thousands of women and girls participate in parkrun every weekend, we know that females are less likely to come along to parkrun after they have registered. To celebrate IWD 2023, parkrunners were asked to encourage as many women and girls as possible to come along to parkrun and participate in whatever way worked for them, with 93 women taking part on the day, in addition to the 22 who stood in as volunteers.

To further mark the occasion, we were joined by Peter Grey, who

was fund raising for Women's Aid, a grassroots federation dedicated to supporting women and children in domestic abuse situations to working together to provide life-saving services in England to build a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.

King's Lynn parkrun started on 10th September 2011 since when 10,732 participants have completed 119,293 parkruns covering a total distance of 596,465 km. A total of 1,061 individuals have volunteered 9,416 times.

Parkrun is a free 5K timed run or walk, which takes place in The Walks each Saturday at 9 am. Further details for anyone wishing to take part can be found at: www.parkrun.com/kingslynn or alternatively just turn up in the Walks and speak to one of the organisers.

A Junior parkrun for children aged 4 to 14, also takes place in The Walks on Sunday mornings at 9am.

Treat for West Lynn school footie fans



Young football fans at a West Norfolk school were thrilled when they got to meet their sporting heroes. The children at West Lynn Primary were visited by five players from King's Lynn Town Football Club, The Linnets, and three members of the club's management team.

The event, which was organised by Linnets in the Community, saw footballers Gold Omotayo, Jacob Jones, Ben Stephens, Jordan Ponticelli and Christian Oxlade Chamberlain spend an afternoon with the pupils, alongside manager Tommy Widdrington, assistant manager Hugo Langton and first team coach Mark Hughes.

The youngsters had the opportunity to question the visitors to the school, a member of West Norfolk Academies Trust, and some even enjoyed a kick-about with the players.

The school's PE Lead, Becky Tuvey, said: "It was a great opportunity for all of our children and something they hadn't had the experience of before. The football club did a Q and A assembly with our Key Stage 1 children first, then with our Key Stage 2 children.

"Selected children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a football session with the players. Many said that they had been playing football since they were six-years-old and could first kick a ball.

"The manager said it was hard to choose a 'best player' as everyone has their own strengths. He reminded the children that football is a team game, and players rely on each other to be able to score goals."

The visit was one of a series arranged by Linnets in the Community, which was established to strengthen links between King's Lynn Town FC and West Norfolk.

Community Manager Jodie Hopkins, who organised the event, explained: "We want to provide opportunities for children to meet their town's local heroes and understand that they are all normal people too.

"All the children got to meet the players, and one of the highlights was a few of the students giving players high-fives mid-lesson on the playground, saying, 'I'm never washing this hand again!'"



Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

The Magpies deliver on historic night of floodlight switch on

A bumper crowd of 300 plus spectators turned out on 24th February to watch history as Heacham FC played their first ever home league match under floodlights.



From left: Chris Lewis, Colin Garwood and Dave Page (Chairman)

Ex Magpies and professional footballer, Colin Garwood, and former BBC sports correspondent, Chris Lewis, were on hand to switch the lights on to the delight of the crowd. Along with the opening of a club shop and various ground improvements, it is hoped the six floodlights, costing in the region of £70,000, mean the future is very bright for the local side who are seeking an eighth consecutive promotion.

On the pitch, the players did not fail to disappoint, although they went about it the hard way, defeating local rivals, Swaffham Town, 2-1. Heacham have adapted to this level of football superbly, managing to overcome teams through patience, confidence and grinding out wins by simply outplaying their opponents. A sign of a good team. However, it was Swaffham who actually took a shock early lead, capitalising on a mix up in the home defence, when Josh Malin fired home. Heacham are made of stern stuff though and stuck to their game plan, controlling the game. They were rewarded with an equaliser from the ever reliable John Flanagan who latched on to a through ball and finished with aplomb. Fletcher Toll calmed local nerves by grabbing a second on the stroke of half time.



Fletcher Toll

On a freezing evening, the weather took a turn for the worse at half time with sleet and hail raining down. Heacham were not to be denied and managed to contain their browbeaten opponents. Another three points, top of the league and owners of their own destiny. With just ten games to go this is no mean feat for the magpies, playing at this level for the first time in their history.

Whilst the players have done their bit on the pitch under the careful guidance of manager, David Griggs, credit must also go to the back room staff and supporters who have all given their bit to propel

Heacham to the summit of the Thurlow Nunn Division One. Whisper it quietly but promotion is becoming a real possibility.



John Flanagan

Elsewhere on the local football scene, Dersingham Rovers, looking to gain a consecutive promotion, are a creditable second in the Anglian Combination Division Three. Ingoldisthorpe FC and Heacham Reserves lead the way in the North West Norfolk Saturday League Division One, occupying the top two places respectively. Docking Rangers are mid table. Ingoldisthorpe Reserves sit proudly at the top of Division Two to cap a fine season for the local club.

At the time of going to print, Heacham FC lost 2-0 at home to Downham Market Town FC, the latter leapfrogging their hosts to take pole position at the top of the Thurlow Nunn Division One North. Whilst a play off place is virtually guaranteed for The Magpies, automatic promotion is now out of their hands with eight games left to play.

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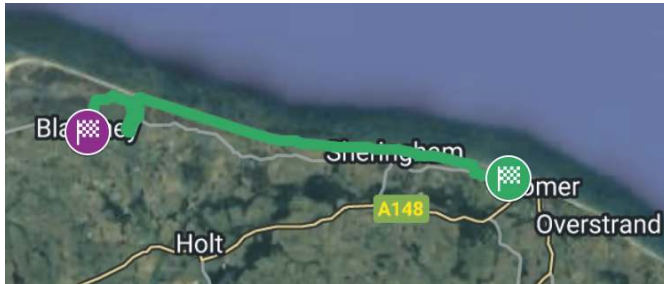
Equipment to suit YOUR needs

Sporting corner with Tim Keogh

Sign up to the Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike

Hike a marathon or half marathon along the Norfolk coastline, experiencing the beautiful beaches and picturesque fishing villages along the way.

On the 20th-21st May MacMillan Cancer Support are organising the Norfolk Coast Mighty Hike, one of twelve hikes planned across the country this year. The event starts at East Runton near Cromer, with the route taking you through Sheringham, Cley next the sea and Wells-next-the-sea, before finishing at Holkham Hall.



The Marathon costs £25 and the Half Marathon £20, with a fund raising pledge of £250 required from each entry (a 10% discount applies for teams of 5 runners or more). All entrants receive a hiking top, professional event photographs, medal, food, refreshments and a glass of bubbly at the finish.

Macmillan Support Cancer helps anyone who is impacted by cancer. With over 3 million people in the UK living with cancer, Macmillan Support Cancer provides invaluable support to these individuals and their families.



For more information about the event or becoming a Macmillan Support Cancer volunteer, fundraiser or donator, please visit macmillan.org.uk/norfolkcoast. Anyone impacted by cancer can also call the helpline on 0808 808 0000.

At the time of going to print, with a registration capacity of 2,200 runners, the Marathon is full and people are advised to visit the website and go on the waiting list. There is still plenty of space for the Half Marathon at <https://mightyhikes.macmillan.org.uk/choose-a-hike/norfolk-coast-half>.

I'd like you to accompany me to the police station..

Ian Smith

These are not the words any of us like to hear, especially when you are a Major in the Royal Army Dental Corps and a dentist.

Being arrested under any circumstances and being potentially charged with malicious damage could have brought not only my army career crashing down but also have me struck off the dental register.

It all happened during season 1975-76 when the Guards Depot Rugby Team went on tour to Wales. We played Maesteg Celtic, the result of the game having vanished into the mists of time and overshadowed by what happened after the match.

I can't quite remember, but something seemed to have happened to their clubhouse, and they had lost all their memorabilia, such as old jerseys, caps, ties, that sort of thing.

I was wearing my Scotland players tie which I handed over to them to start a new collection and somehow or other ended up wearing two Maesteg Celtic ties.

So far so good. However, it was on the way back to the team bus in town that the problem occurred.

Drunken memories of my Colonel in Hong Kong and going down streets without touching the ground by climbing over cars meant that this was exactly what I did.

The difficulty I found myself in occurred because one of the cars I was climbing over had a plastic roof, and through it I went!

Seconds after I got onto the team bus two police officers appeared and the fateful words were uttered "I'd like you to accompany me to the police station".

Off we went and shortly afterwards I found myself in the police inspector's office. According to the member of the team who went with me for moral support I sat slouched in a chair with my feet on the desk, unaware of the mess I was in.

I was about to be charged when the inspector noticed my two ties and asked me what I was doing wearing two Maesteg rugby club ties. It was then he remembered he had been in the rugby club earlier when

there was a bit of a fuss about the tie presentation, and he suddenly tied up the name on the desk with the name in the clubhouse, and the penny dropped. He had even seen me play for Scotland. All I can say is thank goodness he did.

The driver of the damaged car was sent for and, when he arrived, very much the worse for wear, the police inspector offered him the choice of me offering to pay £30 for the damage or I could be charged. Very angrily he insisted I was charged, which was when the police inspector asked him if he was the driver of the car and invited him to take a breathalyser as he was in charge of the vehicle.

Naturally he accepted my offer to pay for the damage and, luckily, I walked out a free man.

It would be fair to say that discipline the next day at training was slightly tricky!

Ian Smith is an ex Scottish international rugby union player and used to own the Grange Dental Practice in Snettisham. Town & Around are running monthly articles about his life as a rugby player and dentist. His second book, "Have Teeth, Will Travel", is due out later this year.

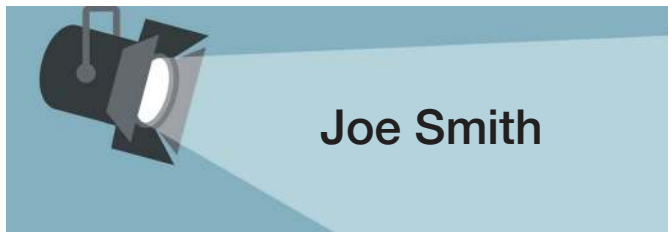
Purfleet Trust

Purfleet Trust is a partner charity for this year's GEAR 10k on 30th April.

They are looking for 10 people to join the team of marshals who are placed around the route of run. The marshals point runners in the right direction and support them if help is needed.

They also have a couple of spaces for runners if you know anyone who might like to run and fundraise for them.

Contact: Joy Wylie Joywylie@purfleettrust.org.uk



Local musician Joe Smith has left it late to launch his solo career. On the recommendation of Peter Byrne at the Ski Café and Sandra Rowe of Nightingale Lodge Care Home, Joe, however, has not looked back.

Born in 1964 with fully formed cataracts on both his eyes, Joe underwent eleven gruelling operations by the age of 5. He attended boarding school in Gorleston, The East Anglian School for the deaf and partially sighted. It was here that Joe's love and talent for music became evident and he learnt to play the trumpet with the school band.



However, his music then took a back seat, as he went straight into the family seasonal business on leaving school at 15, before branching out and successfully running his own sweet shops in Hunstanton.

Fast forward to 2019 and Joe's eyesight has, unfortunately, deteriorated with a detached retina in one eye and only 30% vision in the other. During COVID, Joe rekindled his love of music and, more specifically, the keyboard. Coaxed by Peter and Sandra, Joe decided to relaunch as musician, Jammin' Joe. Now regularly playing at the Ski Café, Care Homes and social clubs in the area, Joe is nearly fully booked. What is more amazing is the fact that Joe cannot see enough to read music or lyrics, so relies on his natural talent to play. Joe gives a percentage of his proceeds to the RNIB, to whom he is quick to praise for their support throughout his life.



Joe with Sandra Rowe manager of Nightingale Lodge Care Home with staff and residents

Speaking with Joe about his belated career, "I'm a man reborn doing the thing I enjoy most. Playing at Millbridge Care Home in Heacham recently brought back so many memories as my father took me to play there 34 years ago. I'm also indebted to my wonderful wife Joy, who

ferries me about and without whom I simply wouldn't be able to do it".

To listen to Jammin' Joe's easy listening music and dulcet tones, he can usually be found playing at the Ski Café from 12pm til 3pm most Wednesday afternoons. He is also active on Facebook and TikTok under the guise of 'Jammin' Joe'. Alternatively, you can book Joe by contacting him 07789 990586.

Name: Joe Smith

Age: 58

Star Sign: Leo

Where Born: King's Lynn

Occupation: Retired businessman and showman

Family: Wife Joy, children Charmaine and Brogan.

A Cats or dogs person: Neither really

Team Support: Manchester United

Hardest challenge: Pleasing the wife!

Funniest memory: Once when I was looking for the toilet in a restaurant, I asked a dodgy looking bloke if he knew where they were...after what seemed an eternity, I realised I was talking to a mirror!

Hero: My dad Terry Smith who we sadly lost in 2019

Hobbies: Music, Poker, Football

Favourite international meal/cuisine: Chinese

Favourite drink: Cup of tea

Favourite holiday destination: Caribbean

Three items for a desert island: My wife, a radio and tea bags

Favourite band/singer: Bob Marley

Pet hate: When people say they will ring you back and then they don't

Biggest achievement in life: Getting to age 58

Best advice ever given: From my grandad George Smith, when 1 door closes another 1 opens

What would you change in the world: Chocolate flavoured lettuce!

Like to live forever: Who wants to live forever

Armchair Sports Trivia

Sponsored by Berni Beans of Hunstanton

Win a delicious afternoon tea for two (worth £19.95pp, total £39.90) courtesy of Berni Beans.

QUESTION: Who was the first golfer to be formally awarded the traditional green jacket as a winner of the Masters golf tournament?

Answers to: editor@townandaround.net or by post to:

18, Tapping Close, Snettisham PE31 7FF

Closing date: 15th April 2023

From another large number of correct answers to the March trivia question about rugby, Kathy Brotherhood from Heacham was the lucky winner. Congratulations Kathy.

Hunstanton Primary School

First and foremost Happy Easter to you all. Currently the school is closed for the Easter Holidays but we look forward to returning for the final and summer term for this academic year.

In March Hunstanton Primary School decided to celebrate World Book Day with a difference. Instead of dressing up as our favourite book characters we had to dress-up representing a book of our choice. We wore props, had clues from the story and quotes from characters. All staff and pupils made a HUGE effort. One pupil even brought in a cake in the shape of a book half eaten (the incredible book eating boy). Everyone was using their inference skills to guess who was which book! We also had golden tickets hidden in books around school and if found could win a prize if the child answered a questions correctly about the book.

On the day a home-book making competition was launched and, if all that was not enough we gathered as a whole school to share books together between different year groups. And just to top it all off the children were treated to a special book inspired dinner. A book-tastic time was had by all!

We had lots of Easter activities running up to the end of term. The PTA organised an Easter Disco, an Easter Craft and Cake Sale and the kitchen kindly arranged an Easter Roast Dinner. The disco is something



all the children really look forward to, a chance to break out some dance moves and to have some fun. Huge thanks to our PTA for orchestrating and putting on these events throughout the year.

Year 6 also went on the annual residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands, Thetford in the middle of March. They had an amazing time and enjoyed all the activities that were on offer to them, such as climbing, canoeing, caving and archery to name a few. They also enjoyed camping in beautiful wooden pods and really enjoying the woodland environment around them. Thank you to our staff who went along and looked after them all.

Year 2 also took part in the annual Dance Festival at the Corn Exchange in Kings Lynn, an exciting and spectacular performance was achieved by all and a huge well done to all involved. It certainly was an afternoon to remember.

Throughout April our Reception and Year 4 class are looking forward to a trip to Amazona Zoo near Cromer and in May Years 3 & 5 will be visiting the Space Museum in Leicester. Some really wonderful trips and days out are planned as we end into the Summer term. I think it will be quite busy!!!

Did you know we now have a Facebook page where you can follow along with all of the schools activities and highlights. Follow us @HunstantonPrimary.

Are you new to the area or do you have a child looking to move schools? Have you had a tour of our school yet so you can see what we have to offer? Book your tour now. Contact us on 01485 533373 or email office@hunstanton.norfolk.sch.uk

Brancaster School news by Samphire Class

As usual, we have been very busy working hard in school and there have been lots of things going on. Thrift class have been hatching eggs – all eleven of them hatched and they loved having so many cute and fluffy chicks in the classroom! They used them in most of their lessons including English, science, music, drama and art – as well as learning how to care for them. We were allowed to go and play with them too, which we loved. You can see the photos on the class blogs.

Both classes enjoyed World Book Day and



sharing favourite books and Thrift Class dressed up for the day.

We have also been doing lots of tests and our teachers are very pleased with the progress we have made.

We have started thinking about the journey towards Easter, beginning with learning about Shrove Tuesday and enjoying eating pancakes together and then going to the church on Ash Wednesday for a short Ashing Service. If we wanted to, we could choose to go up and

receive a cross on our foreheads or hands to show that we have been thinking about things we have done wrong and asking for God's forgiveness. The ash mixture Reverend Kirsty used was made by burning the palm crosses from last year to create ashes; mixing those with some special water from the cathedral; then adding some rose water so we could smell it as well. She also put a little bit of glitter in, to remind us that God adds sparkle to our lives – something that we can all do with!

Next Term, Thrift Class want to go to Holkham on a trip. They have been learning about the history of farming and the part Coke of Holkham played so they want to see it for themselves. Then they will go in the walled garden for the afternoon to learn about plants. As well as the activity costs, they will need to get a coach as we are still on the waiting list for a new minibus. This will make it very expensive so if anyone would like to help with a donation, please contact the office (01485 210246, mornings only).

Term finishes on 31st March and we start back again on April 18th.

Our Academy Trust, DNEAT, has put in place interim Headteacher arrangements for the summer term. Our Interim Executive Headteacher will be Mrs Rebekah Woodrow. Mrs Woodrow is currently Assistant Headteacher and EYFS and KS1 Lead at Whitefriars Church of England Primary Academy. We are very grateful that Mrs Woodrow is able to support us at this time and warmly welcome her to our Federation. The permanent post has been advertised for the last couple of weeks and there has been much interest, with many candidates visiting. Interviews for the permanent post will be on 20th April.



GLEBE HOUSE SCHOOL UPDATE

It's not unusual for our Headmaster Mr Taylor to start his weekly Last Word in the school newsletter with reference to 'another busy week at Glebe'. Go ahead and read this month's update, and you'll understand why!

Music and Drama

Glebe musicians from Divisions IV - VIII had a thrilling day taking part in the annual Uppingham School Music Day. Over 20 Prep Schools attended, with rehearsals during the day followed by an excellent concert to parents at the end. Our pupils had such fun playing the Muppet theme tune, numbers from James Bond and many other fun pieces of film music.



All our Prep children are very busy learning their lines, songs and performance pieces for the upcoming musical 'Paws and Claws'. The annual Prep show is always a spectacular our families look forward to. There has already been a lot of work on the stage set courtesy of some very gifted adults and the pupils have been working on their respective character masks in Art.



World Book Day

World Book Day is always one of the most fun days in the Spring term! Children and staff really embraced the day, with our Div VIII boys coming dressed as the Teletubbies, complete with the iconic face in the sun, and our Headmaster dressing up as Goldilocks to join the three bears from Div VII. Gangsta Granny (aka Mrs Bygraves) hosted an



energetic full school assembly sharing a common love for reading together with song from George Ezra! And Little Miss Sunshine (aka Mrs Maud) was just one of the helpers in the pop-up second-hand book shop held in the Drawing Room, where all children were invited to buy one or two books which had been donated by fellow pupils to raise money for new books in our library.

Something a little bit different!

There are never two weeks the same, as we embrace the curriculum in such creative and varied ways.



What fun we had on Pancake Day! Pre-Prep enjoyed their annual Pancake Race. L'Estrange were the overall winners of the all-new Pancake Race Trophy and Amber in Division I threw the pancake highest. Pancakes were enjoyed throughout the school as a treat dessert at lunch!

Last month Division IV were lucky enough to have an impromptu artefact handling session when Jemima kindly brought in her family's collection of Roman Coins. The whole class had great fun examining the coins, making sketches of them and researching online to see if they could match any of the symbols.

At the being of March, Division I celebrated St David's Day. They started the day watching a video clip and embraced the theme in any spare moments between lessons. Twins Eiddwen and Aneira brought in daffodils and traditional Welsh cakes to celebrate with all their friends. The daffodils were shared with Reception and Division II, and Division I also made some fantastic cards.



Eiddwen and Aneira

Just last week, as part of their ongoing RS studies into Judaism, our Division 6 children were learning all about the festival of Purim. We were delighted to welcome Mr & Mrs Neidle, parents of Avi and Oren, who had prepared a fun introduction to the subject. Firstly, the children made rattles in the Art Room out of paper cups and plates filled with lentils and decorated them with ribbons and pens. Mr Neidle then read out the story of Purim, which is where the rattles came into play! Every time the name of the evil advisor, Haman, is read out the children drown out his name by making a racket with their rattles. Which child wouldn't enjoy making so much noise in a classroom? It was an incredibly fun and informative lesson.



Sport



Under 9s Competition Team

Every week is a busy week of sporting fixtures; netball and hockey topping the bill this half term. Our teams from the U9s to the U13s have participated in a variety of school fixtures and multi-school tournaments. All

Continued on page 70

competition and development teams have worked very hard and have made excellent progress. The U9s Boys Hockey teams both performed very well at the recent U9 Hockey Tournament held at Beeston, with the Competition Team coming away unbeaten and without conceding a goal, and Rory from Division IV being named Player of the Tournament.

Nursery News

Glebe House Nursery is delighted to share the news that it received an Outstanding rating in its recent ISI Inspection. It is the second time in a row our Nursery has been awarded

this rating. The inspector's report praised the nursery's warm and welcoming atmosphere, which creates a sense of security and belonging for the children. The report also highlighted the high-quality personal development that each child experiences due to the close and caring links they have with key staff, which ensures that each child's individual needs are met. Marie, Susie, and the rest of the nursery team have gone above and beyond to ensure that our provision is outstanding. The dedication and passion that they bring to their work every day is inspiring, and it's no surprise that the nursery has been recognised for its excellence.

Come and see us!

We hope you have enjoyed catching up with our news. If you would like to find out more about life at Glebe House School or to have a look round, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are currently registering for 2023/24 with limited spaces available throughout the school. We would love to hear from you. Please contact Tamzine Fraulo on:

01485 532809 or email
tjf@glebehouseschool.co.uk

The Parish Church of Hunstanton St Edmund's

Faculty Certificate Granted to Install New Heating System

Ever since the Parish Church of Hunstanton St Edmund's was built in the 1860s it has served the community of Hunstanton. The church stands as one of the most prominent Victorian buildings in Hunstanton and regular services of worship, celebration and commemoration have taken place throughout its more than 100 year history. The church is planning a special service in September 2023, to be led by the Bishop of Lynn, to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the consecration of the church building. The church is very much part of the heritage of the Victorian seaside town and is open for visitors on a daily basis and until recent years has hosted concerts and civic services. The church grounds, which are a green space in the town centre, are enjoyed by visitors in the summer for picnicking.

The congregation of St Edmund's has, with the permission of the Bishop of Lynn, been holding its regular Sunday services in the church hall for the past two winters due to the fact that the church has had no heating system. The old gas heating system was condemned and the gas supply to the church has been capped off. St Edmund's has been granted a Faculty Certificate by the Diocese of Norwich, which will enable the old heating system to be replaced by wall mounted high frequency infrared electric heaters. These will be more energy efficient and economical to run. As scaffolding will be in place to install the new heaters we are taking the opportunity to upgrade the light fittings

to LED, which again will be more energy efficient than the existing fittings.

The above work is scheduled to take place in the next few months and we are looking for support towards the costs of the work, which will be in the region of £30,000. We will approach the congregation for support and will be applying to charitable organisations for grants. We are also reaching out to the wider community to ask for any donations, which will help towards enabling church/civic services and other community activities to resume in the church building during the winter months.

If you feel that you are able to make a donation to enable the above work to be completed at St Edmund's church we would be very grateful. Donations can be made as follows.

1) By cheque made payable to Hunstanton St Edmund's PCC and addressed to St Edmund's Church, 3 Church Close, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 6BE. Please write Ref: StEds Heat/Light on the back of the cheque.

2) By bank transfer to Barclays Bank, Account Name: Hunstanton St Edmunds Parochial Church Council, Account Number: 10503096, Sort Code: 20-46-65, Ref: StEds Heat&Light

Should you wish to find out more about St Edmund's church and the upcoming works please do not hesitate to contact Garry Langham, churchwarden, by email at g.langham@btinternet.com

KING'S LYNN TOWN TRAILS

Ann Higgins, Project Leader, King's Lynn u3a

Several years ago Downham Market u3a produced a series of town trails for their town and I was invited to the launch at one of their monthly meetings. I was very impressed by the series of tri-fold leaflets with the headings, Notable People, Landmarks, Street Names and Working life. They were full of historic and social interest and I felt sure that King's Lynn u3a would enjoy making and following similar trails in our town.

In 2021 we had come through the second lock-down of the pandemic and I wanted to give our u3a members an opportunity to take part in a project that was safe, manageable and of local interest. Making street trails combined research with walking and was a social activity. The first step was to contact our u3a members inviting them to take part in the project. Following a good response, meetings on Zoom were organised. We decided to produce trails about Notable People, Street Names, Friaries, Alms-houses,

Pubs and Industrial King's Lynn. Members formed small groups ready to start planning, walking and researching their chosen trail. Unfortunately, the group of four who were interested in our town's railway and industrial history were unable to start and that trail is waiting for a few enthusiastic members to take it on.

During our Zoom meetings we discussed the format for the trails, who they were for, how they would be publicised, would they carry a charge, what general information they should contain and so on. We aimed to produce a series of walks in leaflet form to have a standard appearance, title, u3a logo and a QR code to enable smartphone users to download the trail and follow it using their 'phone. They would go on our u3a website for members to download and give them local publicity.

Some of the walks and the associated research needed more than one leaflet and so we produced Street Names 1 and 2, Pubs 1

and 2 and Notable People 1 and 2.

When the leaflets were close to completion, I contacted Phillip Eke the Tourism Officer and asked if the series could be printed by the Council and stocked in the Town Information Centre in the Town Hall. He liked the leaflets and agreed but there was a problem! The Print Room found that the tri-fold leaflets were unsuitable for printing. Phillip suggested that he could re-format all eight trails into their current form of A5 stapled booklets.

2022 was the 40th anniversary of the National u3a starting in the UK and in King's Lynn we planned a u3a Day to celebrate this on September 21st. A large event showcasing King's Lynn u3a was organised to be held at the Duke's Head Ballroom at which the mayor had kindly agreed to launch the King's Lynn History Trails. During the weeks leading up to this I asked for volunteer u3a



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members to try out the walks, make comments and check for accuracy and directions.

U3a Day duly arrived, the trail leaflets were brought to the Ballroom ready for members and visitors to take and there was a display of one of the Street names trails. After the mayor launched the trails I presented her with a set of the trail leaflets as a token of our thanks.

All those who took part in the project hope that the trails provide interest and enjoyment to residents and visitors to King's Lynn. The leaflets can be found at King's Lynn TIC or on the King's Lynn u3a website. I asked those who took part in the project what they had enjoyed and found interesting about it.

This was from Janet Scott from the Street Names Trail group:

I received the email asking for people to help in a history project involving trails. I had absolutely no idea what I was getting into but I've lived here for 30 odd years and thought it would be interesting finding out more about the town. On the first meet we split up and went in different directions recording street names and taking photographs. This was the start of a long process of research, discussions and trial walks to see what would work best and deciding what to include. It was so difficult because there was so much that we wanted to include and there were many enjoyable and lively discussions over coffee and cake! In the end I hope we have produced a pleasant walk with lots of interesting information and, coupled with our personal experience, plenty of refreshment stops along the way!

Last but crucially important, our editor Sue O'Brien told me:

I really enjoyed learning more about our town as I worked on the design and layout of each of the leaflets. It was a challenge to co-ordinate the mainly tri-fold leaflets, each with a map and numbered directions linked to the map. It took an immense amount of paper, printer ink, time and patience, but it was an enjoyable challenge!

Introduction

King's Lynn was known as **Bishop's Lynn** until 1537 when Henry VIII decreed that the town belonged to the King. Many streets in King's Lynn were renamed in 1809. We have listed the old names where known as they give an important historical background to the town. Many of the old names refer to trades or occupations. Others were named after public houses, in reference to a church or descriptive of the area itself. "Gate" in street names originates from the Norse word "Gata" meaning road or street. As you walk round you will often see green plaques on buildings giving additional, interesting information. Places en route worth a second visit are: **Stories of Lynn**, The Minster, St. George's Guildhall, St Nicholas Chapel, True's Yard Museum and Lynn Museum.

We hope you enjoy the walk and if you want further information use the QR code on the back of the leaflet to connect to the U3a website.

START at Saturday Market Place by **Stories of Lynn**.....



Walk across the road and head down.....

1 ST. MARGARET'S PLACE



Margaret, as legend has it, was eaten by a dragon but by holding onto her cross the dragon spat her out. The King's Lynn Town Arms shows 3 dragon heads with crosses emerging from their mouths.

KINGS STAITH LANE

The importance of the King's Staithes and Purfleet Quay are reflected in the medieval **Hanseatic League** which comprised a group of towns around the Baltic and the North Sea, and was an influential trading association and part of King's Lynn's historic past.

5 King's Staith Square

If you've ever wondered what a "staith" is, it's a Norfolk word for a quay.

From here walk forward towards the benches and walk through the gap and over the sluice to.....

6 Purfleet Quay

Purfleet means pure stream. The quay is a loading point of the Purfleet from the 13thC.

Walk up to the **Custom House** which was built in 1683. Both the Custom House and **The Duke's Head Hotel** were designed by local architect Henry Bell, a contemporary of Christopher Wren. The historian Nikolaus Pevsner described the Custom House as 'one of the most perfect buildings ever built'.

Turn left into.....

7 King St

Chequer Street until 1814 and **Stockfish Row** before. Such a quantity of cod and herring was being imported into Lynn by Hanseatic merchants that, in the 14thC the street was known as 'Stockfish Row' probably because so many fish merchants lived there. Stockfish is unsalted fish, especially cod, dried by cold air and wind on wooden racks, one of the oldest preservation methods. With a listed building every 25ft or so, this street was established in the 12th century.

Turn into **Priory Lane**, right then turn down **Church Street** and then next right to.....



2 DEVILS ALLEY

Legend has it that the devil was spotted and cornered by a priest, in what is now called Devil's Alley, looking for souls to steal. The priest banished him with holy water and prayers. The infuriated devil stamped his foot with such fury that it left an imprint. Devil's Alley was once completely roofed and ran to the quayside and there was a large cobbles that was shaped like a gigantic foot.

Unfortunately this has now been replaced.

At the end of **Nelson Street** turn left down.....

ST. MARGARET'S LANE

which leads onto the Quay and the River Great Ouse

Turn right, then right again to.....

As you walk you will pass.....

TRENOWATH PLACE

named after the 4 Trenowath families living in Norfolk in 1891. This was 100% of all the recorded Trenowaths in the UK. The Trenowath families owned drapery, furniture and removal businesses from 1862-1895, including 110 High Street, the former John Collier shop.

Carry on down King Street until you reach.....

TUESDAY MARKET PLACE

To the end of your walk and the start of trail no 2



Trail no 1 Map

3 COLLEGE LANE



This goes down the side of **Thoresby College** which is one of the most complete survivals of medieval Lynn. The college was built in 1508-11 by Thomas Thoresby for priests serving at St Margaret's Church (now The Minster). In front as you walk you get a lovely view of the chequered Town Hall.



Turn left into.....

4 QUEEN STREET

formerly **Three Crown Street** from the 16th and before that **Wingate Street**. The name Wingate probably derives from the Anglo-Saxon words wing (windy) and gate (road) meaning windy or winding road. The old Norse word 'gata' also means a gate or street.

As you walk along you will see.....



Carry walking along Queen Street and turn left into.....



Street Names

Trail no 1

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Dreaming of summer days?

"Smell the sea, and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly." – Van Morrison

There's much to celebrate this spring says Allez Chic's Cheryl Daubney and there are some real treats in store in the new season's summer collections.

Of course this month Easter is the first of the bank holiday weekends and looking ahead the Coronation weekend in early May offers another opportunity to dress up! Add to that the start of the wedding season... so ladies, it's the perfect time to review what's hanging in the wardrobe and to refresh it with some fabulous pieces which are in-store now.

Renowned for producing beautifully co-ordinated collections, the new Pomodoro dresses and separates shout summer style with pretty prints and versatile summer styles you'll love.

Lily and Me's collection includes the beautiful elevated shirt dress pictured in the advertisement (right). The Leoni is made from soft sustainable Ecovero viscose. A simple silhouette that can be cinched in with the waist tie, paired with boots and knitwear for early season, or gorgeous yellow sandals from Caprice come the summer. And what could be easier to care for with a 30 C machine wash?

The latest wedding wear has just landed too, so pop in and let us help you choose something that will make you feel in a sunshine state of mind.

**Allez Chic, The Old School House, Lynn Road,
King's Lynn PE31 6AG
Tel: 01553 631915 allezchic.co.uk**

Burnham Market International Horse Trials 14th - 16th April



The Barefoot Retreats Burnham Market International Horse Trials take place from Friday, 14th April to Sunday, 16th April. Considered one of Norfolk's finest equestrian events, the three day extravaganza attracts international riders, including World Number One event rider Oliver Townsend MBE, competing in show jumping, dressage and cross country classes. Well known equestrian, Piggy March, has a string of horses entered, including Vanir Kamira who won the 2022 Burghley Horse Trials.

The Tradestand Village, various food vendors and fun fair rides add to the occasion making it a fun day out for the whole family. The popular 'spectators's mound' on the cross country course allowing spectators to view the immense jumps close up will once again be available.

Chairman, Jeremy Thompson, is delighted to be returning to Norfolk, saying, "This is the 44th British Eventing Horse Trials over the last 20 years and we are, once again, delighted to attract many of the world's leading riders and their top horses to Burnham Market".

For more information or to book tickets, please visit musketeer.ticketsrv.co.uk or email them at info@musketeer.co.uk. Phone enquiries can be made by calling 01485 210070. Tickets are also available on the gates each day (cash only).



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An evening with acclaimed cellist, Orlando Jopling

Little Massingham church-Friday, 19 May

As a result of a collaboration between Oliver Birkbeck, who lives in Little Massingham House, and the Friends of Andrew's Little Massingham, (FOSALM) the village is delighted to be hosting the world-class conductor, composer and Cellist Orlando Jopling who has agreed to provide a one night solo Bach Cello Concert in Little Massingham church on Friday, the 19th of May starting at 19:00 hours. Orlando is well known for his performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Ballet, The English Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Opera House. This very special and unique event, which will be raising much-needed funds for St Andrews Church, is something not to be missed. Tickets priced at £25 which includes a glass of wine can be purchased from the FOSALM website - www.fosalm.org - in cash at the door on the night, or through Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3YzCdbx>

This will be an unforgettable and very enjoyable evening so please book your places early!

More information can be provided by the Chairman of FOSALM, Terry Holloway, at: terryholloway.33@btinternet.com

Friends of St Andrew's Church Little Massingham

FOSALM Presents

An evening of Bach at St. Andrew's

Orlando Jopling

Friday
19th
May 2023
7pm

St. Andrew's
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Charity number: 1193573



Tickets available from

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Down: 1. Facetious, 2. Variant, 3. Placed, 4. Noes, 5. Eliminates, 6. Baffling, 7. Manacle, 8. Heats, 13. Stale bread, 16. Ticked off, 17. Objector, 19. Orbital, 21. Lorelei, 22. Collie, 23. Chess, 25. Ages

Films as Art: When the MGM Lion Roared: The Hollywood Studios

Lesley Nadel

The April lecture of the Art Society Northwest Norfolk on April 17th 2023 will be a talk on the history of the Golden Age of the Hollywood Studios, from small beginnings, through their full glory in the 1930s and 1940s, to the deaths of the founding movie moguls and their inevitable decline and dissolution in the 1950s and 1960s. Many famous names will feature: silent stars such as Pickford, Fairbanks, Valentino and the durable ones such as Clark Gable, Betty Davis, Errol Flynn. The lecture concludes with the new, big movie moguls - the conglomerates like Sony, Mitsubishi and Murdoch's News Corp.

Films were not intended as an art medium when the first cameras were invented, and in the past there has been a very dismissive attitude towards film as "art". Perhaps an "Art House" movie might gain art status, but the usual film audience would not think of a film as art. In the early days, and along with photography, it has been viewed as simply a record of an artistic performance, "A cultural mirror, a reflection of society's attitudes, values, philosophies, and lifestyle" but never art. But the camera is no longer just a casual accessory, it is so much more than an innocent eye making a recording. The process of film making involves hundreds of choices and decisions by the filmmakers before those involved in editing produce the final product. Previously dismissive attitudes have become difficult to sustain and today it is likely that few would stand by the claim that film is never art.

Films are huge entertainment media, so how broadly can we attributed "art status". The danger is that the word "art" is often used in an all-inclusive way. Some films are not high art and whilst elite opinion may wish to regard high art as the only worthwhile and legitimate form of art, low or simply bad art may still claim to be art. Others cannot qualify to be art at all: a video quickly shot on holiday using a smartphone is clearly not a work of art.

"Art films" are rarely blockbusters. They are made by filmmakers with a distinctive individual style who stamp their own mind and personality upon the film - Fellini, Bergman, Guy Maddin, etc. As auteurs they challenge rather than entertain and often shoot in real locations with ordinary characters. Leading art galleries and museums may showcase the Grand Masters but now, more and more commonly, they exhibit films made by professional artists alongside the great works of art and sculpture - such as the early experimental work of Marcel Duchamp and the modern work of Swiss feminist video artist Pipilotti Elisabeth Rist.

If film is not art, why do so many people think of it as art, and anyway, who is it who draws the line between whether a film is or is not art? You can explore the history of the Hollywood Studios with our experienced lecturer, Colin Schindler - a writer, producer and BAFTA winner, on 17th April 2023, at 2pm, in Sedgeford Village Hall (ample parking). Visitors welcome. Details on www.theartsocietynorthwestnorfolk.org.uk



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**When the MGM Lion
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**Lecturer:
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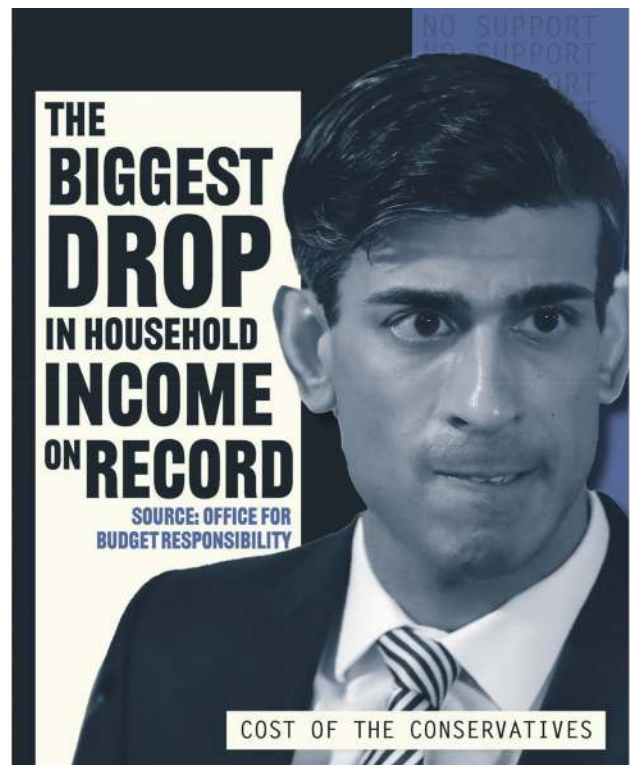
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King's Lynn Festival Chorus

Johann Sebastian Bach / Mass in B minor
Saturday 22 April 2023, 7pm

Following their outstanding performance of Handel's Messiah in December, King's Lynn Festival Chorus and conductor Ben Horden take to the stage once again, this time with one of the finest choral works in history.

Bach's towering masterpiece combines technical skill and virtuosity with an inherent spirituality, leading the listener in a remarkable narrative of faith and commitment. Completed in his final year, the Mass in B minor is the culmination of an extraordinary life in music and a perfect realisation of Bach's endlessly flexible and inventive musical style.

The Chorus is once again joined by period instrument ensemble Noxwode Baroque along with an outstanding line-up of soloists; Charlotte Bowden (soprano), Bethany Horak Hallett (mezzo-soprano), Hugo Hymas (tenor), and Frederick Long (bass-baritone).

The concert will be performed on Saturday 22 April at 7pm in St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn.

Tickets £15 Under 16s Free. Available from the Box Office 01553 764864 kingslynncornexchange.co.uk



During the final month of the King's Lynn Cinema Club's current season, members will have the chance to see two screenings.

Firstly on Thursday 6th April KLCCC will be showing the multi award winning film *The Banshees of Inisherin*. Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, it follows lifelong friends Padraic (Colin Farrell) and Colm (Brendan Gleeson), who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Padraic, aided by his sister Siobhan (Kerry Condon) and troubled young islander Dominic (Barry Keoghan), endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Padraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences.

Then on Thursday 20th April they will be screening Kosovan film 'Hive' based on the true story of Fahrije Hoti, who was awarded European of the Year by the European Union for her work with local women last year. Fahrije, like many of the other women in her patriarchal village, had lived with fading hope after her husband went missing during the war in Kosovo. To provide for her struggling family, she gathered together the other widows in her community to launch a business selling local food products. Their efforts to begin living independently was met with hostility by the men remaining in the village who condemned Fahrije's efforts to empower herself and the women around her. A feud developed that threatened their newfound sovereignty and the financial future of the women's families. Against the backdrop of Eastern Europe's civil unrest and lingering misogyny, Fahrije and the women of her village struggle to find hope in the face of an uncertain future.

Both films will be screened at St George's Guildhall, King Street starting at 7.30pm and are free to KLCCC members. Anyone over 18 is welcome to join the club and details of how to become a member can be found on the club website, Facebook page or by emailing communitycinemaclub@googlemail.com Alternatively you can come along to any film as a day member and just pay £5 cash on the door.

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
MASS IN B MINOR

King's Lynn Festival Chorus
Noxwode Baroque
Ben Horden CONDUCTOR

Charlotte Bowden SOPRANO
Bethany Horak Hallett MEZZO-SOPRANO
Hugo Hymas TENOR
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Tickets £15
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7pm, SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023
ST NICHOLAS' CHAPEL, KING'S LYNN

kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk
Registered charity no. 292455



HDFA Craft Fairs back for Spring

The popular craft fairs raising funds for the Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts will begin on Saturday April 29th at Hunstanton Town Hall.

Only high-quality hand made goods are accepted for these Craft Fairs which are now in their 20th year.

On offer are beautiful handmade crafts from patchwork covers and cushions to one off ceramics which make ideal and unusual gifts at reasonable prices and there are 25 gifted and creative stallholders to choose from.

One of the favourites is the hand made soap and scented oils ranges and soothing flower perfumes which can be ordered in quantity or bought on the spot.

After a stroll round the stalls you can sit and relax with a cup of tea and a scrumptious homemade cake.

Entry to the Craft Fair is free to the public and can be found at Hunstanton Town Hall from 10 till 4pm on April 29th, May 27th, June 24/25th, July 29th, August 26th, September 30th, October 28th and November 18th.

The Hunstanton & District Festival of Arts produces an annual programme of Arts Events for Hunstanton and its surrounding area and is a registered Charity.

King's Lynn Festival announces programme highlights for 2023 Festival

The 2023 King's Lynn Festival is set to maintain its quality hallmark throughout two busy weeks from 16 – 29 July, opening and closing with world-famous names – Black Dyke Band and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO).

The Black Dyke Band will launch the festival with a rousing concert at the Corn Exchange and the RPO will fill the venue's stage for an exciting finale with violinist Ben Baker, who delighted audiences last year. The Ruth Fermoy Memorial Concert will take place in the magnificent setting of Houghton Hall with piano trio, Charlie Lovell-Jones violin, Yoanna Prodanova cello, Ariel Lanyi piano.

Several events during the Festival will focus on the sound of the cello, and the rich repertoire and personalities associated with the instrument. Internationally renowned cellist, Julian Lloyd Webber will narrate the fascinating story behind the composition of Bach's iconic Cello Suites while introducing performances of the Suites by his wife - and fellow cellist - Jiaxin Lloyd Webber. Prize-winning young musician Ariana Kashevi features in this year's Coffee Concert series performing Beethoven's second Sonata for Cello and Piano. On screen

at St George's Guildhall there is a chance to see Cathy Marston's The Cellist with the Royal Ballet, inspired by the momentous life and career of the cellist Jacqueline du Pré.

Two much-respected TV personalities will add to the festival's wide appeal – the host of Whose Line is it Anyway and Loose Ends, Clive Anderson will present his first solo tour, Me, Macbeth and I, and Strictly Come Dancing singing sensation, Tommy Blaise will appear alongside the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Traditional folk tunes will be presented in a fresh and captivating evening by Leveret (Andy Cutting, button accordion, Sam Sweeney, fiddle, and Rob Harbron, concertina) plus one of the UK's finest and most revered vocalists, Kiki Dee appears at St George's Guildhall.

The packed programme will also include an Early Music Day, films, walks, talks and an exhibition at the Fermoy Gallery, Blast to Blitz, which will showcase English Art in and between the wars, presented in association with Goldmark Art.

The full 2023 Festival programme will be announced in early April. Tickets on sale to the public from Monday 8 May 2023 via 01553 764864 or online at www.kingslynnfestival.org.uk

The Arts Society King's Lynn

On Thursday 13th April The Arts Society King's Lynn will be presenting a talk 'Art after Windrush' which will look at the contribution made by artists of African, Caribbean or Asian origin to British art since the SS Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury from the West Indies in 1948. Speaker Barry Venning will be showing examples of the work of, among others, Sir Frank Bowling, Francis Newton Souza, Eddie Chambers, Yinka Shonibare, Sonia Boyce, Rasheed Araeen, Lubaina Himid and the Singh Twins, all of whom have achieved international recognition and respect with their works being collected by museums world-wide. They may not all be household names yet, but their work is vibrant, eye-catching and thought-provoking, and they have set much of the agenda for British art of the late twentieth and twenty-first century.

Barry Venning is a historian of British art with a particular interest in the work of JMW Turner, on whom he has published widely, including the volume on Turner in Phaidon's Art & Ideas series. He was the BBC's script consultant on Turner's Fighting Temeraire and in 2013 took part in a BBC documentary called The Genius of Turner: Painting the Industrial Revolution. His interests and his teaching extend from medieval architecture to contemporary British art and he currently lectures at the Open University and on a freelance basis for The Arts Society and Christie's Education. The talk will take place in West Winch Village Hall where there is



ample free parking available and starts at 2pm. TASKL meets once a month on the second Thursday from September to May and anyone is welcome to become a member for just £52 a year or can go along to individual lectures as a guest for £10. Anyone who would like to find out more about TASKL can visit their website at www.theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk or to join the Society just contact the membership



secretary on 01366 328648 or via email at info@theartsocietykingslynn.org.uk. For anyone interested in the arts, the society offers much more than just the monthly talks - TASKL has various volunteering groups which in recent years have worked in historic houses and with local schools, created art packs for our local foodbank to distribute as well as having a group of artists for members to get involved in. It also organises regular social events and outings and is always happy to welcome new members.

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Behind the Scenes...

Welcome back to the next edition of Behind the Scenes. We are slowly stepping into spring, and with it comes some brilliant family entertainment. This April we have fun, music, and magic; this edition will feature highlights from an interview with Richard Jones, who performs his show An Evening of Magic on April 16th. Keep reading to find out more about the first ever magician to win Britain's Got Talent.



'The Ultimate Pop Party'

After a successful March with a variety of wonderful shows, April brings further enjoyment for all! During the first week of April, we have two afternoon shows perfect for the whole family. The Ultimate Pop Party celebrates the most iconic female pop stars with tributes to Ariana Grande (Ariana Live), Dua Lipa (Dupa Lipa) and Little Mix (Little Fix). Continuing, Easter celebrations arise with Alice's Adventures in Easterland. A fun take on a traditional children's film, and described by the show as an "Easter Panto EGGstravaganza bursting with fun for all the family", whilst also featuring Pete Lambert as seen on Britain's got Talent, this makes for a show filled with bundles of fun and laughs for all.



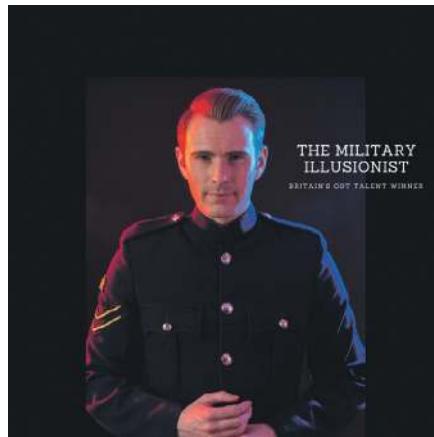
'Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical'

On April 4th we have the highly requested film screening of Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical. A childhood memory of mine is collecting Roald Dahl's books as gifts in various cereal boxes, and Matilda was always one of my favourites. Pair this great story with fantastic musical numbers and an incredibly

talented cast featuring the likes of Emma Thompson as the ferocious Miss Trunchbull, makes for a film screening that can't be missed.

During the middle of April Richard Jones will be presenting a selection of cutting-edge magic and illusion demonstrations. We got the opportunity to discuss with Jones his career in magic, alongside exploring his journey of how he got to where he is today.

I was curious as to the first magician that Richard had seen live, and if that experience altered his own path in magic. Jones explains that during one of Derren Brown's West End shows, he was "lucky enough to be chosen as a volunteer on stage". It seems that from this up-close magical experience, it led Richard Jones down his own spellbinding pathway. This can be supported by Richard's comments here, "this was a life changing moment for me as I got to look around and see the look of wonder in the audience's faces during the magic moments. That's when I realised the power of magic and decided this was something I wanted to create!". It seems that this moment was so impactful that Richard began his own "magic path the very next day", and he found himself 6 years later on the BGT stage.



Richard Jones

Richard is known as 'The Military Illusionist' and he explained how his time within the army affected his journey to become a magician. Jones notes how he "began performing magic while serving in the British Army", and it was this time that enabled Richard to grow in confidence because, as he explains, not only did he have "fresh eyes to test new material on", but that the army troops were very honest to him about his performance, which helped him grow at a faster pace. This alongside the army's general support towards Richard's passion, with them encouraging him to perform at military events, resulted in this growth of self-belief for Richard Jones.

It's always fascinating when someone with such talent must continue to come up with



Jemma - Author

creative and captivating ideas, and hence I asked Richard where he gets his inspiration from. It can be said that a lot of Richard's planning and ideas come as a result of the emotion he wants the audience to feel, this is because as Richard explains, "I think magic is most powerful when it has an emotive and personal connection to the viewers." He likes to keep his audience involved throughout, and hence the audience's decision will affect the way in which the show runs, making each performance unique. Richard likes to "create the belief that (his) volunteers are the ones doing the magic", maybe this links back to his own first experience with magic, and the feeling of wanting to share that with others, and ultimately, to inspire them.

As I mentioned towards the start of the article, Richard Jones was the first magician to win Britain's Got Talent, and so I spoke with him about his time on the show. He states, "I will always be hugely grateful to the UK public who picked up the phone to vote for me... It is overwhelming to think about the kindness I've been lucky to experience from so many people I have never met!". This continues to be the reasoning as to why Richard is so keen to keep performing over a variety of UK locations, in order to thank those people with magic.

Finally, I asked what we can expect on the 16th of April from An Evening of Magic. Richard describes the show as "very interactive with lots of laughs and light-hearted moments combined with fascinating stories and illusions". Jones can't wait to finally reveal this show which he has been working on for years, and he is "looking forward to seeing you there", so get your tickets for this utterly magical experience!

Well, that's all from me this month. Thank you for reading through this edition, and for the support you have continued to show our theatre, we hope you have a lovely Easter and enjoy the start of spring. Until next time, break a leg!



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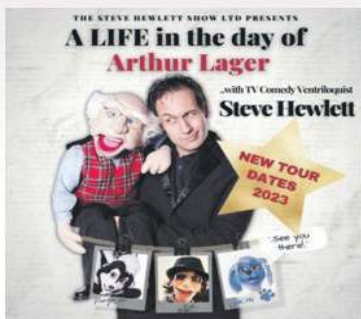
Saturday 1st



Sunday 2nd



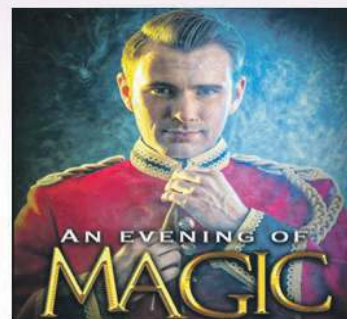
Thursday 6th



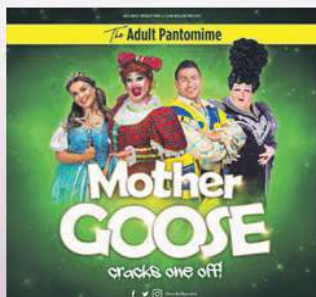
Sunday 9th



Saturday 15th



Sunday 16th



Saturday 22nd



Wednesday 26th



Saturday 29th



Sunday 30th

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